The ultimate purpose of the work of the scientific agronomist is to increase the production of food and clothing for humanity. He has been called to this work in response to the evident proposition that population can not continue indefinitely to increase at the rate which is now prevailing unless there is a corresponding increase in the rate of food production. It is true that the lines of human increase and of food production, for the world at large, are approaching each other far less rapidly than has been anticipated by some who have prophesied on this point, but nevertheless none can deny that the average acre must be taught to yield more liberally than it is now doing if future generations are to be fed and clothed adequately.

Within the space of a lifetime the art of agriculture has passed through a tremendous revolution. I myself have witnessed the reapers bending their backs to gather the wheat on an Ohio farm with an implement which had been practically unchanged since man first learned the use of iron. I have seen the mowers swinging their way through the meadow and have listened to the rhythmic thud of the flail on the threshing floor. I have seen the wooden plow, with its iron share, lying only recently discarded in my grandfather’s barnyard, and have witnessed every forward step from these crude implements of husbandry, which had been practically unchanged for thousands of years, to the elaborate farm machinery of today, by which