

8 BOLIVIA General aspects of agriculture

- 8A On the eastern slope of the Andes in Bolivia is the region called the Yungas. These canyons are at altitudes ranging from 5,000 to 8,000 feet. The climate is semi-tropical; the rainfall heavy. The steep slopes of the region have been terraced as shown in this view. Products grown in the Yungas include coffee, cacao, sugar, and cotton, as well as the coca shrub shown here.
- 8B Another view of people picking coca leaves. The leaves are also chewed (like chewing gum) by all of the natives of the region. In fact, the larger part of the crop is consumed in this way. (Note: This shrub is not to be confused with the cacao tree, the source of chocolate.)
- 8C The Yungas region is the source of a second important drug -- quinine. This shows the cinchona tree from which quinine is secured.
- 8D Cutting bark of the cinchona. Quinine is obtained from the bark of the tree. Prior to the beginning of the second World War, the Far East supplied practically all of the quinine. Since these areas were cut off, much more attention has been given to South American sources. The cinchona tree is also native to the eastern slopes of the Andes in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.
- 8E Men and women husking corn in the village of Ucachi. This village is located at a slightly higher altitude than the Yungas. The Department of Cochabamba is the most important agricultural area in Bolivia. It includes wet lowlands of the Amazon region, Yungas, and plateau. For this reason almost any type of crop can be raised within its borders. Corn is the most important crop of the Cochabamba valley.
- 8F Corn is carried in the shawl worn in the typical manner across the shoulders. The Indians have been slow to accept modern agricultural methods and implements. They grow and harvest the corn as their ancestors have done for generations.

- 8G Close-up showing the filling of a sack directly from the shawl on the woman's shoulders.
- 8H Lake Titicaca Region. Here at the northern end of the altiplano of Bolivia there is sufficient rainfall for crop raising, but farming is not easy.
- 8I All agricultural work is done by the Indians who have farmed here for many centuries. Some work on large estates while others farm communal lands handed down from ancient times. This large farm is at an altitude of 13,000 feet. The climate is cold and bleak in winter, cool in summer.
- 8J View from above showing Aymara Indians sorting potatoes. Potatoes and barley are the chief crops of this region.