

Around 5000 B.C.E., the food shortage in the Zagros foothills may have forced people to move in search of more land to settle and farm. People gradually moved onto the Mesopotamian plains located below the foothills and settled along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Farming was difficult on the new land, but people were able to cultivate crops and build new settlements, which eventually grew into villages. In addition to farming, people also fished in the rivers and swamps to help maintain a stable food supply.