Poljoprivredni su sektor pogodile duboke krize. Posebno je teško bilo između 1851. i 1863. zbog pojave pepelnice, atrofije dudova svilca, surovih meteoroloških prilika i velike oskudice. I kasnije je bilo kriznih godina, s nestašicama krajem sedamdesetih godina, širenjem peronospore i filoksere te u zadnjem desetljeću XIX. stoljeća.

Ukidanjem feudalizma, koji je u Istri proživio svoju produženu fazu, započelo je liberalno i modernizacijsko razdoblje istarskoga agrara, koje karakteriziraju progresivna liberalizacija tržišta, ulazak kapitala u poljoprivredu, agrarne banke, sindikalne i trgovačke udruge te djelovanje porečke poljoprivredne škole i instituta. Mijenjaju se sustavi usjeva i širi uporaba metalnoga pluga. Pojave sumporizacije, gnojidbe, kalemlienia, kalemlienia korijena, selekcije i orezivanja loze označile su kraj tradicionalne i pojavu nove poljoprivrede, obilježene znanstvenim intervencijama. Međutim, početkom XX. stoljeća istarska je poljoprivreda još uvijek pokazivala jasne znakove slabosti.

Istrian agriculture in the second half of the 19th century Summary

From the mid-19th century, many changes have occurred in Istrian agriculture. On the one hand, they were a consequence of the modernisation policy which was enforced throughout the Austrian Empire; on the other hand they were the result of enticements undertaken by provincial government. However, this process, already behind the more developed western areas, was very slow. The reasons for this can be found in the obstacles placed by the central government, ineptitude of some local authorities, land owners' indifference, and the crises which have hit the sector, the widespread illiteracy and lack of schools and associations which would spread the knowledge of agriculture.

Agriculture was hit by big crises. It was especially difficult between 1851 and 1863 because of powdery mildew, silkworm atrophy, bad weather and destitution. There were bad years later on as well, like privation in the late 70s, peronospora and phylloxera spreading during the last decade of the 19th century.

Suspension of feudalism, which lasted longer in Istria, was followed by liberal and modernising period of Istrian agriculture which is characterised by progressive liberalisation of market, influx of capital in the agriculture, agrarian banks, syndicates and trade associations, as well as the activity of agricultural school and institute in Poreč. The system of crops changed, and the use of metal plough started spreading. The implementation of sulfidation, fertilization, grafting, root grafting, selection and vine pruning marked the end of traditional and arrival of new type of agriculture, marked by scientific input. Nevertheless, the Istrian agriculture still showed clear signs of weaknesses at the beginning of the 20th century.