

Tobacco

Virginia's economy depended on agriculture as their most important and primary source of wealth. This means farming was the best way for the colonists to make money in the new colony. In Virginia, tobacco became the most profitable agricultural product. It was sold in England as a cash crop. A **cash crop** is a crop that is grown to be sold for money rather than for use by the growers. The settlers were growing tobacco in order to sell to England instead of growing it for themselves.

In order for the colony to grow and sell a large amount of tobacco, they needed people to work on the plantations; people who would provide a steady and inexpensive source of labor. Many African men, women, and children were brought to Virginia, against their will, to work as slaves on farms and plantations. The Virginia colony depended on slave labor and the dependence lasted a long time.