

Agriculture: Key Issue 4; Rubenstein, pp. 329 - 339

Why Do Farmers Face Economic Difficulties?

● **CHALLENGES FOR COMMERCIAL FARMERS**

1. How have *efficient agricultural practices*, fertilizers, and mechanical equipment, etc. *created a problem* for commercial farmers?

2. Illustrate this situation with the example from the dairy industry.

3. Explain “market saturation” in terms of agricultural products.

4. Identify and describe/explain the three practices of the US Government aimed at helping to solve this problem.

US government practice	Explanation/description

5. Make a brief note about farm subsidies in

a) the US:

b) Europe:

2

6. What are the three principal practices that distinguish farmers practicing **sustainable agriculture** from those operating conventionally?

i.

ii.

iii.

7. List three advantages of ridge tillage.

a)

b)

c)

8. What are "Roundup-Ready" seeds?

9. In what ways are animals treated differently in sustainable agriculture?

● **ISSUES FOR SUBSISTENCE FARMERS**

10. Summarize the "Boserup Thesis" which describes changing agricultural land use.

11. Illustrate the example from Kenya of agricultural adaptation used by and LDC to create a product for an MDC.

12. What is the dilemma that is faced by LDCs as they seek to increase the amount of export crops to sell to MDCs?

13. Some LDCs turn to the production of drug crops for export. The geography of these crops is distinctive. Identify the countries associated with the crops below.

Coca leaf	Marijuana	Opium/Heroin

● **STRATEGIES TO INCREASE FOOD SUPPLY**

14. Four strategies have been proposed to increase the world’s food supply in places where populations are underfed.

- Expand _____ used for agriculture.
- Increase the _____ of land now used for agriculture.
- Identify new _____ sources.
- Increase _____ from other countries.

15. There is little new land actually available for farming. In fact, the current trend is to reduce agricultural land rather than increase it. Identify and briefly discuss THREE reasons why land is currently being removed from agricultural use or made impossible to use for agricultural production.

a)

b)

c)

16. List the TWO main practices of the **Green Revolution**.

i.

ii.

17. Describe the characteristics of two hybrid seeds of the Green Revolution.

Miracle wheat seed	Miracle rice seed

18. What specific problems do farmers in LDCs have which might prevent them from taking full advantage of the Green Revolution?

19. Briefly describe two or three ideas/issues associated with each of the strategies for increasing the world's food supply by **identifying new food sources**.

STRATEGY	PROBLEM
a. cultivate the oceans	
b. develop higher protein cereal grains	
c. improved palatability of rarely consumed foods	

20. What are the THREE top export grains in the world?

21. Use the map on page 481 and list NINE of the largest grain exporting countries.

i.

iv.

vii.

ii

v.

viii.

iii.

vi.

ix.