

# FOOD PRODUCTION

## 1. Watch the two films and discuss the different types of food production.

### Vocabulary

*mains*

*state-of-the-art*

*variety*

*ripening*

*dose*

*flavour*

*in charge of*

*crop*

*fruits*

1. I'm ..... tomatoes at Thanet Earth.
2. I grow tomatoes in two beautiful ..... facilities.
3. Our first ..... went to Tesco.
4. The..... we harvest for Tesco are ..... naturally on the plant.
5. We ..... CO<sub>2</sub> in the greenhouse so that the process of photosynthesis is more efficient.
6. We greatly reduce the necessity to use ..... water.
7. We produce a ..... called Piccolo and their ..... is superb.

### Compare

- the number of types of crops
- the area used for growing
- the level of strategic planning

## 2. TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Here are two types of agricultural practices. Talk to the others in the group to find out the information about all 11 types.

- A. growing crops
- B. rearing livestock

*10 Pastoral  
farming*

*8  
Arable farming*

### Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFm1ovmS8es>

large scale commercial farming

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ipm5O0MM\\_Pg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ipm5O0MM_Pg)

subsistence farming Kenya

## What causes hunger?

<http://www.wfp.org/hunger/causes>

The world produces enough to feed the entire global population of 7 billion people. And yet, one person in eight on the planet goes to bed hungry each night. In some countries, one child in three is underweight. Why does hunger exist?

A) Before reading on, think about your answers and discuss them in small groups.

B) You will take a short part of the text and summarize it for your classmates to be able to take brief notes stating the cause and the effects.

No.	cause	effects
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Look at your notes and write 3 sentences about causes and effects.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Word formation: Complete the sentences with a suitable form made from the word given at the end. Example:**

..... *by human hand accelerates the erosion of land.* FOREST → Deforestation ...

1. People living in poverty cannot afford ..... food. NUTRITION (výživa)
2. When children are chronically ....., it can affect their future income NOURISH (živit)
3. Many countries have ..... water supplies. RELY (spoléhat se)
4. Natural disasters such as long periods of ..... are on the increase. DRY (suchý)
5. Natural disasters cause food ..... in the world. SHORT (nedostatečný)
6. Lack of rainfall caused crop ..... in parts of Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. FAIL (neuspět)
7. Ongoing conflict in Somalia has contributed ..... to the level of hunger in the country.  
SIGNIFY (značit)
8. Price spikes may ..... put food out of reach. TEMPORARY (dočasný)
9. Consumers shift to cheaper foods, heightening the risks of micronutrient ..... . DEFICIENT (chybějící)
10. This food ..... represents a missed opportunity to improve global food security. WASTE (plýtvat)

### **Poverty trap**

People living in poverty cannot afford nutritious food for themselves and their families. This makes them weaker and less able to earn the money that would help them escape poverty and hunger. This is not just a day-to-day problem: when children are chronically malnourished, or 'stunted', it can affect their future income, condemning them to a life of poverty and hunger.

In developing countries, farmers often cannot afford seeds, so they cannot plant the crops that would provide for their families. They may have to cultivate crops without the tools and fertilizers they need. Others have no land or water or education. In short, the poor are hungry and their hunger traps them in poverty.

### **Lack of investment in agriculture**

Too many developing countries lack key agricultural infrastructure, such as enough roads, warehouses and irrigation. The results are high transport costs, lack of storage facilities and unreliable water supplies. All conspire to limit agricultural yields and access to food.

Investments in improving land management, using water more efficiently and making more resistant seed types available can bring big improvements.

Research by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization shows that investment in agriculture is five times more effective in reducing poverty and hunger than investment in any other sector.

### **Climate and weather**

Natural disasters such as floods, tropical storms and long periods of drought are on the increase -- with calamitous consequences for the hungry poor in developing countries.

Drought is one of the most common causes of food shortages in the world. In 2011, recurrent drought caused crop failures and heavy livestock losses in parts of Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. In 2012 there was a similar situation in the Sahel region of West Africa.

In many countries, climate change is exacerbating already adverse natural conditions. Increasingly, the world's fertile farmland is under threat from erosion, salination and desertification. Deforestation by human hands accelerates the erosion of land which could be used for growing food.

### **War and displacement**

Across the globe, conflicts consistently disrupt farming and food production. Fighting also forces millions of people to flee their homes, leading to hunger emergencies as the displaced find themselves without the means to feed themselves. The conflict in Syria is a recent example.

In war, food sometimes becomes a weapon. Soldiers will starve opponents into submission by seizing or destroying food and livestock and systematically wrecking local markets. Fields are often mined and water wells contaminated, forcing farmers to abandon their land.

Ongoing conflict in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo has contributed significantly to the level of hunger in the two countries. By comparison, hunger is on the retreat in more peaceful parts of Africa such as Ghana and Rwanda.

### **Unstable markets**

In recent years, the price of food products has been very unstable. Roller-coaster food prices make it difficult for the poorest people to access nutritious food consistently. The poor need access to adequate food all year round. Price spikes may temporarily put food out of reach, which can have lasting consequences for small children.

When prices rise, consumers often shift to cheaper, less-nutritious foods, heightening the risks of micronutrient deficiencies and other forms of malnutrition.

### **Food wastage**

One third of all food produced (1.3 billion tons) is never consumed. This food wastage represents a missed opportunity to improve global food security in a world where one in 8 is hungry.

Producing this food also uses up precious natural resources that we need to feed the planet. Each year, food that is produced but not eaten guzzles up a volume of water equivalent to the annual flow of Russia's Volga River. Producing this food also adds 3.3 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, with consequences for the climate and, ultimately, for food production.

## CAUSE – EFFECT linking words

<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/570/pulp/hemp5.htm>

Conjunctions	<b>because, as, since</b>	introduce a cause
	<b>so</b>	introduces an effect
Transitions	<b>therefore, consequently, as a result</b>	introduce an effect
Prepositions	<b>due to, because of, owing to</b>	introduce a cause in the form of a noun phrase
Verbs	<b>lead to, result in, produce, cause</b>	introduce an effect
	<b>result from, be caused by</b>	introduce a cause

**Choose a topic and write a short paragraph describing a problem in a vicious circle (začarovaný kruh). (about 80 words)**

### Answers to exercise 2

- Mixed farming - a mixture of both growing crops & rearing livestock
- Commercial farming - production with the intention of selling the produce to make a profit.
- Subsistence farming - production to provide food for yourself/family, associated mainly with LEDCs.
- Extensive farming - production over a wide area of often poor quality land, often livestock on mountains.
- Intensive farming - production using a small area of good quality land with many capital inputs to maximize the output.
- Shifting cultivation - an area of land is cleared and crops are on it until the soil is no longer productive. The area is then not used until the soil has become good enough again.
- Slash and burn farming - involves cutting down and burning trees and old plants in order to plant new crops
- Pastoral herding - this takes place when animals are moved periodically from place to place in search for food and water
- Plantation - a large farm where one crop is planted for commercial sale. The crops include fast-growing trees, tea, cotton, sugar cane, oil seeds (e.g. oil palms) and various fruits.

Source : Knox, Marston: Human Geography, Pearson, 2007