

# CAIE Geography Pre-U

## 2B: The Provision of Food Case Studies



## Fishing in Senegal

**200,000** people work in Senegal's fishing industry. **25,000 tonnes** are exported to the EU annually. European fishermen have also started to fish in Senegal's waters causing the local people to catch less. This is causing Senegalise people to be able to **no longer rely on fishing** for their livelihoods. **Action Aid** is campaigning against overfishing to **protect fishing stocks** and the local people's livelihoods.

## Nivat Fishing Port, Thailand

Overfishing and poor regulatory systems have been threatening the marine ecosystem. In the **1960s fish could be caught at 300kg/hr. By 2014 fish could be caught at only 18kg/hr.** Large trawlers destroy sediment and devastate fish stocks leading to many **species being wiped** out completely since the 1960s.

## Ganges Valley: Labour intensive

In the Ganges Valley, they have started planting a **wide range of crops** which help to mitigate the risks from shifts in climate. This also led to higher yields which are able to meet the food demands. Farming in this area is very **labour intensive**, especially the farming of rice. The government tried introducing and **improving farm technology** by implementing western-type farming.

## Netherlands: Capital intensive

The Netherlands **invested 500,000 euros** in their farming methods. They **doubled the number of cows** and started **producing twice as much milk** compared with 1960. As well as increased cow numbers each cow also started **yielding 10-15% more milk**. Investment into farming also managed to **decrease the use of pesticides by 85%**. They have now started to sell their expertise to foreign farmers. Businesses and governments worked together closely to improve productivity and increase sustainability.

## Common Agricultural Policy

### Aims

- **Support farmers.**
- Improve agricultural **productivity**.
- Tackle **climate change**.
- Ensure a **stable supply** of **affordable** food.
- **Maintain rural areas and landscapes.**
- Keep the **rural economy** alive.

### Positives

- Ensures **food security**.
- **Protects rural communities.**
- Agri-food chain **represents 46% of all employees** in the EU.
- Allows **greater consumer choice**.
- **Stable food supplies at reasonable prices.**
- More food is **sourced locally** which means there are fewer air miles.



## Negatives

- Leads to **overproduction** and waste.
- **80% of CAP goes to 20% of farmers.**
- CAP **artificially inflates food prices** making it more expensive for consumers who are paying for the subsidies through their taxes.
- Puts up **trading barriers** against LICs.
- Excess, cheaper products **distort world markets** and floods developing countries. **5 million tonnes of excess sugar is dumped on the world market every year** from the EU.
- Subsidies hide **inefficiencies** and **divert trade away** from more efficient farmers.

## Common Fisheries Policy

### What is it?

The fisheries policy of the EU. It sets quotas for the number of fish of each type member states can catch. It also encourages the fishing industry through various market interventions.

### Positives

- Allows fish stocks to be **managed** as one.
- Maintains fish stocks and **stops overfishing.**
- **Protects the jobs of fishermen** by protecting fish stocks.
- Can **negotiate advantageous agreements** by acting as a whole.

### Negatives

- **Bureaucrats in Brussels** are the ones deciding what happens in complex fisheries rather than the fishermen or local people who know best. This is because it is over-centralised
- Despite 42 years of the CFP, **3 out of 4 of the major commercial stocks are overfished.**
- EU fleet is still at least **double the sustainable level.**
- Big commercial fisheries **grab other stocks.**
- Quota system **favours big industrial trawlers.**
- Force fishermen to dump billions of dead fish. An FAO study estimates **waste in the North Atlantic is 13% of the total catch.**
- **Bullies and bribes small countries** to open their waters to European factory ships, this is **threatening the lives of 1.5 million fishermen in West Africa.**

## Monsanto

Monsanto genetically produces **modified seeds** which they then put a patent on. Farmers are not allowed to store seeds so they have to keep buying seeds from Monsanto each year. They also sell Roundup which is a herbicide. Their GM crops are resistant to Roundup which means that farmers who buy the seeds also have to buy Roundup which is damaging to the environment. Research into the safety of these crops is often funded by companies such as Monsanto so the research ends up being biased. Watch [this video](#) on Monsanto.



## Green revolution

### Mexico

HYV of wheat and maize were developed after World War 2. The wheat that was produced was a **dwarf plant** which was capable of withstanding strong winds as well as heavy rainfall. The **yields of wheat tripled and that of maize doubled**.

### Philippines

HYV of rice **increased the yields sixfold at the first harvest**. It also shortened the growing season required and so allowed an extra crop to be grown.

### India

**18,000 tonnes of the Mexican HYV of wheat were imported** as well as large amounts of fertilisers. **Wheat and rice yields both doubled**. However, the use of these HYV increased the gap between the rich and the poor due to the price of the seeds.

## Unilever: TNC

### Advantages in the host country

- Increases **investment**.
- Increases **wealth and employment**.
- Improves **competitiveness**.
- **Reduces dependence on imports**.

### Disadvantages in the host country

- Undermines **national sovereignty**.
- **Neo-colonialism** so can put pressure on the country.
- **Controls markets**.
- **Outflows of capital**.
- Creates **dependency** and reliance.

## The commercialisation of agriculture in India by the British Empire

### Background

Became prominent around 1860 during the British rule. Commercialisation was carried out mainly to feed the British industries.

### Positive impacts

- Encouraging social exchange and it made it possible for the **transformation of the Indian economy** into its current capitalistic form.
- **Linked India with the world economy**.
- **Regional specialisation** of crops on an efficient basis.



- Created a **base for the growth of the economy**.
- Allowed the growth of **high level social and economic systems**.

### Negative impacts

- **Only rich farmers benefitted**.
- Poor peasant farmers were **forced to sell produce** at whatever price they could get.
- **Between 1893 and 1946 the production of commercial cash crops increased by 85% whilst that of food crops fell by 7%**.
- **Declined the state of the rural economy** as they became less self-sufficient.

## Biofuel

### The use of sugar for fuel and the impacts on the Guarani people

The Guarani Indians are indigenous peoples of Brazil. They are being **displaced** from their ancestral land by the expansion of **industrial scale biofuel, sugarcane and soya plantations**. Biofuels are beneficial as they mean Brazil will be able to become **less reliant on oil imports** and can also **export** them to help grow their economy.

Not only are Guarani people being **displaced** from the expansion of the plantations but many are now living in camps which have high rates of suicide, alcoholism and self-destructive behaviour. The streams that the Guarani people use for drinking and washing are being **polluted** by the farms. Many Guarani are dying from malnutrition. Some farms have got Guarani people to farm sugarcane and, in addition to this, companies in HICs are purchasing sugarcane from farms which are designated as indigenous.

### Food vs fuel in Britain

Many people complain that the use of farmland for the production of biofuel will increase food insecurity. However, in Britain, **500,000 hectares of Britain's farmland goes to producing food that will be wasted compared with 15,000 hectares for energy crops**.

## Somalia Famine

### Environmental factors

2-year drought. **July 2010 to June 2011 were the driest in 60 years**. This caused **wind erosion** and the reduced water availability made it difficult to grow crops.

### Economic factors

**Rise in food prices**, especially in staple food crops such as maize. The **price of livestock also fell** as farmers tried to sell their livestock rather than risk them dying.



### Political factors

Weak central government and **Al-Shabab** were dominating certain parts of the country. Rebels **refused to allow in food** and other forms of aid so there was very little aid. Somali's government failed to tackle chronic poverty that was prevalent.

### Consequences

**People fled to Kenya** which caused social tensions there. **258,000 people died, half of which were children under 5 years of age.**

### Malnutrition in Ethiopia

**303,000 children under 5 are at risk of severe acute malnutrition** in Ethiopia. **28% of children under 5 die from malnutrition every year.** Moreover, **38% of children are stunted** which leads to weaker immune systems and decreased cognitive ability.

Malnutrition affects **2.7 million people** in Ethiopia. There has been below-average rainfall, livestock deaths, and poor access to water, sanitation and health services. Child malnutrition costs the Ethiopian government **16.5% of its GDP each year.** The **workforce has decreased by 8%** due to child mortality rates being so high. In 2015, the Ethiopian government declared it would **strive to end child malnutrition in Ethiopia by 2030.** In **16 years, they have reduced the rate of child malnutrition for children aged 6 to 23 months by 20%.** The EU gave **3 million euros in humanitarian funds** to support UNICEF's emergency interventions in Ethiopia.

### Land reform in Zimbabwe

In 2000, President Mugabe started to **forcibly remove many of the 4,500 white owners** of Zimbabwe's commercial farms from their land. He believed that doing so would **rebalance past colonial injustices** and help rebalance the ethnic ownership of farms. The removals were often incredibly violent and many people fled the country. Once seized, the farms were redistributed to black Zimbabweans. However, often the people who received land had no experience running farms and **agricultural productivity in Zimbabwe collapsed.** This negatively affected the country's economy which relied heavily on exports such as Tobacco. The decrease in food production also resulted in famines. Around **3 million Zimbabweans now need regular food aid** and **40% of households are hungry.**

