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IB2 ESS SL

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Types of Farming Systems 5.2

1. Describe the different types of farming.

There is commercial farming and subsistence farming. Commercial is large scale farming and farming for profit, typically with one crop. Subsistence is producing enough to feed the farmer/family as well as provide for them, typically not for profits.

1. Outline the factors influencing sustainability of agriculture.

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| **Factor** | **Which is more sustainable?** |  |
| **Commercial farming: mostly MEDCs** | **Subsistence farming: mostly in LEDCs** |
| Fossil Fuels | Less sustainable as machinery is most likely used, so more fossil fuels are used in order to make them work and farm the land. | More sustainable as less machinery is used as they yield less and can be farmed normally without the use of fossil fuels. |
| Waste | Much more waste as there can be an under or overproduction of crops, resulting in more waste. | More sustainable as there will be less waste, with production easier to calculate as it is for the needs of the family and less waste is produced. |
| Costs | Much more expensive due to more output needed and more technological investments and costs | Cheaper due to less technology and machinery required, as well as less output |
| Industrialization | More industrialized due to more machinery that use non-renewable resources as fuel, so less sustainable | More sustainable due to less machinery |
| Land Use | More land is required to have greater output so less sustainable | Less land is required due to less output |
| Efficiency | Depends on the land to machinery to output ratio, as there could be a lot of machinery with little land and high output or any other order. Typically more efficient | Similar to the MEDC, but is typically less efficient due to less help and fewer technology to increase output |

1. Consider your own food choices. Which of the following factors determine what you eat? Are there other factors involved as well?

***Factors****: climate, cultural and religious, political, socio-economic.*

I usually eat more meat as well as grains on a daily basis. Factors usually are about space and efficiency as it is best to get the most out of the inputs. Climate is not an issue as the crops are grown in areas where temperatures are constant and meat does not rely on it. It is cultural as it is part of my culture and is part of many traditional dishes that I eat. Political is not an issue. Socio-economic as many people eat them so they are mass farmed and is economic as some are expensive and can generate revenue for the firms.

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| ***Farming system*** | ***Shifting cultivation***  **(slash and burn agriculture)** | ***Cereal growing*** | ***Rice growing*** | ***Horticulture and dairying*** |
| ***Where*** | * South East Asia * Amazon region | * North America | * South East Asia | * Indonesia * US |
| ***Type*** | * Subsistence Farming | * Commercial farming | * Subsistence Farming | * Commercial farming |
| ***Inputs*** | * Labor * Relief (Flat land for easier farming.) * Fertilizer (burnt vegetation) * Rainfall / sunlight | * High use of technology * Fertilizers | * High labor * Low technology | * High use of technology |
| ***Outputs*** | * Plants * Crops (Particularly Ground Crops) | * High output * Cereal | * Rice | * Dairy |
| ***Efficiency*** | * Very efficient | * Medium efficient | * Low-Medium efficient | * Low-Medium efficient |
| ***Environmental impact*** | * It affects the environment as it is slashing down perfectly fine land, yet it is all natural processes, meaning there are no harmful pesticides involved. | * Loss of biodiversity * Habitat of wild native species are limited | * Increased fertility * Not affected as much, compared to other forms of farming. | * Overgrazing of land |