

**Unit 4 Exemplar Report**  
**Life on the Margins – the food supply problem**

***Note:** These exemplar reports are based on the work of candidates under examination conditions, during the January 2010 examination series. The reports were originally hand written but have been typed up, with diagrams redrawn. Errors, including QWC errors, have in most cases been kept. The aim of these exemplar reports is to highlight good practice and areas of potential improvement. The marking levels and examiners comments given are indicative and should be used as a basis for discussion in the classroom, rather than indicating a specific grade.*

**Pre-release research focus: OPTION 3:** Life at the Margins: the food supply problem

- **Explore** the problems of managing a range of contemporary food insecurity issues.
- **Research** management strategies at a range of scales and locations.

**Exam Question:**

**Current food insecurity will only be solved if management strategies operate at all scales.**

**Discuss**

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**Plan**

Intro Def FAO food security

Frame- says why

Strategies via players

Main start big: International large scale Government + IGO-UN + charities-Fairtrade

International not global-EU

NGOs

Business- surveys

Individual 6.7bn + farmers

**Conclusion ----- NB sub conclusions too**

## **Introduction**

There are complex issues surrounding the topic of food security. Food insecurity, according to the FAO, is when people have a lack of access to food at all times to lead a healthy active life, It means the 3 pillars described by the 1996 World Food Summit are not level:

- Food availability: constant sufficient quantities of food available
- Food access: having sufficient resources to get food for a nutritious diet.
- Food use: appropriate use nutrition, water and sanitation

In my report I will be tackling the different groups and their different management strategies and discussing how large or small scale they are and finally concluding if they will, all working together, solve current food security issues. Management strategies are policies or plans/activities that certain groups use to promote food security.

Sections will be used with the following sequence:

Firstly large scale management operations being carried out by bigger players/groups starting with government strategies. Secondly international organisations will be assessed. My third section will be Non Governmental Organisations. Fourth will be businesses as these are strategies more focused and slightly lower scale. My final section will be on farmers and individuals whose management schemes are smaller and more local. A range of case studies will be used within these scales: the original 1960s+ Green Revolution, the CAP of Europe, Practical Action, FCI, FAO, the UN, GATT, the Syngenta foundation, GM Golden rice, M&S and Plan A ,CoOp, Tesco and Fair-trade Monsanto, Rift Valley, Kenya, tissue culture, organic schemes.

## **Methodology**

I will be using a large range of sources from television programmes, textbooks, DVD's, Internet web pages, magazines and newspapers. I have sampled form a range because organisations such as Monsanto and Oxfam are inevitably going to be biased, similarly government websites. The United Nations and media organisations like the BBC and research publications like the Economist and new Scientist should be more impartial. However documentaries like Jimmy's food factory may be more biased for entertainment reasons

### **1. Large scale and Government strategies**

The Green Revolution across Asia and Mexico is famous for trying to reduce food insecurity, and was kick-started by Borlaug and the Rockefeller Foundation in the 1960s. In India, famous for its famines and poverty, it was used by the government and made into a strategy that affected a large scale and amount of people. The Green Revolution was to increase the amount of machinery and artificial chemicals used and introduce hybrid crops and animals to increase yields. A type of rice seed that was introduced in India was called IR8 and was designed to withstand high winds and low amount of water. This was helpful for farmers that could afford the strain of rice seed, however it was expensive and farmers that couldn't afford the seed were forced into debt. The machinery that was introduced was too big for some farms and again, farmers were forced into debt. This created huge inequalities between large farms and small farms. Although this scheme did give India a 300% increase in rice production but smaller farms did suffer as they couldn't compete with the competition. So, nationally food insecurity was reduced, but often not locally. Since the 1990s, some Governments have encouraged research into GM crops going on their farms as they increase yield and production. An example of this is Argentinean

government who got farmers grow a special GM soybean. Soybean is now Argentina's biggest exporter and is second to the US on exports. However soybean took over many small farms and small farms went out of business. It also led to a huge amount of deforestation. These are all disadvantages of large scale schemes. A problem highlighted by a recent Economist article was that most GM research is done by the big TNCs who have profit making motives first

### **Subconclusion**

Government schemes can be successful, but as they are on a large scale they sometimes fail to see the faults that will affect the environment or smaller farms – like in Argentina. Long term food security may therefore suffer

## **2. International organisations**

International organisations deal with food security issues on a large scale much like the government. But unlike the Governments, whose main aim would be to create stability in its nation, international organisations may have other agenda.

**The UN** set up 8 Millennium Development Goals in order for the world to work towards. Food security is number 1: 'To decrease by half the amount of people suffering hunger'. Goals like these can encourage people/players to seek new ways of farming & new ways to eradicate poverty. **The UNs FAO** (Food and Agricultural Organisation) is the branch of the UN that works in many countries to educate farmers into sustainable practice and works with the Disasters Emergency Committee in places like Haiti which had an emergency 'food push' to help victims from the earthquake there in early 2010 and now a High level Task Force is looking at longer strategies. The World Food Programme and World Food Day are all linked.

According to Devinder Sharma, an Indian journalist known for outspoken views on food and trade policy, the Kalahandi syndrome is when an area, like Orissa state in India, produces plentiful food, despite persistent droughts, yet locals are malnourished. About 20million people effectively are living on the margins in this 'bread basket' of India The Government was encouraged by the international trade organisation the WTO to open its doors to foreign trade, but larger scale businesses have taken over farms and turned subsistence farming into cash crops for export in the last few decades and poorer locals are deprived cheap access to food. This is despite India being part of the BRIC group and rapidly developing economically.

Another country facing insecurity in the developing world is Kenya. The Naivasha area has some of the most fertile land in the country, however it is being used to grow not food for locals but is flying vegetables, fruit and flowers to sell overseas to the big supermarket chains like in Tesco's here. Meanwhile, the international TNC create huge amounts of jobs and the people working there are paid well so they have increased access to money to buy in food if not growing it themselves. 4.5million people are involved in horticulture now. This may not be a sustainable practice though especially with the current global recession and less buying of luxury goods, as stated in The Global Post September 2009.

Fairtrade is a global strategy which helps farmers at local level get a fair wage for what they have grown. This is a successful large scale strategy as it encourages farmers to grow food at a fair price and gives areas and the country as a whole a more stable production of food or the income to then buy food. The Fair trade website says its schemes range in size from small co-operatives to large plantations across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. One example Kavokiva, in SE Côte d'Ivoire specialising in cocoa

Lastly, a more regional scale management of food supply is the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) set up by the EU after the second world war to try and reduce Europe's reliance on

imported goods and secure cheap food. Subsidies were introduced but it created overproduction of food and food wastage

**Sub conclusion:**

International organisations range from global like the UN to more regional like the EU. Since trade and globalisation is so important increasingly these organisations are needed to address food security especially in times of global recession.

### 3. Non Governmental Organisations (NGO)

Organisations that are non-governmental are smaller and usually more focused/localised organisations. Unlike International Organisations they are more focused on a place rather than just being a policy, a programme, they are more specific. For example the BINGOs of Oxfam, Water Aid and Practical Action use education programmes to help longer term food security.

Practical Action is an NGO; one of their projects is taking place in Darfur. Darfur is an area that has had drought and is suffering erratic rainfall. Practical Action is creating the Darfur Dam. The dam is being planned & constructed with local people and has created 30% more jobs. The dam is being used to store water and irrigate it to the small farms in the community. This is an example of a community rich, bottom up project that will help local farms greatly and will help the overall economy.

The Food Corporation India is an NGO that was set up specifically for India to deal with food issues. India is experiencing the food transition with a 40% increase in the amount of the population now eating meat and bread influenced by the Western culture. India also has huge inequalities as many rural areas suffer from natural disasters.

### 4. Businesses

I carried out research in my local Waitrose, Tesco and Marks and Spencer's to see if there was any obvious publicity about food security & helping both local and abroad farmers. Adverts and pamphlets show M and S use strategies such as 'Plan A' which is a plan designed to give farmers a fairer profit and save the environment. They make sure they minimise food wastage, both at their farms and at their shops. Waitrose use LEAF farmers, and all three use Fairtrade products, as does my college canteen.

Syngenta is a company that introduced a new type of chilli peppers to farmers in Kalahandi to get them to produce high yield. The farmers attended workshops & bought the seed which has benefited farms. One farmer had an overall profit increase of 25% with the new seed. Monsanto is another company that is encouraging good farming techniques, and also GM crops. It is a US company but deals with many countries worldwide according to its website.

**Subconclusion:** businesses are critical in food supply and security but have profit driven motives

### 5. Individuals

Individuals, such as farmers choose management strategies on a small scale to help themselves and their communities gain a profit. Unlike the business which, although are helping people, are ultimately working for a profit, individuals are only working with themselves, for themselves.

In Kenya, local scientists have done research into tissue culture. This is when they get the root tip and put it into ethanol to get it to grow up to 3 times more roots that it would grow. Instead of getting one new plant, the root tip from that one plant can produce up to 1000 more plants. In this certain community the scientist was using banana root tips. Farmers in

the community are now all getting up to 100 Kenyan shillings for their bananas, much more than originally.

Although small scale projects are not going to solve the food security problems globally they do help locally. If more areas suffering from poverty and drought or poor food production used tissue culture and were encouraged locally to make a difference then many more countries could have a solid food supply.

Also if farmers owned their own land or were more secure and worked for themselves then they wouldn't have to pay money to landlord etc, like in Kalahandi where landlords took all the farmers money and the farmers couldn't afford to buy their own food

### **Final Conclusion**

I agree with the statement made that current food security could only be solved if management strategies work at all scales because as you can see from my examples, small communities flourish under small scale ones however larger strategies are needed to make a bigger difference.

Another problem with solving food security is that other factors affect a country that cannot be solved and nothing can be done to prevent them. Human & Physical factors such as:

<b>Human:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over nutrition from over eating</li><li>• War –disrupts food supplies</li><li>• Disease- reduces health and productivity</li></ul>	<b>Physical:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Natural hazards e.g. Haiti</li><li>• Altitude reduces plant growth</li><li>• Mountain relief ditto</li><li>• Slope angle ditto</li></ul>
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These factors cannot all be managed. For example Haiti has suffered an earthquake and now trying to get food aid to county is proving almost impossible. Issues such as over-nutrition cannot be managed because governments cannot control what people eat and what people buy. Huge contradictions arise when you think about business like M&S trying to do good for the famous but at the end of the day their only real goal is to make a profit. Although the world food problem is a huge one, it mainly depends on the population increase. The world is estimated to be 9 billion 2015, how will the world food supplies support this growing population be then, when only 10% of the Earth's surface can be used for farming?

The answer is to use strategies at all scales. I believe more localised plans need to be made especially in such poverty stricken areas as sub Saharan Africa, but large scale strategies need to be made if the world is going to cure the food security problem before its too late and Malthusian prophesies take effect.

Other factors are unstoppable but if food was more secure in places like Haiti, aid workers wouldn't have to leave because food prices are so high. Large problems are needed to be sorted out through a variety of different scaled strategies.

### **Bibliography**

Section1-- [www.fairtrade.com](http://www.fairtrade.com) and [www.cap.com](http://www.cap.com)

section 2 -- LEAF website and BBC and FCI.com

section 3—

- [FAO.com](http://FAO.com)
- [Millenniumgoals.com](http://Millenniumgoals.com)

- WTO webpage
- BBC website

Sect 4—

- M and S website
- M and S magazines
- Monsanto.com
- Syngenta.com

Section 5—

- Jimmys Global Food programme on BBC 2009
- National Geographic Magazines

**Examiner comments:**

<b>Overall summary</b>	<b>How this could be improved</b>
<b>Comments on Plan and Introduction</b> <i>Plan has a useful summary, shows some ordering and the actual introduction is focused on the title with a relevant model, detailed framework but incomplete definitions</i>	<i>If the key words from the title: insecurity were included in the plan, it might ensure focus later</i>
<b>Comments on researching and methodology</b> There is a wide range of relevant case studies by scale and location. These are factually accurate. It indicates its methodology of selection of sources clearly	Improve depth of information on / evaluate a few of the strategies more for example
<b>Comments on analysis, application and understanding</b> Most research is applied directly to the title. It is perhaps less sure on some major concepts especially the role of politics and differences in strategies tackling root and direct food insecurity issues	<i>The candidate might have made more of the current food crisis or 'spike in food prices, of 2007-8 which has meant international efforts even more critical in a globalised world. Each case study/concept should have been linked back to title and the useful pillars model in the introduction– e.g. the CAP was not, The section on NGOs could have been analysed more effectively by discussion of their targeting specific groups of people/areas and why they are often bottom up in focus</i>
<b>Comments on conclusion and evaluation</b> <i>The candidate does include ongoing evaluation, rather than leave all concluding statements to the last section; for instance there are summative statements at the end of most of the sections.</i> <i>The end is clearly stated with some complexity stated but also some new ideas, not normal in a concluding statement</i>	<i>Reference back to the pillars model introduced needed.</i> <i>The table of physical and human factors rather out of place here</i>
<b>Comments on quality of written communication and sourcing</b> <i>This report does have a coherent structure which examines a range of management strategies.</i> <i>Overall spelling and punctuation are sound and geographical terminology is used frequently, and usually accurately.</i> <i>A bibliography of appropriate sources is included, with occasional referencing in the main body of the report some have detail (dates for instance, and article names)</i>	<i>A few clumsy paragraphs for example on bananas in Kenya</i>

Summary of marking levels awarded:

<b>D</b> Introducing defining and focusing on the question (10)	<b>R</b> Researching and methodology (15)	<b>A</b> Analysis, application and understanding (20)	<b>C</b> Conclusions and evaluation (15)	<b>Q</b> Quality of written communication and sourcing (10)
L4 9-10 marks	L4 12-15 marks	<b>L4</b> 17-20 marks	L4 12-15marks	L4 9-10 marks