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World Food Crops

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What Should be Taught?

There are only so many crops that actually feed the world. These are mostly cereals, legumes, and root and tubers crops. The foods that do the best at providing enough caloric intake are typically starchy and can be stored, and thus, traded.

Modern per acre yields are very high, but this comes only with extremely high input levels. Most of our intensively farmed crops require large amounts of fossil fuel inputs. In fact as described in [Energy and Agriculture](http://www.gracelinks.org/118/energy-and-agriculture) by [Grace Communications Foundation](http://www.gracelinks.org/about), fossil fuels are used for fertilizer, water transport, farm equipment, processing, and transportation.

On top of this, many of these plants are genetically cross bread with other species. This genetic modification has proven largely successful, but is not without concerns.

Hunter gatherer’s certainly had MORE leisure time and probably had a better diet than modern man.

In [Do hunter-gatherers have it right?](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/today/tomfeilden/2009/05/do_huntergatherers_have_it_rig.html) by BBC Today’s Tom Feilden, it’s stated that “Skeletons from Greece and Turkey show that average height at the end of the last ice age was around 5'9". With the adoption of agriculture the figure crashed, and by 3000 BC had reached a low of 5'3".” The article goes on to describe that hunter gatherers that still exist actually do work less than their modern counterparts, and that they’re generally healthier.

Our modern methods of agriculture have greatly reduced the variety of our diets, and made us extremely dependent upon high energy input crops that are susceptible to diseases and pests. I believe these are the general motifs that should be taught.

**Sources:**

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