**Vocabulary**

*subsistence farming*: typically a small-scale farming operation in which farmers focus on growing enough food to feed themselves and their families.

*malnutrition:* lack of proper nutrition, caused by not having enough to eat, not eating enough of the right foods, or being unable to use the food that one does eat.

.*infrastructure:* the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g., buildings, roads, and power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.

*urbanization:* the increasing number of people that live in urban areas. It predominantly results in the physical growth of urban areas, be it horizontal or vertical. The United Nations projected that half of the world's population would live in urban areas at the end of 2008.

*monoculture:* the [agricultural](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture) practice of producing or growing a single crop or plant species over a wide area and for a large number of consecutive years

*diversity:* the condition of having or being composed of differing elements; variety

*pathogens:* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that has the ability to cause disease.

*affluent:* (especially of a group or area) having a great deal of money; wealthy.

*food insecurity:* the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

*inflation:* a general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money.

*subsidies:* a sum of money granted by the government or a public body to assist an industry or business so that the price of a commodity or service may remain low or competitive.

*hygiene*: conditions or practices conducive to maintaining health and preventing disease, especially through cleanliness.

*agricultural treadmill:* Because most farmers specialize in production of commodities such as feed corn or soybeans, which cannot be differentiated in the marketplace (i.e., Farmer John cannot claim that his feed corn is superior to Farmer Jane’s, because for most intents and purposes, the corn is identical), they must take whatever the market price is when they choose to sell their crops. Because the price of grain is the same for all farmers, the farmers who earn profits are those who aggressively adopt new technologies that reduce production costs and boost yields relative to other farmers. While these “early adopters” profit from the use of new technology, once a given yield-enhancing technology is widely used, the resulting increases in supply lowers prices for all farmers.

*lobbying:* seeking to influence (a politician or public official) on an issue.

*transgenic*: of, relating to, or denoting an organism that contains genetic material into which DNA from an unrelated organism has been artificially introduced.

*commodity:* a raw material or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold, such as copper or coffee.

*tariffs:* A tariff is either a tax on imports or exports, or a list of prices for such things as rail service, bus routes, and electrical usage.

*speculation*: the forming of a theory or conjecture without firm evidence. To place money into a stock on the belief that the value will rise rapidly.

*biofuel:* a fuel derived directly from living matter.

*aquaculture*: the rearing of aquatic animals or the cultivation of aquatic plants for food.

*greenhouse* *gas*: a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation, e.g., carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons.

*nonrenewable resource:* A resource of economic value that cannot be readily replaced by natural means on a level equal to its consumption. Most fossil fuels, such as oil, natural gas and coal are considered nonrenewable resources in that their use is not sustainable because their formation takes billions of years.

renewable resource: A renewable resource is a natural resource which can replenish with the passage of time, either through biological reproduction or other naturally recurring processes. Renewable resources are a part of Earth's natural environment and the largest components of its ecosphere.

*confounding*: mix up (something) with something else so that the individual elements become difficult to distinguish.

*sustainable agriculture*: the act of farming using principles of ecology, the study of relationships between organisms and their environment. Farming using non ecological damaging practices.

agribusiness: the [business](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business) of agricultural production. It includes [agrichemicals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agrichemical), [breeding](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breeding), [crop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crop) production ([farming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farming) and [contract farming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contract_farming)), distribution, [farm machinery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agricultural_machinery), [processing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Processed_food), and [seed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seed) supply, as well as [marketing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marketing) and [retail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retail) sales.

*microbiology*: is the study of microscopic organisms, either unicellular (single cell), multicellular (cell colony), or acellular (lacking cells).

*zoonoses*: diseases that are naturally transmitted from vertebrate animals to humans and vice-versa.

*conglomerate*: a number of different things or parts, such as businesses, that are grouped together to form a whole but remain distinct entities.

*lethal:* sufficient to cause death.

*humanitarian*: concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare.

*desalinate*: remove salt from (seawater).

*conservation buffers:* small areas or strips of land in permanent vegetation, designed to slow water runoff, provide shelter and stabilize riparian areas.

*biodynamic*: a whole farm approach that seeks to manage the soils, crops, and animals on a farm in such a way that the enterprises on a farm strengthen and support each other.

*holistic*: characterized by comprehension of the parts of something as intimately interconnected and explicable only by reference to the whole.

*mutually reinforcing:* A situation in which two parties work together, supporting the interests of each other.

*dietary staples:* Most staple plant foods are derived either from cereals such as wheat, barley, rye, maize, or rice, or starchy tubers or root vegetables such as potatoes, yams, taro, and cassava. The definition of a dietary staple varies depending on what part of the world you are referencing.

*aquifer:* a body of permeable rock that can contain or transmit groundwater.

*tributaries:* a river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.

*degradation:* to be broken down or to deteriorate chemically.

*sedimentation:* Sedimentation is the tendency for particles in suspension to settle out of fluid, and come to rest against a barrier, such as the bottom of a container. This is due to their motion through the fluid in response to the forces acting on them, for example, gravity. Sedimentation happens as water erodes soils, carries the soil particles down the river, and then the particles build up against a barrier in the river.

*ecosystem:* a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.