Topic 8
Resource Reliance

What is Resource Reliance?

Resources are things that humans require for life or to make our lives easier. Humans are becoming increasingly dependent on exploiting these resources, and as a result they are in high demand.

Resource Required

Resources such as food, energy and water are what is needed for basic human development.

FOOD	WATER	ENERGY
Without enough nutritious food, people can become **malnourished**. This can make them ill . This can prevent people working or receiving education.	People need a supply of **clean and safe water** for drinking, cooking and washing. Water is also needed for food, clothes and other products.	A good supply of energy is needed for a basic standard of living. People need **light and heat** for cooking or to stay warm. It is also needed for industry.

Demand outstripping supply

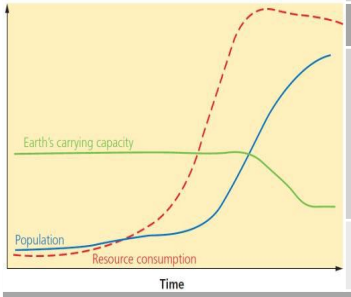
The demand for resources like food, water and energy is rising so quickly that supply cannot always keep up. Importantly, access to these resources vary dramatically in different locations

1. Population Growth

- Currently the global population **is 7.3 billion**.
- Global population has risen **exponentially** this century.
- Global population is expected to reach **9 billion by 2050**.
- With more people, the **demand** for food, water, energy, jobs and space **will increase**.

2. Economic Development

- As **LIDCs** and **EDCs** develop further, they require **more energy** for industry.
- **LIDCs** and **EDCs** want similar lifestyles to **ACs**, therefore they will need to **consume more resources**.
- Development means **more water is required** for food production as diets improve.



Resource Reliance Graph

Consumption – The act of using up resources or purchasing goods and produce.
Carry Capacity – A maximum number of species that can be supported.

Resource consumption exceeds Earth's ability to provide!

3. Changing Technology and Employment

- The demand for resources has driven **the need for new technology** to reach or gain more resources.
- More people in the **secondary and tertiary industry** has increased the **demand for resources** required for electronics and robotics.

Reasons for NOT Meeting Modern Resource Demands.

Climate	• **Global warming** effects cycles and seasons and therefore farming. • **Rainfall patterns** are changing and are becoming unpredictable. This is a problem for farming.
Geology	• Not all countries have **access to fossil fuels** or suitable landscape for renewables. • Many **minerals are finite** and therefore once used will reduce the resources available. • **Rock types** might limit the availability to store water.
Conflict	• **War** can disrupt transport of resources by damaging roads and water pipes.
Poverty	• LIDCs are unable to **afford technology** to effectively exploit the natural resources available.
Natural Hazards	• **Increase in hazard events** due to climate change. • Prime agricultural regions in Asia and Africa and are also in **hazard zones**. • Has the ability to **destroy infrastructure** needed to transport resources.

Environment and Food: Fishing and Farming

	Methods	Environmental and Ecosystems
Fishing	**Bigger nets and fishing boats** have allowed for greater catches. **GPS and sonar** has also find the fish easily.	• **Overfishing** of certain fish has caused their decline. • **Dredging** can damage seafloor habitats. • Decline of one species has a **knock on** effect on other marine species.
Farming	**Tractors, computer programming** and **GPS** technology is producing food more effectively and at a larger scale.	• Field sizes have caused **hedgerows to decline** in biodiversity. • **Fertilisers and pesticides** enter water courses and harm or kill organisms. • Heavy machinery can cause **soil erosion**.

Environment and Energy: Deforestation and Mining

	Methods	Environmental and Ecosystems
Deforestation	Logging using **modern machinery** and **transportation** has made deforestation more productive & convenient.	• **2 billion people depend on wood** for fuel, which therefore creates high **CO2 emissions** • Forests provide for **important habitats**. • Clearing of forests leads to **soil erosion**. • Tree intercepts rain and **prevents flooding**.
Mining	Large machines and drill technology can remove and reach through material effectively.	• Mining waste **can pollute soil and contaminate water** supplies. • **Habitats are destroyed** in mining zones. • Fossil fuels burnt **release greenhouse gases**

Environment and Water: Reservoirs and Water Transfer

	Methods	Environmental and Ecosystems
Reservoirs	Increasing **storage to hold more water** and constructing more dams to **control river flow** can provide a reliable source of water.	• Can **flood** a large area of land and damage **habitats** and **natural landscapes**. • Dams can be **a barrier for certain species** to migrate upstream. • Natural flow of sediment is disrupted, which then **reduces fertility of land** further down.
Water Transfer	Constructing pipes and canals to divert water surplus to areas in need of a water supply.	• Large-scale engineering works can **damage ecosystems** along the route. • **Lots of energy** is required to pump water over long distances.

Food Security

'Food Security' is when people at all times need to have physical & economic access to food to meet their dietary needs for an active & healthy life. This is the opposite to **'Food Insecurity'** which is when someone is unsure when they might next eat.

Human

- **Poverty** prevents people affording food and farmers buying modern equipment.
- **Poor infrastructure** makes food difficult to transport fresh food.
- **Conflict** disrupts farming and prevents supplies.
- **Food waste** due to poor transport and storage.
- **Climate Change** is affecting rainfall patterns making food production difficult.

Physical

- **Temperature** needs to be ideal for certain crops to grow.
- The **quality of soil** is important to ensure crops have the necessary nutrients.
- **Water supply** needs to be reliable to allow food to grow.
- **Pest, diseases and parasites** can destroy vast amounts of crops that are necessary to feed large populations.
- **Extreme weather** events can damage crops (i.e. floods).

Malthus and Boserup's Theories about Food Supply

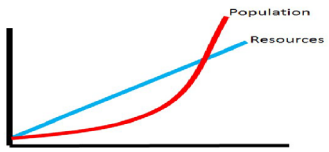
With the population growing very quickly, there are different ideas about whether or not this will lead to a food crisis.

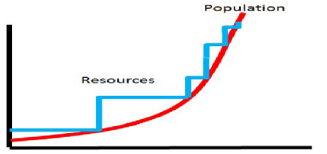
Malthus Theory

- Believed that **population would increase faster than food supply**.
- This would lead to a lack of food being available.
- Malthus believed this would cause **large scale famine, illness** and **war**
- This would occur until population returned to level that can be supported.

Boserup Theory

- Believed that however big the population grew, **people would find ways to manage**.
- If food supplies became limited, **people would find new ways** to increase production.
- These solutions would often involve **creating new technologies**.

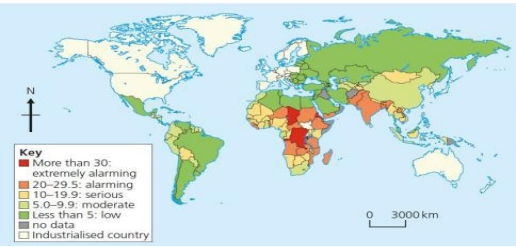




Measuring Food Security

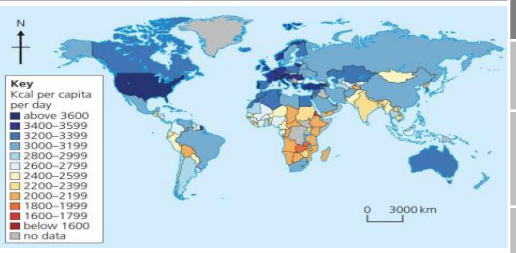
Food security varies around the world. Some people and places are more food secure than others. This can often depend on how much a country can grow and is able to afford.

The Global Hunger Index



- This shows how many people are suffering from **hunger or illness** caused by lack of food.
- The index gives a value for each country from **0** (no hunger) to **100** (extreme hunger).

Daily Calorie Intake



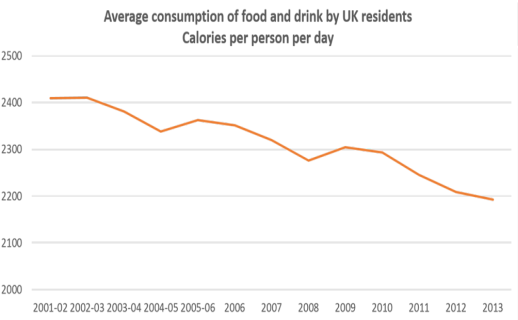
- This shows how many **calories per person** that are consumed on average for each country.
- This can indicate the global distribution of **available food** and **food inequality**,

Case Study: UK Food Security

Food Availability in the UK

The UK population is around **65 millio**n and enjoys a **high level of food security**.

- The UK **produces 68% of its own food** but this is steadily decreasing.
- The **UK has to import** the rest, especially seasonal food such as fruit and vegetables.
- Food production in the UK has increased by **intensifying agriculture**.



Food consumption in the UK

Average daily calorie intake in the UK has **decreased** from **2600** in **1960** to **2150** by **2000**.
Reasons for this decrease includes:

- More people being **more active in the past** and having physical jobs.
- More **awareness of having a good diet** and problems surrounding obesity.
- The price of food has increased.

Success in securing local food security

Food Banks

- This is food that is **donated** by the public.
- They help people with **a sudden loss of income**.
- It is estimated that **1 million people** rely on food banks for their own food security.

Urban Gardens

- These **are large projects** where groups work together to grow food and **promote healthy living**.
- This can involve planting crops in urban environments such as roundabouts.

Effectiveness of pasts attempt at food security

Intensification of farming from **1940s** to the **1980s** attempted to increase production by;

- **Higher yields** of crops and animals
- **Monoculture** by growing one crop in a large area.
- **Irrigation** with better groundwater pumping.
- **Chemicals** with improved fertilisers and pesticides.
- **Mechanisation** for sowing and harvesting.

Effectiveness of present attempts at food security

Recently the UK has been promoting sustainable intensification, involving food security and supporting the environment.

- **New technology** such as **hydroponics** help a range of foods to be grown all year round.
- However, this method is **expensive** for producer and consumer.

Attempts to Achieve Food Security

There are various measures to maintain or even improve our food security. These measures are often taken to be socially, economically, environmentally viable for the longer term.

Social	Economic	Environmental

Ethical Consumerism

This involves buying products that have a positive social, economic and environmental impact today, without compromising future generations.

Fairtrade	• This is a global movement to give farmers a **fairer price for their products**. • The profits benefit the community **with schools and medical facilities**. • Involves using farming methods that **protects rather than destroys environments**.
Food Waste	• One-third of all food gets lost or wasted. • Aim to **eat locally sourced food** to reduce waste through transport. • Eating 'ugly' food despite it not being 'ideal' can prevent waste and **save money**. • Prevents wasted energy for producing food and therefore **reduces CO2 emissions**.

Food Production

This involves producing as much food as possible in as small a space as possible. They often involve using machines and chemicals to gain as much produce as they can.

Intensive Farming	• Makes the most of the land and allows for higher yields. This can make growing food more **productive and therefore cheaper** to produce. • Chemical fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides can **pollute the environment** and **harm people**, animals and insects.
Organic Methods	• This involves the banned use of chemicals and **ensuring animals are raised naturally**. • This can lead to **lower yields of 20%** and products being **more expensive**.

Technological Developments

Through better understanding of science and improved technology, it is now possible to change the food we grow and protect and harvest the crops more effectively.

Genetically modified (GM)	• Involves changing the DNA of foods to enhance their productivity and properties. • Crops can be **better protected from disease and drought**, but also made larger or include more **health benefits**.
Hydroponics	• This is a method of growing plants without soil. Instead they use nutrient solution. • Less water is needed and a **reduced need for pesticides** to be used. • However, this method is **very expensive** so only used for high value crops.

Small Scale 'Bottom Up' Approaches

This involves a small scale production of food and relies on individuals and communities, rather than government or large organisations.

Allotments	• This is an area of land that is divided into plots and rented to **individuals to grow their own fruit and vegetables**. • Allows people in urban areas to produce their **own cheap** & **healthily food** close to home.
Permaculture	• This involves **people growing their own food** and **changing their eating habits**. • This can create **more natural ecosystems** and fewer resources are required.