

Benefits:

- 'Feeding the World,' particularly urban areas (organisational, technical)
- Decrease in malnutrition in some parts of the world (cultural)

Grey area – discuss how it can be a benefit or detriment:

- Source of innovation e.g. HYVs and GMOs and associated issues (technical)
- Bio piracy – The traditional knowledge of crops, seed strains and farming methods 'stolen' by corporations and patented. (cultural)
- Patents and associated issues – can someone own life? (organisational)
- Providers of inputs – power taken from farmers (organisational, cultural)
- To expand business necessary in culture of economic growth, agribusiness can pressure countries and producers to adopt forms of production suitable for the use of their products. Specifically, large farms, high chemical input, monoculture. This can push out local businesses and make small-scale and subsistence farming comparatively uneconomical and undesirable. (cultural, organisational)
- Have Economic, Technical and Social power and influence from (organisational)
 - Wealth
 - Controlling food – essential for life
- Self feeding system (organisational)
 - Good for business
 - Compound power
 - Can spin out of control
- Major capitalist corporations and associated issues (e.g. exploitation!) (organisational, cultural)
- Subsidies – agribusinesses can receive subsidies when they don't really need the money. However, does potentially increase employment, innovation and GDP of the host country. (organisational)
- A belief in (cultural)
 - Taming the environment
 - Addressing starvation
 - High yields and monoculture are good
 - Economic efficiency

Detriments:

- Push their own agenda with little regard for non-economic concerns through (organisational)
 - Close relationship with government though political lobbying- can interfere with democracy (benefit of corporation over citizens)
 - Benefit from debt of poor countries – tied aid and cash crops – technology transfer
- Disempowering farmers, making them dependent on agribusiness (cultural)

3. Is self sufficiency important? What effect has modern agriculture had on self sufficiency at a local and national level?

What is self sufficiency?

- Producing what is needed
- Not relying on external inputs
- Family, community or national scale

Why is self sufficiency desirable?

- Food security
- Knowledge of production methods
- Strengthened community
- Control over all levels of production – absence dependence (cultural, organisational and technical)

