

Chapter 9 Food and Hunger

It is imperative to be able to describe patterns of world hunger, which must include explanations of the major deficiencies; this includes anemia and kwashiorkor. The topic of malnourishment pertains to these deficiencies. The characteristics of famine affect a country both socially and economically.

Three grain crops are responsible for feeding most of the world. Rice, wheat, and maize (corn) are the basic staples for most of the world's population. Protein is an important nutrient, and is most frequently obtained from either fish or meat. CAFOs and aquaculture have significant environmental impact. What is the connection between input of grain and output of meat? Eating at lower trophic levels conserves energy; however, it is probably not possible for all people to eat at the lowest level.

The green revolution is an important agricultural topic. With the advent of GMOs, it is important to be aware of how DNA from one organism is inserted into the genome of another. Crops can be engineered for pest resistance or weed control. There is significant controversy surrounding GMOs.