

Glossary – revised 30.07.09

Acute hunger – sudden extreme hunger

Agribusiness - the various businesses connected with farming , including, seed supply and distribution, processing, marketing, retail sales etc

Agricultural extension services System which assists farm people, through education and advice to improve farming methods and, increase production.

Chronic hunger – long term slow hunger

Desertified land - Some communities in African countries have survived for generations on dry and semi-dry lands which can support crops, but additional populations or decreases in rainfall caused by climate change can lead the few plants present to disappear, which in turn leads to lower rainfall and causes the land to become extremely dry or desertified.

Fairtrade – trade which ensures a fair price for producers

Food security – **Food security** refers to the availability of food and one's access to it. A household is considered food secure when its occupants do not live in hunger or fear of starvation.

Infrastructure – roads, transport, electricity, water systems communications etc

Irrigation systems – ways of watering land. For example **drip irrigation**, widely used in developing countries, minimizes the use of water by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, through a network of pipes or hoses

Livestock – farm animals

Malnutrition – brought about by food which lacks essential nutrients such vitamins, minerals and proteins, essential for health. Many millions of people, especially children, lacking [micronutrients](#), such as [iron](#) and [zinc](#), die from diseases rather than from starving to death.

Smallholder farmers – farmers who own small plots of land

Stunted growth – height of children below average for age

Subsidized food production – grants paid by governments to farmers producing food

Sustainable agriculture – Environmentally friendly farming methods which avoiding using up natural resources.

Undernutrition – not enough nutrition (food) for health and development.

Vulnerability – High levels of being at risk from, for example, hunger or natural disaster.

Water management: Ensuring the best use and distribution of water available, including ways of storing and using rainwater to make the most use of it