

Introduction

Food is one of the absolute basics of life. Without it there is no life. Food = energy. Without energy to sustain life's processes there is no life. But food can also harm when that food is contaminated with pollutants. And a lack of food variety and quality is also detrimental to a healthy and productive life.

But what do we need to do in order to change the bad habits of food production and consumption?

Food evolution

From hunters and gatherers to massive agricultural enterprises, genetic modification of crops and live

Food is inextricably connected to human society and evolution. When we lived in small humanoid groups

But as we made our ascent in the food chain so did our food production habits adapt. Instead of wander

City life

City life demands larger quantities of food readily available. Farmers and city dwellers became two sepa

Food and war

But where war and strife exist as a continuous condition, as we see in modern day Africa and other plac

Food definition

Material consisting essentially of protein, carbohydrate and fat, used in the body of an organism to sustain life.

Source: [Encyclopedia Britannica](#).

Agriculture definition

The practice, science or art of cultivating the soil, harvesting crops, and raising livestock.

Source: [Encyclopedia Britannica](#).

Modern life

Today, the earth sees a variety of human cultures and civilizations. There are still primitive tribes of hunters and gatherers that depend on their direct environment to exist, and there are city dwellers who could never live off the land. They would not know how.

Because of population pressures many areas previously untouched by modern life and inhabited by poor or primitive peoples are now being 'developed' by national and international corporations in order to obtain more arable land. These areas are also under pressure from illegal logging and mining. While turning them into more farmland will help feed a growing world population we also need to consider what we lose by destroying these areas. And is destruction of natural forest and habitat really the most efficient method for food production?

Food management

Plants need sunshine, water, good soil, and protection in order to grow. When left alone, plants will th

In small populations it is not a problem to use local land for food production and livestock. Communities

But we have gone far beyond this basic principle of checks and balances. Because of our ever growing

Because of materialism and uncontrolled population growth we have become the single most destruct

But any self respecting parasite manages to evolve into a state of symbiosis with its host rather than it

Proper education about land and farming principles make it possible to use the land without destroying

Return to basics

After a number of food scandals during the 1960's and 70's there has been a return to organic and mo

But it hasn't been enough. Too few areas of the world are adapting to friendly food management pract

These food multinationals, despite their commercials claiming the opposite, are using destructive ag

In the interest of economic growth and personal gain, **Global is local** although many local and national government

Globalism is a favorite word of big companies that like to expand their base of operations across the g

Different needs apply to different areas and "globalizing" everyone into a fast food eating, jeans wearin

What is more important to a small farming community in a remote region; receiving MTV or information

Where the happiness of the people is foremost in the objectives of government, satisfaction levels about

Gross National Happiness

Gross National Happiness (GNH) is a term used by the Government of Bhutan - a Himalayan mountain

Government accountability

In a paper written after a local workshop seminar on Gross National Happiness and what it means one

Quote:

"The paper initially presented at a seminar on [Governmental Accountability](#) by [Crystal Byssers](#) at [www.crisystal.com](#) for good and efficient
([Bhutan_GNH_editorial.pdf](#))

Governmental accountability is a key word here. When governments fail to protect us from ruthless co

In a truly open and bureaucratic government [system accountability](#).) should not be a problem. (See also

Food production technology

Food production technology ranges from the hoe and spade to giant combines and genetic manipu

Improving the quality and usefulness of those plants and animals we depend on for survival is one of

But does that mean that the beef or chicken I eat has to come from an animal that has been abused i

Livestock needs to have a life

Meat tastes better when its original owner has had a better life. Beef quality is better when the cattle h

It would also prevent diseases such as Mad Cow Disease when livestock isn't fed on the processed

With current agricultural technology and practices it is certainly possible to raise livestock in a more re

Farming problems and solutions

What are the main problems of agriculture? Lack of water, pests, climate?

How about corporations, governments and war? And what about lack of money, lack of arable land?

And what about lack of markets to sell your products?

Proper information and education could alleviate many of these problems.

Sustainable development

The rainforests are not only the lungs of our world but contain the greatest diversity of life on the plan

Many of our products and a large part of our medicines and pharmaceuticals come from substances f

One of the problems lies in the attitude we have towards the forests. Many people simply consider the

We consider this minimum use of what is really a maximum opportunity situation.

Without the need of extensive education local people can be taught to search out specific products a

Collecting specimens and information is a [worthy conservation project](#) as well as a [significant provider](#). For example, see [Farming the Flying Flowers from Costa Rica](#)

Here, instead of emptying the forest of one of its most beautiful inhabitants, local people have been taught

There is no reason why this principal cannot be applied for other products, including food production,

Monoculture

When you grow a single crop on a plot of land you are limiting the potential of that land severely. A forest

Especially in the developing world where labor is cheap and education and ecological awareness low

The good guys and the bad guys

The good guys are people, companies and organizations who care about what they produce, who care

The bad guys are those people and companies that produce food and related products for the sole purpose

Whereas before central government controlled food supplies it is now in the hands of multinationals, v

The good guys

[The World Food Program](#) - The World Food Program, a division of the United Nations has a

[The World Conservation Union](#) - The World Conservation Union is the world's largest and m

[CITES](#) - CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and

[Greenpeace](#) - Greenpeace is an non-profit organisation, not funded by governments or corpora

References:

[The history of agriculture](#) - an excellent overview [Advanced Bio Tech](#) history of the agricultural asp

[Crystalinks](#) - Agricultural history - an overview of agricultural history during early civilizations.
[University of Reading, UK](#) - Agriculture, Policy and Development - History of agriculture.{jcomm