



# ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY



## THE ROLE OF SMALL SCALE AND LARGE SCALE FARMING

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## Small-scale farming



- Is the production of crops and/or livestock on a small-piece of land.
- Is both subsistence (for own use) and commercial (for selling).
- Food production is much smaller compared to large scale farming.
- Do not generally using advanced and expensive technologies. Is labour orientated.
- Involves a few people e.g. family members.
- Produces small quantity of food
- Supplies the local communities (markets).

\* Note subsistence farming is farming for own use and small scale farming is for own use and selling.



## Importance of small scale farming



- It increase food security. Up to 2.2 million households have recently constructed food gardens at their homes in order to avert food insecurity (StatsSA 2019)
- People will be able to sell crops reducing poverty and improving quality of life.
- Create employment for local community.
- People maybe more comfortable to live in rural areas thus reducing rural-urban migration and it's associated challenges.
- Although small it does contribute to the GDP/economy of SA.





## Large scale farming



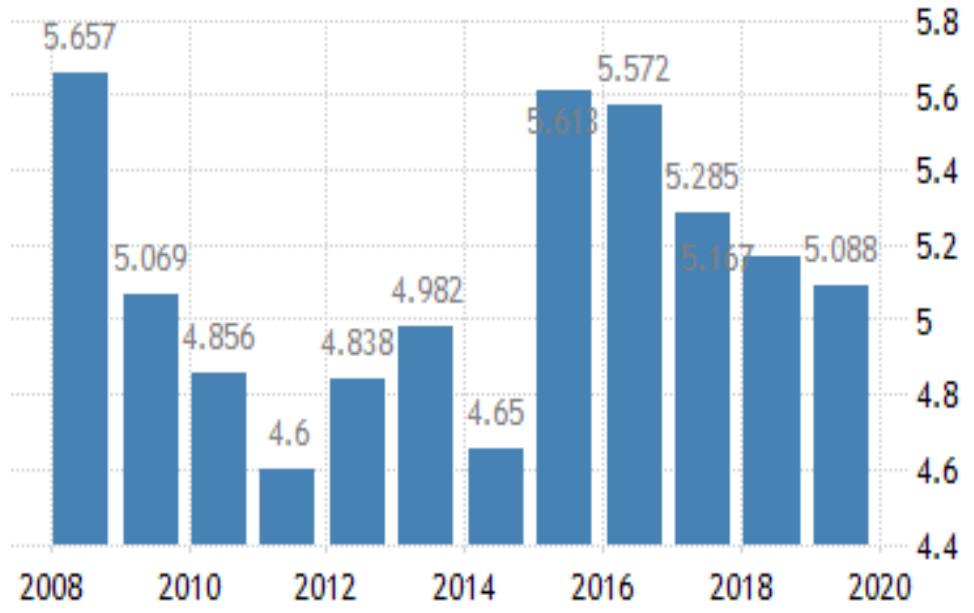
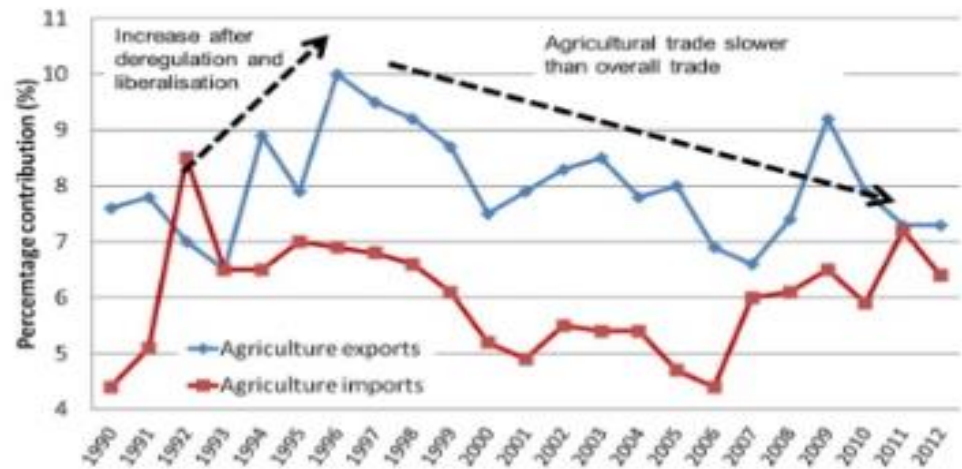
- Is a system which involves growing of crops and rearing of animals on a large piece of land.
- Done on a commercial basis and is profit orientated.
- Food production is large. Have high levels of output, such as cash-grain farms.
- Generally monoculture (One type of crop)
- Apply modern farming technologies e.g. machinery and scientific farming methods
- Services local and international markets.
- Employs and creates employment for many people



## Importance of large scale farming



### Contribution of agriculture to the GDP in SA, 1990 to 2012



Employment in agriculture

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- Contributes significantly to the GDP/economy of SA.
- Has a large amount of exports bringing in a lot of foreign exchange.
- Employs a large number of people
- Produces a large amount of food. This plays a significant role in food security.
- Provides raw materials for secondary sector.
- By improving quality of life, it increases the secondary and tertiary sector. People can afford more goods and services.



## Activity



1. Differentiate between small scale and large scale farming.
2. Match the terms small scale and large scale farming with pictures A and B. Give reasons for your answers.
3. Explain how small scale farming can increase food security
4. Explain the importance of large scale farming to the economy of South Africa