ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY

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Dual agricultural economy
• South Africa has a highly developed commercial farming sector and a large number of people involved in subsistence farming.

Factors favouring and hindering agriculture in South Africa.

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<tr>
<th>Favouring</th>
<th>Hindering</th>
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<td>• There is a large market for agricultural products (local and international).</td>
<td>• Unreliable and low rainfall.</td>
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<td>• Availability of labour.</td>
<td>• Large number of subsistence farmers.</td>
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<td>• The fertile floodplains of rivers for farming</td>
<td>• Natural hazards such as droughts, floods.</td>
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<td>• Good rainfall on eastern half of the country.</td>
<td>• Productivity reduced by HIV/AIDS.</td>
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<td>• Different climatic conditions allow for variety of crops.</td>
<td>• Pests e.g. locusts damage crops.</td>
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<td>• Growth of crops and pasture lands increased by relatively higher summer temperatures.</td>
<td>• Poor farming methods increase soil erosion</td>
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<td>• Good transport infrastructure e.g. ports.</td>
<td>• Price fluctuations referring to prices continuously going up and down.</td>
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<td>• Improvement in water supply through water projects.</td>
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<td>• Research is continuously being done</td>
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Agriculture is the cultivating the soil, growing crops and raising livestock. It includes the preparation of plant and animal products for people to use and their distribution to markets.

Primary economic activities is the extracting or harvesting of products from the earth such as basic foods and raw materials.
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Food supply
- South Africa is in a fortunate situation of being able to produce more food than is needed by population.
- Food is important for a healthy and productive population
- Reduces import of food which generally reduces prices.
- Food insecurity can occur when people cannot afford it e.g. due to poverty.
Employment in Agriculture

- Consists of formal and casual employment.
- Employs a significant number of people (5.088% in 2020)
- Decreasing could be due to technological improvements e.g. in machinery and growth of other sectors
- Employment improves people quality of life.
Contribution of agriculture to GDP of South Africa  

Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced within a country's borders, by citizens and non-citizens alike for a specific period e.g. a year.

Agricultural Percentage contribution to the GDP of South Africa decreased e.g. from 16.5% in 1951 to 3.2% in 2007. Percentages of other sectors have increased. Although percentage contribution for agriculture has decreased, it still contributes significantly to the GDP of South Africa.

R. Davechand 2020
Agricultural contribution to balance of trade

Balance of trade is the difference in value between a country’s imports and exports.

- Exports are generally higher than imports bringing in significant foreign exchange.
- Agricultural exports in 2012 were approximately 6.3% of the total exports.
- These exports contribute greatly to the country’s balance of trade.

R. Davechand 2020
Important link between economic activities/sector

- The other sectors are dependent on agriculture e.g. raw materials for secondary sector.
- Example: maize → production of breakfast cereals (Secondary) → supermarket selling breakfast cereals (Tertiary) → research on peoples preference for type of breakfast cereals (Quaternary)