

World Food Problems

Fall 2009

The World Food Problem: Toward Ending Undernutrition in the Third World.

Leathers and Foster, 2009 (4th Edition)

Assignment #3 – Institutions, Biotechnology, Animals, and Culture (again)

Assigned: October 28, 2009

Due: November 18, 2009

Resources:

- Information from the lectures by Drs. Phillips on Oct 28, White on Nov 4, and Vreyens on Nov 11
- The supplemental readings available on the class web site, <http://www.apec.umn.edu/faculty/kolson/apec4103.html>

Please answer the following questions using no more than 1 typewritten page per question (double spaced, 12 point font).

1. What does the term genetically modified organism (GMO) mean?
 - Similarities to traditional plant breeding products?
 - Differences from traditional plant breeding products?
2. Briefly describe your understanding of the role of animals in world food production. Do livestock compete for scarce food production resources, or do they add to our ability to increase total food supplies?
3. Describe how animal-based foods (milk, meat, eggs) affect the healthfulness of the human diet globally. Considering the protein/calorie needs as well as other aspects of healthfulness, contrast how animal-based foods positively affect the healthfulness of the human diet as well as how they might negatively affect the healthfulness of the human diet.
4. From a cultural perspective, what factors need to be considered when working in an environment culturally different from your own which can increase the chance of successfully introducing change?