Farming policy has increased in significance and organisations such as WTO (World Trade Organisation) and the EU challenge national governments

Controlled by the levels of precipitation and soil saturation at the start of the growing season. Groundwater availability should also be considered

Government

Water availability

Vitally important when setting up or running a farm. Subsidies and policies have helped but have altered efficiency and mechanisation of farms

Normally this is determined by climate, soils and relief but increasingly farmers turn to farming crops or animals that will bring the most money not which are most suited to the area

Important considerations for farmers are the hours of sunshine, average temperature and amount of rainfall

Thick, well-irrigated, often alluvial (deposited by a river) is usually the best for crop farming. In hilly areas it tends to be thinner and less fertile and is more suited to pasture farming

Flat, sheltered areas are usually best for crops as it is easy to use machinery. Steep slopes are more likely to be used for sheep and cattle farming or are terraced to allow for rice to grow

In Europe the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and EU regulations have meant that farmers are protected and that their produce will be bought. However they have also meant some farmers have had to completely change what they are growing to suit the new regulations

The general global pattern is a reduction in the number of workers due to mechanisation, those in poor countries may employ low paid workers if they do not have sufficient funds to mechanise

The farmer must know he is going to be able to sell his produce for a fair price in order to make a profit

Politics

Capital

Soils

Relief

Climate

Labour

Market

Choice