

## A Proposal for Combating World Hunger HIGH LEVEL 2

**A**

### A Proposal for Combating World Hunger

Land degradation is defined as a reduction in the soil's capacity to produce in terms of quantity, quality, goods, and services (Natural resources and conservation services, United States Department of Agriculture. 2003). Land degradation can result from numerous human activities, including pollution, irrigation, land clearing and deforestation, for example, pollutants such as NO<sub>3</sub> can cause acid rain, thus resulting in land degradation. Land degradation can also have natural causes such as accelerated erosion through wind and water, for example, extended periods of harsh conditions causing desertification. Land degradation decreases the amount of land that can be used for agriculture, which in effect depletes a major source of food (crops and vegetables can't be farmed, etc.) Consequently, land degradation has a serious negative impact on world hunger. With the help of the U.N., land degradation can be diminished using the following three-step action plan.

#### First Step

A problem has to be recognized before a solution can be determined. Therefore, the first step to this strategy is education and awareness – people have to be aware of the initial signs of land degradation and its consequences. Through programs funded by the government, educators will show communities how land degradation starts and the effects that it has on the land. The program will touch on subjects such as land preservation, for example, that planting trees and plants will help hold the soil together. Also, it will outline how the land can be protected from nature. Although this cause of land degradation is not preventable, its impact can be diminished. Education is the first, and possibly most important key to stopping land degradation.

#### Second Step

The second step is to enact the techniques and ideas presented throughout the teaching programs. The pupils will put their new knowledge into action, and with the help of the U.N. they will take on endeavours such as planting trees, as well as creating wind barriers to help prevent the land from being exposed, and consequently destroyed. Communities will be taught how to dry farm, which entails certain techniques such as harvesting crops, or different rows of crops, every other year, as well as deep ploughing their fields which will save water and help keep the soil moist. This will help farmers because they only work to be paid for this year but they will learn that they will have better crops for next year. This step will be the longest process of this strategy, but also the most rewarding.

**B**

### Third Step

The third step is to try and diminish the environmental causes of land degradation, for example, acid rain. This would be on a global scale and very difficult to accomplish, but steps can be made through programs and scientific research. Studies will be done regarding the leading causes of pollution, for example, it could be found to be car exhaust, and a worldwide effort would be made to make cars more environmentally friendly. The U.N. will try to set up agreements with car companies to build cars that release less harmful bi-products, and will consequently diminish their large negative impact on the environment. For example, one possibility would be to facilitate the research and distribution of cars fuelled on hydrogen, etc. This is a huge step, but one which will also help other environmental problems, such as global warming. Pollution is a leading cause of many other world issues and hopefully this third step will help solve them.

In conclusion, many factors contribute to world hunger, but the foremost is land degradation. Without adequate land on which to grow crops, many countries are lacking the resources that could otherwise use to provide starving communities with food. There are many factors that lead to land degradation, and hoping to eliminate all of them is unrealistic; however, an effort can be made to diminish them. By increasing awareness, providing instruction on how to reconstruct/preserve land, and making a united effort to alter many human-related activities that ultimately lead to land degradation, world hunger could be reduced. When combined with effort and cooperation, three small steps could add up to one huge change.

**Teacher's Notes****Knowledge and Understanding**

- The student describes a cause of world hunger with some effectiveness. The cause, land degradation, is described well, using accurate information, but the link between hunger and land degradation is left too vague (e.g., land degradation “depletes a major source of food crops and vegetables can’t be farmed, etc. Consequently, land degradation has a serious negative impact on world hunger ...”).

**Thinking**

- The student analyses land degradation as a cause of world hunger with some effectiveness. The analysis shows evidence of research into land degradation. Analysis of the problem is integrated throughout the proposal, and the factors involved in preserving agricultural land (e.g., creating wind barriers) are discussed. However, the student does not always make a strong connection between activities that can cause land degradation and their effect on the soil (e.g., “pollutants such as NO<sub>3</sub> can cause acid rain thus resulting in land degradation”).

**Communication**

- The student communicates information and ideas with considerable clarity. The proposal is well organized. The strategy is easily identifiable and the student provides detailed information to support the ideas (e.g., “Communities will be taught how to dry farm, which entails ...”). However, some of the lengthy sentences can be difficult to read.

**Application**

- The student develops a somewhat effective three-step strategy. The first two steps are somewhat feasible and sustainable (education and awareness programs, the application of preservation techniques), but the third step (reducing pollution) is not. In particular, the solution proposed (i.e., “The U.N. will try to set up agreements with car companies ...”) is not feasible.

- The student justifies the three-step strategy with some effectiveness. Each step is well reasoned, but the student makes simplistic assumptions about government funding, UN assistance, and the cooperation of automobile manufacturers. The supporting arguments also include an inaccuracy (i.e., “... deep ploughing their fields which will help keep the soil moist”).

**Comments**

This work is representative of a high level-2 performance. The student demonstrates some degree of achievement of the expectations in the Knowledge and Understanding, Thinking, and Application categories of knowledge and skills. However, in the Communication category, the student demonstrates a considerable degree of achievement – i.e., achievement that is more characteristic of level 3.

**Next Steps**

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- make a stronger connection between land degradation and world hunger;
- analyse information from sources carefully to avoid making inaccurate statements;
- create a more feasible third step of the strategy, one that can be integrated with the first two;
- proofread carefully to improve clarity and flow (e.g., break up some of the longer sentences, particularly those containing examples).