Cash Crop Encyclopedia Article

Cash Crop

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Cash Crop

A crop that is produced for the purpose of exporting or selling rather than for consumption by the person who grows it. In many **Third World** countries, cash crops often replace the production of basic food staples such as rice, wheat, or corn in order to generate foreign exchange. For example, in Guatemala, much of the land is devoted to the production of bananas and citrus fruits (97% of the citrus crop is exported), which means that majority of the basic food products needed by the native people are imported from other countries. Often these foods are expensive and difficult for many poor people to obtain. Cash crop agriculture also forces many subsistence and tenant farmers to give up their land in order to make room for industrialized farming.