## **Revision Notes**

Factors affecting farming

## Physical factorsA hill farm

Like other primary industries, farming is highly dependent on physical inputs such as:

Weather and climate Slope or relief of the land Soil fertility Water and drainage

These inputs are naturally occurring, so farmers must work with the physical inputs their location provides. They can intervene in these inputs to a limited extent - for example by growing crops in a polytunnel (plastic tunnel greenhouse) to protect them from frosts and improve plant growth - but such human interventions require extra inputs in the form of money or work.

## **Human factors**

A market garden

Like physical factors, these vary from one farm to the next and affect farmers differently according to the type of farm and the level of development of the country where the farm is located. Factors include:

Government policy, eg EU subsidies and loans.Labour - some farms require more labour than others, eg a market garden will employ more labourers than a hill sheep farm.Finance - capital is needed for wages, seeds, specialist buildings, animal feed, fertilisers, pesticides and machinery.

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