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**Question 21** (7 marks)

(a) What is meant by the term *ecologically sustainable food production*?

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The term *ecologically sustainable food production* means that production is continued so as to meet the demands of the current population without hindering the next generations resources and limiting environment degradation.

(b) Discuss the use of genetically modified crops in food production.

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Genetically modified crops involves the use of biotechnology to alter the genetic material of a certain product. Genetically modified crops have a higher resistance to disease and pests, while simultaneously increasing crop yields and nutritional benefits. The nutritional benefits involved with the use of genetically modified foods effects the production process. Genetically modified foods can already contain characteristics that no longer need to be added during production i.e. increased levels of vitamins. GM foods can also be developed to provide extended shelf life and production outside of season, this increases supply to manufacturers reducing gluts during harvest. i.e. strawberries. GM foods have vastly affected food production.