

Question 28 (10 marks)

- (a) Explain a strategy that farmers use to manage the sustainability of water resources for agricultural production. **3**

Farmers manage the sustainability by making sure they do not use too much at any one time, ^{making} ~~making~~ sure that they do not let fertilisers ^{or chemicals} leach into the water system as for this will create an algal bloom and the water may become unusable.

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Question 28 (continued)

- (b) For a soil degradation problem, explain farm management practices that have contributed to the problem and a procedure that can be used to alleviate the problem.

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One soil degradation problem is salinity. Salinity can be caused by the removal of deep rooted plants such as trees, for farming land (cropping). The deep rooted plants keep the water table down and all the salts that are within it down to. With cropping often comes irrigation. By irrigating soil that is not used to this amount of water and the removal of trees the water table rises and the salt makes its way up to the surface creating an environment of which plants can't grow in. Once this has to. As soon as you see signs that the plants are not coping contact your local agronomist, if he tells you that your salt levels are too high, you should reduce or stop irrigating and plant some deep rooted plants such as lucern. This should help towards getting the water table back down. If nothing is done you will no longer be able to use this land.

End of Question 28