

Glossary

Autonomous regions (China) – an area that has some freedom from the Chinese government in terms of decisions about its economic future. Overall and military control and presence is however the same in the region as other Chinese provinces.

Bias - In favour of, or against, a particular point of view or opinion. Bias could be shown in interviews, or in questionnaire design or response.

Butterfly effect – how one effect causes another and then another. A term often used to explain the chain of effects in our globalised world.

Continentality – areas within a continent tend to have distinct climate; drier weather, cooler winters and warmer summers. They are located further away from the moisture brought by oceans, and the winter warming and summer cooling effects of the ocean.

Dzuds (winter wind storms) – a Mongolian term for extremely snowy winters that often leads to livestock deaths as they are unable to find food.

Ecological resettlement – the encouragement of nomads to settle and reduce their dependence on their traditional herding and lifestyles in the grasslands of the Gobi desert in Inner Mongolia, China. An alternative phrase used in these resources to describe the same process is “closing down the grasslands”. If populations move around it is more challenging for governments to support and govern communities.

Food independence – the ability of an area or country to produce food successfully without a heavy reliance on imports.

Food security - “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. (FAO World Food Summit, 1996)

Globalisation – the process of the world becoming more interlinked socially and economically.

Governance – the act of controlling and managing an area.

High- tech farming – farming that has modernised and relies on expensive machinery and infrastructure such as tractors, irrigation systems, green houses and expensive fertilisers.

Marginal area – an area that is socio-economically more switched off from the rest of the country or a region. It is likely to be poorer with less job opportunities and less infrastructure connecting it to the rest of the country.

Nomadic herding – farmers that move around, often herding cattle surviving off milk and meat. Nomads tend to be in environmentally vulnerable areas when arable farming is challenging.

Peer reviewing - Academic journal articles are read and reviewed by experts in the field before being accepted for publication. The investigation must be repeatable, robust and grounded in previous study. It is refereed (reviewed) by 2-7 experts. Revisions may be suggested and the author(s) must revise or withdraw the paper.

Qualitative research - Non numeric field work that may include extended interviews, field work observations and focus groups.

Quantitative research - Numerical research where data can typically be graphed and sometimes analysed statistically. Field work methods are likely to be more technically scientific e.g. The collection of rainfall data over time using rain gauges in various locations.

Rain-fed intensive farming – Using high-yield varieties of seeds which can adapt to different soils and variations in rainfall patterns

Rain-shadow – Rain shadows are located next to mountains. Mountains cause air to rise, cool, condense and can precipitation. By the time the air has moved over the mountain, therefore most moisture has been lost and air is dry – often creating large desert areas next to mountains.

Rural to urban migration – moving from the countryside to the city.