

Agriculture, food and food security: why it is an important topic for students

We were very fortunate in having Professor Tim Benton as the Keynote Speaker at the SSERC Annual Conference in November 2018.

Tim is Dean of Strategic Research Initiatives at the University of Leeds and Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Chatham House. From 2011-2016, Tim was the UK Champion for Global Food Security, acting as ambassador and spokesperson for matters to do with food and food security, and coordinating work across this area between research councils and government departments.

Quite apart from the intrinsic interest to a wide population, the topic of food security is covered in various SQA specifications [1] including National 5 Biology, Higher Biology, National 5 Environmental Science, Higher Environmental Science, and National 5 Geography.

We were fortunate that Tim gave us permission to record his presentation and we were delighted when he also agreed that we could make it more widely available through the SSERC YouTube channel [2]. We hope that you and your students enjoy the video despite some of the predictions being 'scary'! <<



Professor Tim Benton.

References

- [1] SQA (2019), National Qualifications subjects. Available at <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45625.html> (accessed 8th February 2019).
- [2] The video is available at https://youtu.be/p-_7KCElpqo.

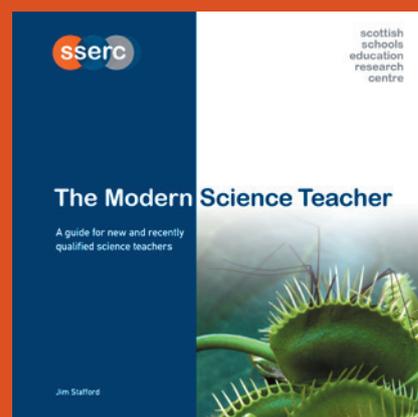
The Modern Science Teacher (reprinted December 2018)

This booklet, written by Jim Stafford, aims to support new and recently qualified science teachers as they embark on their professional careers. The booklet seeks to provide a ready reference point on the key issues that have to be taken into account when devising science courses for the 21st century. Topics covered include the organisation of the science teaching laboratory, CLPL, action research, self-evaluation and school inspections. Although the booklet is intended for those who have just entered the profession it should also be useful to those who support, supervise and manage new and recently qualified science teachers.

In his foreword to The Modern Science Teacher, Professor Graham Donaldson CB makes the following observation:

This booklet is relevant for all science teachers, irrespective of whether they have recently qualified or have been teaching for many years. It supports the reflective and enquiring culture which should increasingly characterise all Scotland's schools and learning communities.

The booklet was updated in December 2018 to include information on SQA qualifications



and HMI inspection procedures. The reprinted version also takes into account a number of other changes since the first edition was published in 2013. A pdf version can be accessed [here](#). <<