### Modernisations in Agriculture

Under Mao, agriculture had operated under the **Commune System**. This meant that whole communities of around 4,000-5,000 families operated as a single unit. Individual kitchens weren’t needed, as everyone ate communally. Individual cooking was outlawed, and everything that had been part of the kitchen, such as chairs, tables, cooking utensils and pans were contributed to the commune to be put to use elsewhere. Along with all of these items, animals, stores of grain and anything else owned by families were also contributed. At the start of each day, commune leaders assigned each person a specific job that was undertaken for the good of the commune.

**Deng** abolished the Commune System, and replaced it with the **Responsibility System**. Now, as long as farmers meet (a much-reduced) quota every month, they are allowed to sell any extra produce on the open market and make a profit. This can then be used to buy machinery, which can in turn be used to produce even more, and make even more money for the farmers.

*Effects of Agricultural Modernisations*

* Farmers had more incentive to farm, as they could make a profit. For the first time in Chinese history, there were no mass food shortages.
* Man small farmers went out of business because they could not grow enough crops to compete with the large farms.
* China is now the world’s largest producer of rice and wheat.
* Large farms have become very successful, and have greatly improved the Chinese economy.
* Many young men have abandoned rural areas because there are no jobs, and headed to the city to try and find work.