

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK FIVE(FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SEC. SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

CLASS: JSS1

TOPIC: FORMS/BRANCHES OF AGRICULTURE

SCOPE OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture involves growing plants and rearing animals. Plants grown by farmers are generally called **crops** while animals reared are generally referred to as **livestock**.

Agriculturists need to know many things because agriculture is broad: it covers many science subjects like Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Health Science, Mathematics and Economics. These subjects help agriculturists to have a better understanding of crops and animals and enables them produce better crops and animals as well. Hence, agriculture is seen as an **applied science** or **agricultural science**.

AREAS OR BRANCHES OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural science can be broadly divided into the following areas or branches.

A. Soil science: This refers to the study of the soil to understand its nature,as well as the types and properties of soil that are suitable for different crops.

B. Crop science: This is the study of the structure of crops and how to take care of them as they grow, mature and get ready for harvest.

C. Animal science: Animal science is the study of farm animals. It can also be defined as the production and management of farm animals.

D. Veterinary medicine: This is a special branch of agriculture which deals with the study of the diseases and pests of livestock.

E. Horticulture: Horticulture is the science of growing fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants.

F. Forestry: This is the branch of agriculture that deals with trees that grow in the forest and how to maintain the forest to provide us with timber and non-timber products. Many trees such as iroko, obeche, abura, acacia, neem, and gmelina are of great importance in Nigeria because of their wood.

G. Fishery: This is the branch of agriculture that deals with the production of fish and other aquatic animals such as crabs, squids, prawns, shrimps, periwinkles.etc.

H. Agricultural economics: Agricultural economics is the study of the ways in which agriculture can be managed as a profitable business so that farmers can become rich.

I. Agricultural extension: It is mostly concerned with helping farmers especially small-scale farmers in the remote areas to improve their food and agricultural production.

J. Farm mechanization: This covers the study of all the tools and machines used in agriculture. Scientists who specialize in agricultural tools are called agricultural engineers.

HOMEWORK

1. Define the following branches of agriculture
 - A. Soil science
 - B. Crop science
 - C. Agricultural economics
 - D. Horticulture
 - E. Forestry