

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

CLASS: SS1

WEEK: 2

TOPIC: SIMPLE FARM TOOLS USES AND MAINTENANCE

TERM: 3<sup>RD</sup> TERM

#### DEFINITION OF SIMPLE FARM TOOLS

Simple farm tools can be defined as the common working tools used by small scale farmers. These tools are simple in nature and are usually made with metals and woods which are joined together.

The following are the most common farm tools:

1. Cutlass
2. Spade
3. Garden fork
4. Hand fork
5. Axe
6. Head pan
7. Watering can
8. Rake
9. Mattock
10. Pruning saw
11. Sickle
12. Wheel barrow etc.

#### CUTLASS

Cutlass is one of the commonest simple tools that is used in cutting and clearing weeds and trees. It is also used for harvesting crops like yam, cassava, tubers, for planting crop seeds, stems cutting and butchering of farm animals.

#### HOE

Hoes are used for the following:

1. It is used for transplanting crops
2. It is used for weeding.
3. It is used for making ridges and heaps
4. It is used for crop planting
5. It is also used for harvesting crops like groundnut, yam tubers etc.

There are two types of hoes;

- a. West Indian hoe
- b. West African hoe

#### SPADE

1. It is used for leveling the ground.
2. It is also used for loading materials into the wheel barrows and wagons.

#### GARDEN FORK

1. It is used for loading manures.
2. It is used for loosening the soil before planting.
3. It is used for compost making.
4. It is used for packing and removing plant remains from beds, ridges after hoeing.

#### HAND FORK

1. It is used for loosening surface soil/ breaking soil clods.
2. For pouring manure into the soil.
3. For mixing small quantity of soil or manure.

#### AXE

1. It is used for cutting fire wood and logs
2. It is used for uprooting stumps
3. It is used for felling trees.

#### HEAD PAN

1. It is used for carrying farm products
2. For carrying and mixing manure and fertilizers
3. For collecting harvested crops.
4. It is used for carrying materials for transplanting

#### WATERING CAN

1. Watering can is used for light irrigation and application of water to crops during the dry season
2. It is used for applying water to seedlings in beds.
3. It is used for applying liquid fertilizers.

#### RAKE

1. For leveling or spreading soil surface after hoeing
2. It is used for covering vegetables seeds when they are broadcast.
3. It is used for breaking up soil lumps into fine particles.
4. It is used for packing and removing weeds and litters from seed-bed

### MATTOCK

1. It is used for digging and uprooting small stumps.
2. For loosening of stone, roots and hard pan in the soil and for digging

### PRUNING SAW

1. It is used for cutting budded seedlings
2. For cutting wood or log
3. For pruning operations

### SICKLE

1. Sickle is used for harvesting fruits and cereals.
2. For cutting grass pasture for farm animals.
3. It can be used for light weeding of vegetables plants.

### WHEEL BARROW

1. For carrying farm input or output example seeds, crops, fertilizers.
2. For also carrying farm produce.

### GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF SIMPLE FARM TOOLS

These are some other ways through which farm tools can be maintained, they are;

1. Keep tools from moist to avoid rust
2. Keep tools in cool and place after use
3. Metals parts of tools should be oiled or greased before storage
4. Sharpen blunt edges or blades
5. Keep the wooden handle out of termites attack
6. Clean or wash after the metal or wooden surface after use.
7. Paint metal parts before storage
8. Straighten bent blades
9. Use tools according to their designed purpose.
10. Tighten bolt and nut parts of the tools where applicable.