

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

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

CLASS: JSS1

TOPIC: MEANING, DEFINITION AND IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

MEANING OF AGRICULTURE

The term agriculture is derived from two Latin words which are “**ager**” meaning field and “**cultura**”, meaning cultivation. Hence, agriculture literally means **field cultivation**. From the above definition, agriculture appears to mean land cultivation alone. However, agriculture entails more than that.

Agriculture can be more appropriately defined as **the art and science of raising or cultivating crops and rearing animals for the benefit of man**. It can also be defined as the **science, art or practice of cultivating the soil, producing crops and raising livestock at varying degrees for food and other purposes**.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is essential and integral for human existence because man derives so many benefits from it. Some of the importance of agriculture include:

- A. **Provision of food:** Agriculture provides food such as maize , rice, yam ,beans, meat, milk, egg, etc.
- B. **Provision of clothing:** Agriculture also provides clothing materials for man from such agricultural products as wool, cotton and animal skin.
- C. **Provision of shelter:** Man needs shelter to shield himself from harmful weather conditions like rain, sunshine , heat cold and wind. Agricultural materials such as timber from iroko, mahogany, obeche, etc. are used for the construction of houses.
- D. **Provision of raw materials for industries:** Agriculture provides raw materials for industries such as cotton for the textile industry, groundnut for the oil mills, cocoa for the food and beverage industries etc.
- E. **Provision of employment:** The agricultural sector plays an important role in the provision of large-scale employment. Farming, lumbering, fishery, poultry and forestry are aspects of agriculture that give employment to people.
- F. **Source of income and revenue:** Agriculture provides income to the farmer by the sale of his agricultural products like maize, tomato, yam, cassava, livestock and animal products in the local market.

G. **Provision of foreign exchange:** Agriculture provides a major source of foreign exchange for a nation. When cash crops and agricultural products such as cocoa, coffee, cotton, rubber, timber and oil palm are exported, they generate revenue for a country.

H. Provision of medicinal herbs such the neem tree(dogonyaro), moringa, aloe vera, etc.

TABLE SHOWING SOME OF THE AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES FOUND IN NIGERIA

S/N	INDUSTRY	RAW MATERIALS	PRODUCT
1	Rubber	Rubber Latex	Tyre tube,rubber band,electrical insulators
2	Textile	Cotton, animal wool, silk, linen	Clothing materials,thread and fabrics
3	Flour Mill	Grains e.g.wheat	Flour for bread and other pastries
4	Beverage	Cocoa, coffee,tea	Beverages and drinks e.g . Milo , Bournvita etc.
5	Dairy	Fresh cow milk	Canned milk, powdered milk, yoghurt, cheese etc.
6	Paper Mill	Wood pulp	Paper
7	Furniture	Timber/wood	Planks for building construction and furniture
9	Leather	Hides and skin	Shoes, bags, belts, etc.
10	Brewery	Millet, guinea corn, barley etc.	Beer and malt drinks
11	Soap	Oil seeds	Soap and detergent
12	Sugar	Sugar cane	Granulated sugar
13	Starch	Maize, cassava	Starch for laundry purposes
14	Fruits Canning	Fruits such as citrus, mango, pineapple	Fruit juice

HOMEWORK

1. What is agriculture?
2. State four importance of agriculture.
3. List out the products which can be derived from the following raw materials:
 - A. Cotton
 - B. Cocoa
 - C. Hides and skin
 - D. Sugar cane
 - E. Timber