

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: LAND AND ITS USES

CLASS: SS1

WEEK: WEEK NINE (9)

TERM: 1ST TERM

MEANING OF LAND

Land is the solid of the earth surface where production of agricultural products and other activities can be carried out.

CHARACTERISTICS OF LAND

1. It is a free gift of nature- it is a blessing from God and it has no cost of production.
2. It is immobile – it cannot be carried from one location to another.
3. It is limited in supply compared to water
4. It is a non-wasting asset- it is used for various purposes.
5. It varies in quality – some lands are more fertile than the other in developed cities than vilages.

Land usage can be categorized into two,namely:

- I. agricultural land use
- II. non-agricultural land use

AGRICUTURAL LAND USE

This is the usage for the production of agricultural products for man's uses. the uses of land are;

- i. crop production
- ii. wild life conservation
- iii. game reserve
- iv. livestock production
- v. forestry establishment
- vi. fisheries

LAND USE FOR NON-AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

This is the usage of land for other purposes aside from production of agricultural products.the uses are;

- I. industrial building
- II. social and recreational centre
- III. mining purpose
- IV. transport

- V. construction of bridges
- VI. school building
- VII. churches
- VIII. airports
- IX. cemetery

USES OF LAND FOR AGRICULTURE

Land is a free gift of nature on which crops are cultivated, and livestock are raised for man's and other purposes.

Characteristics of land used for agriculture

1. The land must be fertile and well drained.
2. The soil must be free of pathogens, pest and parasites.
3. The topography must be very good, it must not encourage erosion
4. The soil must have good texture, structure and constituency

Uses of land for forestry

Forestry can be defined as the study of the planting and management of forest trees and other resources that are present in the forest.

Some terms used in forestry

1. Afforestation: this is the process of establishing artificial forest in a place where there is no forest.
2. Deforestation: this is the cutting down of trees without replacement. it leads to desert encroachment.
3. Reforestation: this is the practice of planting seedling to replace cut down trees in order to create new forest.
4. Regeneration: this is the process of allowing cut down trees on regrow in order to create a new forest.
5. Selective exploitation: this is the process whereby all the trees in the forest are allowed to grow and are not cut down at the same time. The mature trees are cut down first while the young ones are allowed to reach the maturity stage before they are cut.
6. Taungya system: this is the system of planting tree seedling and food crops side by side on the same piece of land.
7. Agro-forestry: this is the process of planting arable crops raising livestock and growing forest trees on the same piece of land at the same time.

Uses of its resources

1. Provision of timber
2. Provision of food for man and animal

3. Provision of employment
4. Provision of income to the government
5. Provision of home for animals
6. Provision of medicines
7. Provision of raw materials
8. Provision of opportunities for research and training

LAND FOR WILDLIFE

Wildlife can be described as animals and birds that live in the bush. Wildlife conservation is a conscious effort of man to protect wild animals in the natural habitat from extinction. Wildlife are conserve in game reserve, examples of game reserve in Nigeria are:

1. Yankari game reserve in bauchi state
2. Kainji national park in kogi state
3. Borgu game reserve in kwara state
4. Zuguma game reserve in borno
5. Sambisa game reserve in borno state

Importance of wildlife

1. Game reserve provides revenue to the government
2. It prevent wildlife from extinction
3. It provides job for conservators, forest guards etc.
4. It provides wild animals like bush meat for man.
5. It provides training opportunities for students that study wildlife, zoology and ecology.

LAND USE FOR FISHERY

Fishery can be defined as the production and management of aquatic animals such as fish ,octopus, crayfish etc. the keeping of fish in pond is known as aquaculture .fish can also be captured in the open water such as oceans , sea ,lagoon, etc. examples of fish are; catfish tilapia ,mackerel etc.

Importance of fish

1. Fish serves as food for man
2. The skins of cartilaginous fish such as shark are used for making hand bag.
3. Oil obtained from fish, whales, turtles,etc are used for making soap.
4. Dry fish, oyster shell are used in the manufacturing of animal feed called fish meal.
5. Shells of oysters and periwinkles are used for building house and making designs.
6. Cartilaginous fish can be used to make polishing materials.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Define land

2. List four agricultural land uses and four non-agricultural land uses.