**SOIL ZONES IN NIGERIA**

Soil is defined as the thin surface of the uppermost layer of the earth’s crust on which plants grow. Soils in Nigeria can be grouped into four major zones which are:

1. Zone of laterite soil
2. Zone of forest soil
3. Zone of sandy soil
4. Zone of alluvial soil

**Zone of Laterite Soil:**

These are found in the interior zone of Nigeria in places such as Jos, Markurdi, Minna, Enugu, Abuja etc. The soils are associated with guinea savanna and it is heavily leached due to rainfall. The soils are usually reddish in colour due to the presence of iron.

**Zone of Sandy Soil:**

These soils are found in the extreme northern part of Nigeria like Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Damaturu, Maiduguri etc. The soils are associated with Sudan and Sahel savanna. These soils are formed due to dryness and depositing of sand by wind.

**Zone of Forest Soil:**

This is found in the southern belt and south-western part of Nigeria in places like Ibadan, Akure, Benin City, Ogun, Anambra, Imo etc. The soil is associated with forest vegetation and it is rich in humus due to fallen and decayed leaves

**Zone of Alluvial Soils:**

This is found around Ilorin, Lokoja, Niger-Delta areas of Warri, Port-Harcourt and Calabar. The soil is associated with fine alluvial soil deposits at the lower course of a river.

**Evaluation**

1. List the zones of soils in Nigeria.
2. Describe laterite soil.
3. How is alluvial soil formed?