

LESSON PLAN FOR WEEK FIVE

Topic: pest (ii)

Effects of pests on agricultural productivity

- a. Reduction in quality
- b. Reduction in farmer's profit
- c. Increase in the cost of production
- d. Reduction in the survival rate of seeds

Methods of pest control

- a. Cultural method of control: This is the use of cultural operations associated with crop production to make the environment uncomfortable for the growth and reproduction of pests. E.g. deep ploughing, correct spacing of plant, good crop rotation system, regular weeding and disposal of crop wastes, proper storage of farm produces.
- b. Physical methods: This involves the use of hand to pick insect pests. Scare crows can be used to scare away birds. Guns can be used to kill monkeys, grasscutters, squirrels and other bigger animals. Locally made traps, wire nettings and strong hedges may be used to control rodents in the farm.
- c. Biological method of control: This involves the use of parasites or predators which are natural enemies of the pests in question.
- d. Chemical method of control: This involves the use of chemicals to control pests. These chemicals are collectively called pesticides.
- e. Quarantine method: This method is used to avoid the introduction of pests and diseases into the country. Newly imported agricultural products such as plants, seeds, soil and animals are carefully examined at the seaports, airports and borders by those specially trained for this purpose. These new varieties are kept under strict supervision in a confinement for long enough for disease symptoms or pests to be detected. When detected, the varieties are destroyed.
- f. Integrated pest management: Involves the use of combination of two or more of the above mentioned methods of control.