

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK ONE AND TWO (1\$2) ENDING 19TH SEPT, 2025.

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE.

TOPIC: MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE, BRANCHES AND TYPE OF AGRICULTURE.

CLASS JSS1

DATE: 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

Introduction to agriculture

Man's forth- most concern from the earliest time was always to secure food. The early man lived by hunting animal and gathering of fruits and vegetables to feed himself and his family. After eating the fruits, the seeds which were thrown away later germinated. The animals which were brought home later mated and produced young ones. Man later learned to deliberately plant crops and rear animals to ensure steady and continuous supply of food.

Definition of agriculture: Agriculture means the science, art and business of growing crops and rearing of animals for the benefit of man.

Agriculture can also be defined as the deliberate effort made by man to till the soil, grow crops and rear animals for food and other purposes.

Agriculture can also be defined as the art or practice of growing crops and raising of animal for man's use.

The word agriculture is derived from two Latin word "ager" and "cultura". "Ager" means field/ land and "cultura" means to cultivate or till the soil and prepare it for the planting of crops

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

1. Provision of food: Agriculture provides food for man through the planting of crop and rearing of animals e.g. fruits, vegetables, tubers, cereals, legumes, egg, meat, milk and its products.
2. Provision of shelter: Agriculture provides shelter for man such as timber materials.
3. Provision of clothing: Agriculture provides clothing materials for man such as wool, cotton, silk and animal skin.
4. Source of income: Agriculture provides income for man by the sales his farm products like cassava, yam, maize, rice egg, meat and livestock.
5. Provision of employment: Agriculture provides employment opportunity for some people, some are self-employed while other are hired and pay for labour and others work in agro- based industries.
6. Provision of medicinal herbs: Agriculture provides medicinal herbs such as leaves and bark of some trees which is used cure some diseases.
7. Provision of tourist attraction centers: some game reserve such as Yankari Game Reserve in Bauchi State, Borgu Game Reserve in Kogi State etc. serves as tourist attraction center as many foreigners travel down there to see animals in their natural habitat.
8. Provision of raw materials for industries: Most agricultural products are used in the industries for the benefit of man. The raw materials are processed into useful end products.

S/N	Industry.	Raw materials	Products.
1.	Rubber	Latex	Tyre, tube, foam, etc.
2.	Textile	Cotton, wood, silk from sheep, fiber	Clothing materials, thread and fabric.

3.	Beverages	Cocoa, coffee, tea.	Food drink, e.g. milo, ovatine and bournvita.
4.	Dairy	Fresh cow milk.	Canned liquid milk, powered milk, cheese, yoghurt etc.
5.	Sugar	Sugarcane	Grinded sugar and cube sugar.
6.	Brewery.	Millet, guinea corn, maize, etc.	Food drinks, beer.
7.	Fruit canning	Fruits such as orange, mango etc.	Fruit juice like five alive, caprison etc.
8.	Leather	Hides and skins.	Shoes, bags, belts, seat coverings etc.
9.	Flour mill	Grains e.g. wheat, maize	Flour for baking and pastries.
10.	Oil mill	Oil palm fruits, groundnut seeds, soya bean seeds etc.	Vegetable oil for cooking and industrial use.

BRANCHES OF AGRICULTURE

This refers to the various field of study in agriculture. These branches make it easier to understand that agriculture is not only related to tilling the soil for agricultural purposes.

They branch are;

1. Soil science.
2. Veterinary medicine
3. Crop science
4. Animal science
5. Agricultural engineering and mechanization
6. Forestry
7. Fishery
8. Agricultural economics
9. Agricultural extension.
10. Horticulture.

Soil science: This is the study of the soil, its formation, its physical and chemical properties. This helps to determine their suitability for different crop growth. The farmer will, therefore, know how best to prepare the soil so that crops will grow easily and give high yields. The person that study soil science is called a soil scientist.

Crop science: This is the study of how crops are grown and how they are used by man and animals. It is important to study how crops are grown, from planting to harvesting and storage, so that the farmer will know how to take good care of them. Crop science includes such areas as Agronomy (study of soil in relation with

crop), pathology (study of crop diseases), plant breeding, Entomology (study of insect pest of crops). One who study crop science is called a crop scientist.

Animal science: This is the study of production and management of farm animals. These farm animals are also called livestock, and include poultry, sheep and goats, cattle, pigs, rabbits, and fish. These farm animals are important to the economy of the country since the supply meat, egg, milk, which are important source of protein, while hides and skins are made into leather. One who study animal science is called an animal scientist.

Agricultural Engineering and Mechanization: This involves designing, construction, maintenance and operation of farm machines and equipment. The branches of agricultural engineering include farm power, soil and water engineering, agricultural product processing, farm structure and environmental control. This branch of agriculture makes farm operations easier, faster and better. E.g. the use of milking machine, incubators, irrigation and drainage systems are of huge contribution to the development of agriculture. The person who study agricultural engineering is called an agricultural engineer.

Forestry: Forestry is the study and management of forests and forest resources which include timber, wild animals and minerals. Forestry practiced for the production of timber is called silviculture. Examples of trees are Obeche, Iroko, Mahogany and Gmelina etc. They also provide food in form of meat from wild animals, nuts, fruits and vegetables. Medicinal herbs are got from forest etc.

Fishery: This refers to the activities involves in the production of fish and other aquatic animals like shrimps, lobsters, prawns, crabs etc. It is hope that fish production in artificial waters will help to meet the need for this rich protein sources.

Agricultural economics: This deals with the business aspects and development of agriculture. It is more concerned with the financial or economical aspect of agriculture. It handles the marketing area of agricultural products.

Agricultural extension: This is the process or system which assists farmers through educational procedure in improving farm methods and techniques. Methods of disseminating new ideals and techniques to farmers include mass media, individual method and group method.

Horticulture: This is the scientific, study or practice of growing vegetables, fruits, ornamental plants/flowers and plantation crops for profit or pleasure. Ornamental plants are used to beautifying places. E.g. palm tree, Christmas tree, Allamanda, Rose flower.

TYPES OF AGRICULTURE.

There are two types of agriculture namely;

1. Subsistence agriculture.
2. Commercial agriculture.

Subsistence agriculture/ farming: This is a type of farming where the farmer plants crops and rears animal to feed himself and his family. In Nigeria, most subsistence farmers are found in the villages. They may raise goat, sheep, poultry and cattle in small numbers, also they plant cassava, yam, cocoyam, vegetables and fruit.

Commercial agriculture/farming: This is the type of farming where the farmer produces crops and rears animals for sale, to make profit. In this system, cash crops like coca, oi palm, rubber and groundnut are produced as well as raw materials for industries.

DIFFERENT BETWEEN SUBSISTENCE AND COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE.

Subsistence agriculture/farming.	Commercial agriculture/farming.
1. Production is for family consumption.	Production is for sale to make profit.

2. farming is done on a small scattered piece of land.	Farming is done on a large expanse of land
3. make use of simple farm tools like hoe, cutlass,	Agriculture is highly mechanized.
4. Mixed cropping is mostly practiced	Mono cropping is mostly practiced.
5. Agricultural chemicals are hardly used.	Agricultural chemicals are highly used.
6. It requires small capital.	Huge amount of money is highly needed.
7. Pest and disease are not controlled.	Pest and diseases are highly controlled. Etc.

EVALUATION.

1. Define agriculture.
2. Mention the five importance of agriculture to man.
3. Mention five industries and the raw materials they use
4. List ten branches of agriculture.
5. Give five differences between subsistence and commercial agriculture.

Assignment.

1. The basic necessities of life include the following except? (a) clothing (b) shelter (c) education (d) food.
2. Which of the following stages of agriculture did early man practice? (a) commercial (b) subsistence (c) hunting and gathering fruits (d) monoculture.
3. "Ager" means ____ and "cultura" means ____ (a) field, cultivate (b) cultivate, field (c) tilling, sowing (d) cultivate, field
4. "Ager" and "cultura" are ____ words (a) French (b) Latin (c) Greek (d) Chinese.
5. The following are employment opportunity in agriculture except (a) teaching (b) lumbering (c) researching (d) tailoring.
6. Fiber is a raw material for ____ industries (a) drugs (b) food (c) beverages (d) textile.
7. Which of the following industries makes use of agricultural products? (a) mining (b) transport (c) beverages (d) Automobile.
8. The area of agriculture that deals with the business aspect and development is otherwise known as (a) agricultural economic (b) agricultural finance. (c) agricultural business (d) agricultural marketing.
9. The area of agriculture that concerns the repair of farm machine is called (a) agricultural repairer (b) agricultural mechanic (c) agricultural engineering (d) mechanic fabricator.
10. The study of the composition of the soil is -----(a) soil science (b) crop science. (c) soil formation (d) soil minerals.
11. The personnel concerned with the teaching of local farmers the improved modern methods of agriculture are called (a) agriculture teacher (b) extension agent (c) farmers teacher (d) extension activist.
12. The following are method of disseminating new ideas to local farmers except _____(a) mass media (b) phoning (c) individual method (d) group method.
13. Aquatic organisms are the major sources of _____ (a) starch (b) protein (c) fat. (d) vitamins.
14. The kind of agriculture in which farmers produce just enough to feed himself and for his family is called ____ (a) subsistence agriculture (b) mixed farming (c) crop rotation (d) commercial farming.

15. Commercial farming is ____ intensive. (A) capital (B) labour (C) raw material (D) farm.
16. Subsistence farming involves the cultivation of a _____ piece of land. (a) small (b) large (c) sizable (d) workable.
17. Which of the following is not a characteristics of subsistence farming? (a) it is practiced by peasant farmers (b) it is practiced on a large area of land (c) family labour is used (d) mixed crop is cultivated.
18. Only _____ farmers can be involved in commercial farming (a) poor (b) powerful (c) rich (d) strong