

## LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK FIVE(FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SEC. SCHOOL )

**SUBJECT:** AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

**CLASS:** JSS1

**TOPIC:** FORMS/BRANCHES OF AGRICULTURE

### SCOPE OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture involves growing plants and rearing animals. Plants grown by farmers are generally called **crops** while animals reared are generally referred to as **livestock**.

Agriculturists need to know many things because agriculture is broad: it covers many science subjects like Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Health Science, Mathematics and Economics. These subjects help agriculturists to have a better understanding of crops and animals and enables them produce better crops and animals as well. Hence, agriculture is seen as an **applied science** or **agricultural science**.

### AREAS OR BRANCHES OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural science can be broadly divided into the following areas or branches.

**A. Soil science:** This refers to the study of the soil to understand its nature, as well as the types and properties of soil that are suitable for different crops.

**B. Crop science:** This is the study of the structure of crops and how to take care of them as they grow, mature and get ready for harvest.

**C. Animal science:** Animal science is the study of farm animals. It can also be defined as the production and management of farm animals.

**D. Veterinary medicine:** This is a special branch of agriculture which deals with the study of the diseases and pests of livestock.

**E. Horticulture:** Horticulture is the science of growing fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants.

**F. Forestry:** This is the branch of agriculture that deals with trees that grow in the forest and how to maintain the forest to provide us with timber and non-timber products. Many trees such as iroko, obeche, abura, acacia, neem, and gmelina are of great importance in Nigeria because of their wood.

**G. Fishery:** This is the branch of agriculture that deals with the production of fish and other aquatic animals such as crabs, squids, prawns, shrimps, periwinkles, etc.

**H. Agricultural economics:** Agricultural economics is the study of the ways in which agriculture can be managed as a profitable business so that farmers can become rich.

**I. Agricultural extension:** It is mostly concerned with helping farmers especially small-scale farmers in the remote areas to improve their food and agricultural production.

**J. Farm mechanization:** This covers the study of all the tools and machines used in agriculture. Scientists who specialize in agricultural tools are called agricultural engineers.

### **HOMEWORK**

1. Define the following branches of agriculture
  - A. Soil science
  - B. Crop science
  - C. Agricultural economics
  - D. Horticulture
  - E. Forestry