

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

CLASS: SS1

WEEK: 5

TOPIC: PROBLEM AND PROSPECT OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

TERM: 3RD TERM

MEANING OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

Agricultural mechanization can be defined as the use of machines to perform certain operation or activities on the farm. It is the application of engineering principles and technology in agricultural production, storage and processing.

ADVANTAGES OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

1. Machine enables the farmer to do much work within a given time and does the work efficiently.
2. There is an increase in production with agricultural mechanization since large areas of land are cultivated with high efficiency.
3. Machines does more than the land can do
4. Large areas of land are cultivated with machine than with human efforts.
5. With agricultural mechanization, human drudgery is reduced.
6. Labour is saved and released from the farm to other areas of production.
7. Mechanization makes it possible for farmers to make use of optimum production period.

DISAVANTAGES OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

1. Mechanization in agriculture is capital intensive.
2. Mechanization leads to displacement of workers.
3. Soil structures are destroyed by heavy machines.
4. It causes environmental pollution as carbon monoxide are released into the atmosphere through their activities.

LIMITATION OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

1. The cost of acquiring machines is very high.
2. The cost of hiring machinery is also high.
3. Most farmers do not have the required skills to operate machines.
4. Machinery is not readily available for farmer's use.

PROSPECTS OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

The following are the possible ways of improving agriculture through mechanization

1. Development of less expensive machines.

2. The government should invest in the production of these machines locally.
3. There should be subsidy on agricultural machinery.
4. The establishment of agricultural engineering schools for the training of personnel and fabrication of simple machines.
5. Organization of workshop programmes for farmers for them to learn how to operate and repair machinery.