

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: TYPES OF AGRICULTURE, ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

WEEK: WEEK THREE (3)

TERM: 1ST TERM

CLASS: SS1

TYPES OF AGRICULTURE

There are two major types of agriculture namely;

1. Subsistence agriculture
2. Commercial agriculture

SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE

This is a system of farming whereby a farmer cultivates crops and rear animals in order to provide food for himself and his family. In crop production, a subsistence farmer concentrates on arable food crops such as yam, cassava, maize, millet, sorghum, groundnut, soya bean and so on. A subsistence farmer can also establish plantation where he may plant crops such as oil palm, cocoa, rubber, banana, citrus tree and so on, on a small scale. In livestock production, subsistence farmers rear goats, sheep, rabbits, dogs, and pigs, fowls, and so on for their personal consumption and for small unit sales.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE

1. Labor is provided by the farmer and his family members.
2. Crude implements or obsolete implements such as cutlass, hoe, digger, and basket are used by subsistence farmers.
3. The farmer cultivates on small areas of land.
4. The farm produce is mainly for the family with little for sale.
5. The farmer relies heavily on natural rainfall. He does not practice irrigation system.

ADVANTAGES OF SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE

1. Subsistence agriculture does not require much initial capital
2. The risk of loss is very low in subsistence farming
3. It involves little or no special skills to practice
4. It provides sufficient food for the family.
5. It reduces pressure on the nation's food demand.

DISADVANTAGES OF SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE

1. Subsistence farmers use crude tools and implements. These tools always lead to human drudgery which result in low productivity.

2. The use family labour which is not reliable. Most rural youths migrate to urban centres to look for white collar jobs.
3. Most subsistence farmers find it difficult to adopt new farming techniques because they are illiterates.
4. The output of subsistence farming is usually very low. A subsistence farmer operates on a small area of land with little or no capital.
5. Most farmers use inherited land that is very small and scattered over places.

COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE

This is a system of agriculture whereby farmers or companies produce crops and agricultural material on a large scale through the use of machines for the purpose of selling.

CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE

1. Large areas of land farm land are required.
2. It is very expensive to practice
3. It requires the use of mechanized machines like cultivator, tractor, plough, planter etc.
4. It requires good record keeping
5. It involves a lot of research into various aspects of production.

ADVANTAGES OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE

1. It leads to specialization of labour because all the farm operations are mechanized.
2. It encourages research and training in production, storage, processing and marketing of farm produce.
3. It leads to increase in output of crops and livestock. The farmer cultivates large area of land and uses modern machines and inputs like fertilizer, pesticides, improved seeds etc.
4. Commercial farmers produce high quality farm produce devoid of contamination.
5. Commercial farmers enjoy the advantages of large scale production.as a result of mass production of crops and animals.

DISADVANTAGES OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE

1. It is very expensive to operate as most of the farm operations are mechanized.
2. Problem of land tenure systems, land tenure system by inheritance does not encourage large scale farming.
3. Commercial farming may lead to unemployment because most of the farming operation is mechanized.
4. It leads to pollution. The use of machines to perform most of the farm operation can lead to environmental pollution as a result of noise and smoke emitting from the engines.
5. The establishment of plantation farming by commercial farmers may lead to infestation and outbreak of pest and diseases.

FARMING SYSTEM

1. Mixed cropping: This is the system of farming where a farmer cultivates more than one crop on a piece of land. For example maize and yam, maize and cassava etc.
2. Mixed farming: This is the system of farming where a farmer cultivates crops and rear farm animals on the same piece of land.
3. Fish pond raising: This is the system of where farmer raises different species of fishes in a pond.
4. Forestry: This is the system of establishing forest and managing its resources such as timber, winds animals etc.

ASSIGNMENT

1. State five differences between commercial agriculture and subsistence agriculture