

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: AGRICULTURAL LAWS AND REFORMS

WEEK: WEEK SEVEN (7)

CLASS: SS1

TERM: 1ST TERM

MEANING OF AGRICULTURAL LAWS AND REFORMS

Agricultural laws and reforms refer to the set of rules promulgated for agricultural purposes. These laws have been subjected to improvement and review over the years to satisfy the existing agricultural policy. Examples of such law is the land use decree of 1978. law can therefore be defined as established rules by the authority for regulating the behavior of members of the community while reforms is referred to as improvement of existing institution, laws and practices.

LAND TENURE SYSTEM

The concept of land tenure means the act of acquiring land either by individual, family, community or government temporarily or permanently.

TYPES OF LAND TENURE SYSTEM

1. Communal land tenure system
2. Land tenure system by inheritance
3. Land tenure system by rent
4. Land tenure system by purchase/freehold/individual ownership
5. Land tenure by free will
6. Tenant at will of government
7. Pledge land
8. Leasehold system

COMMUNAL LAND TENURE SYSTEM

This is the traditional system of land ownership and it is generally regarded as property of the community. The community may be family, village, a clan etc. headed by a family head, village head, or clan head. In this system, every member of the community is entitled to a piece of land for farming, but individual ownership is not allowed and the piece of land must not be sold to strangers.

ADVANTAGES OF COMMUNAL LAND TENURE SYSTEM

1. Each members of the community has easy access to a piece of land.
2. Co-operative farming is possible
3. It is easier to transfer the land to a prospective farmer since individual attachment is almost absent.

4. It is cheap to acquire because no cost is involved or required.

DISADVANTAGES OF COMMUNAL LAND TENURE SYSTEM

1. Inadequate maintenance of soil fertility.
2. Communal land cannot be used as collateral security to obtain loan.
3. Permanent crop cultivation may not be allowed since the land is not fully owned and can be transferred to another farmer.
4. Their crop usually lack of co-cooperation among the members of the community.

LAND TENURE SYSTEM BY INHERITANCE

This is the commonest method of acquiring land in some developing countries where the land owner has the freedom to do what he likes with the land. When the farmer dies, his land holdings are transferred to his son. The piece of land is continually transferred from one generation to another.

ADVANTAGES OF LAND TENURE SYSTEM BY INHERITANCE

1. The individual owner often prefers to invest in the land in order to improve its fertility for agricultural purposes or production.
2. He can also use the land as security to obtain loan.
3. The system gives the land owner security of tenure, and it also gives room for proper future planning.
4. Both permanent and temporary crops can be planted on the land.

DISADVANTAGES OF LAND TENURE BY INHERITANCE

1. Land may be inherited by some people who do not have interest in agricultural practices.
2. Government does not have control over the land.
3. If the piece of land is small, mechanization may be difficult to practice.
4. Land fragmentation discourages mechanization.

TENANT AT WILL OF GOVERNMENT

Some land that belongs to the government may be leased out to an individual for agricultural purposes .the money paid directly into the government treasury. Government may also acquire land for developmental purposes .she pays certain amount to compensate the land owner.

ADVANTAGES OF TENANT AT WILL OF GOVERNMENT

1. Available land can be used for agricultural and developmental purposes.
2. Proper planning is possible.
3. It is not expensive to acquire.

DISADVANTAGES OF TENANT AT WILL OF GOVERNMENT

1. The land can be retrieved from the farmer within a very short notice.

2. Tenant cannot use the land as collateral to obtain loan.

LEASE-HOLD LAND TENURE SYSTEM

This is a situation whereby a farmer is permitted by the owner of the land to work on it for a fixed period of time under stipulated terms and conditions. The real owner of the land may be government, individual or community.

ADVANTAGES OF LEASE-HOLD

1. It ensures adequate use of available land.
2. It enables the farmers to maximize the use of land in terms of maintenance of the crop productivity.

DISADVANTAGES OF LEASE-HOLD

1. Land cannot be used as collateral security to obtain loan from the bank and other financial institutions.
2. Permanent crops cannot be cultivated on the piece of land.

GOVERNMENT LAWS ON LAND (THE LAND USE DECREE OF 1978)

Poor land has been discovered as a major problem facing agricultural development in the developing world. Hence the federal government of Nigeria promulgated a decree in 1978. The objectives of the act are as follows;

1. All land in Nigeria belongs to the federal government.
2. The state government has the right to allocate land.
3. The state government or anybody delegated by the governor is the only one that can issue certificate of occupancy.
4. The period of land ownership will not exceed 99 years.
5. To remove the controversies which land generated in Nigeria.
6. Streamlining and simplifying the management of land in the country.

OBJECTIVES OF LAND USE DECREE OF 1978

1. To relocate land in order to make more land available to enterprising farmers for large scale production.
2. To encourage productive and effective land usage.

ADVANTAGES OF LAND USE DECREE

1. People can acquire land anywhere in Nigeria.
2. Large hectares of land can be acquired for agricultural purposes.
3. Certificate of occupancy can be used to source for loan from banks.
4. It reduces boundary disputes on land.

5. It discourages land fragmentation
6. It helps to reduce the number and frequent court cases over land ownership.

DISADVANTAGES OF LAND USE DECREE

1. It involves excessive bureaucratic regulation and control.
2. Land may be acquired by influential people for non-agricultural purposes.
3. Government land is expensive to acquire due to land survey and registration.
4. It has encouraged dishonesty through illegal sales and back dating of ownership title deed after 1978.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Define land tenure system
2. List six land tenure systems in Nigeria.