

### **WEEK 3**

#### **SUBJECT—AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**

#### **CLASS—JSS3**

#### **TOPIC—NIGERIAN VEGETATION**

#### **MEANING OF VEGETATION**

Vegetation is the plant cover of the earth surface, it is the form of trees, shrubs, grasses and legumes. Nigerian vegetation is made up of three types, they are

- 1.Forest vegetation** (possesses significant tree cover)
- 2.Savannah Vegetation**(possesses insignificant tree cover, it has scattered trees with grasses in between)
- 3. Montane Savannah**(found in mountain areas with a high proportion of grasses).

#### **FOREST VEGETATION**

Forest vegetation is made up of tall trees with aerial and buttress roots ,the vegetation is evergreen.

#### **TYPES OF FOREST VEGETATION**

(A)Mangrove swamp forest: It is found in the delta and coastal part of Nigeria such as portharcourt, Warri,Uyo and Calabar .Examples of animals found here are snakes,crocodile and birds.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OF SWAMP FOREST**

- (i)It has tall woody trees
- (ii)It has aerial roots
- (iii)Trees found includes white mangrove and red mangrove
- (iv)It has evergreen trees with broad leaves.

(B)**RAIN FOREST:** It is found in Southern parts of Nigeria such as benin , sapele ,Akure ,Ibadan, Abeokuta etc .The animals found here are antelopes ,monkeys ,grass cutters ,snails etc.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OF RAINFOREST**

- (i)It has tall trees with buttress root evergreen and broad leaves.
- (ii)Trees exist in different height these are bottom, middle and upper layers
- (iii) presence of climbers, creepers ,epiphytes and parasitic plant

(iv)It has numerous heterogenous species of trees such as Iroko, obeche, mahogany, and African walnut.

**SAVANNAH VEGETATION:** Savannah means grassland, the savannah vegetation in Nigeria is divided into; Guinea savannah ,sudan savannah and sahel savannah.

**Guinea savannah :** This is found in Enugu ,Lokoja, Ilorin,Markurdi ,Oshogbo etc

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OF GUINEA SAVANNAH**

(i)It consist of tall grasses and few scattered trees

(II)The trees are deciduous

(III)The trees have tiny leaves to reduce transpiration

(IV)Grasses are green during the rainy season and turn brown in the dry season.

(v)The trees found in this areas are oil palm, dum palm ,shea butter etc

(VI)It is the largest of all vegetation belt in Nigeria

**Sudan savannah:** This vegetation belt is found in Sokoto,Katsina,Kaduna,Kano,Dutse,and Bauchi.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OF SUDAN SAVANNAH**

(i)It has short numerous grasses.

(II)Presence of scattered and short deciduous trees.

(III)Some trees have thorns while others have thick backs

(IV)Plants species includes acacia, dates palm, silk cotton plants and baobab.

**Sahel savannah:** This is found in Maiduguri and Damaturu(North belt of the country)

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OF SAHEL SAVANNAH**

(i)It has short scanty grasses

(II)Presence of short and tough shrubs/trees

(III)Grasses are fewer , poorer and in patches

(IV)It has many drought resistance and scattered plants

(V)Plants species are acacia, gum Arabic ,date palm etc

(VI)Sparse rainfall discouraging cultivation of crops

**MONTANE VEGETATION** : This is found in highlands area like Jos and Adamawa with a high population of grasses.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OF MONTANE VEGETATION**

- (i) It is associated with highland areas
- (II) It has varied trees at its windward (facing the wind side)
- (III) Presence of short scattered and deciduous trees
- (IV) It has grasses at its leeward (scattered from the wind side)
- (V) It is populated with grasses.

#### **IMPORTANCE OF VEGETATION**

1. It serves as a source of food.
2. Timbers are obtained from the forest.
3. Leaves and grasses are used in roofing.
4. Roots, barks and leaves are used for medicinal purpose.
5. Sources of raw materials for industries.
6. Provision of sites for tourism.
7. Source of employment for hunters, lumber men, forest officers etc.