

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: ROLES OF GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

CLASS: SS1

WEEK: WEEK EIGHT (8)

TERM: 1<sup>ST</sup> TERM

### ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the responsibilities of government is to ensure that her citizens have constant supply of food. In an effort to meet up with this duty; they established ministries of agriculture in federal, state and local levels of government.

The roles of government in agricultural development is stated below:

1. Formulation of agricultural policies.

Agricultural policy is the synthesis framework and action plan of the Nigerian government designed to achieve overall agricultural growth and development. This policy aims at the attainment of self-sustaining growth in all the sub-sectors of agriculture and the structural transformation necessary for overall socio-economic development of the country as well as improvement of the quality of life of the Nigerian citizens.

2. Provision of credit facilities

Agricultural credit is repayable loan given to farmers either by commercial bank through government agencies or by co-operative societies with little interest rate. The loan must be paid back within a specific period of time. There are medium term loan, long term loan, medium term loan and short term repayable loan. Long term credit is to five (2-5) years while short term credit is expected to be refunded in a year or year.

3. Establishment of agro-service centre

Agro-service centres were established by government in many states of the federation. The responsibilities of these centres are as follow:

1. They help to repair damaged farm machines and implements.
2. They also supply farm inputs such as fertilizer, vaccines, and agro-chemicals to farmers at subsidized prizes.
3. They provide technical advice on new method of farming to farmers.
4. Formulation of agricultural regulations

Agricultural regulation is laws made by the government to protect, preserve and control certain activities on the farm. For example, it is illegal to fell trees in government forest reservation areas. It is illegal to use chemicals and explosives to fish in open water

#### 5. Provision of quarantine services

This is the process of checking and keeping apart plant and animal materials such as improved seeds, exotic breeds of farm animals by immigration officials and other government agencies before allowing them to enter into the country. The purpose of checking is to;

1. Ensure that the materials are free from pests and diseases
  2. Ensure that imported materials are not susceptible to local diseases and
  3. Ascertain that imported crops, animals and materials are adapted to climatic and environmental conditions.
- #### 6. Provision of vaccines

Vaccines are substances that are usually injected into a person or animal to protect them against a particular disease. Vaccines help to stimulate the production of anti-bodies and provide immunity against diseases. It typically contains antigens that stimulate the body's immune system. Vaccines recognize foreign organisms that may attack the animals later.

#### 7. Provision of agricultural education

About 75% of Nigerian populations are subsistence farmers, who reside in rural areas. These farmers have no or little formal education. Therefore; they find it difficult to adopt the use of new farming techniques. In view of this, government at various levels have established adult literacy programmes in rural areas to educate farmers on new farming techniques, plant varieties etc.

### ROLES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Non-governmental organizations formed by individual or group of individual in which the daily running of the organizations affair is provided by them without government intervention. They support government project with their wealth and health. People found in kind organization have in their heart the true love of their nation and upliftment of less privileged citizens in order to make the environment free and safe to live. Their functions are highlighted as follows:

1. They provide loan, credits or financial support to farmers in order to complement government efforts at improving the agricultural sector.
2. They play a key role in making subsidized seeds available at an affordable price to farmers so as to boost crop production.
3. They also provide land to farmers for agricultural production.

4. They play a key role in the marketing of agricultural products.
5. They also establish agro-allied companies purposely to improve the socio-economic status of the country.
6. They organize conferences, seminars and workshops for farmers, agricultural monitoring agencies and other agricultural related organization purposely to improve agricultural sector.
7. They give assist government in rural infrastructural development.
8. They also give incentives to farmers so as encourage continuity in the agricultural sector.
9. They bring innovation into the agricultural sector.
10. They also strengthen support for capacity building in the agricultural sector.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

1. They are owned and controlled by private agencies or corporates.
2. The purpose of establishing them is to develop agriculture.
3. They do not pay tax (either company tax or corporate tax) because they are non-profit making organizations.

#### ASSIGNMENT

1. What is non-governmental organization?
2. Highlight the following function of non-governmental organisations.