Subject: Agricultural Science

Class: JSS1

Term: First Term

Week 4

Topic: Forms of Agriculture

Sub-Topic: Types of Agricultural Practices in Localities

Focus: Arable Farming and Pastoral Farming

Introduction

Agriculture can be practiced in **different forms**, depending on what is grown, the type of land, climate, and the needs of the people in a community.

In Nigeria and many parts of Africa, people practice agriculture in ways that suit their localities. Two major forms we will study in this lesson are:

- Arable Farming
- Pastoral Farming

Definition: Forms of Agriculture

Forms of agriculture refer to the different ways or methods through which farming is practiced to meet human needs.



Types of Agricultural Practices in Localities

1. Arable Farming

Definition:

Arable farming is the type of agriculture where **only crops are grown** on the land.

Examples of crops grown:

• Cereals (maize, rice, millet)

- Roots and tubers (yam, cassava, potatoes)
- Legumes (beans, groundnut, soybeans)
- Vegetables (tomato, okra, pepper)

Common locations:

Arable farming is common in areas with **fertile soil** and **adequate rainfall** — e.g., Southern Nigeria, Middle Belt.

Tools used:

Hoe, cutlass, tractors, ridgers, planters, etc.

Advantages:

- Provides food crops for feeding the population
- Generates income from crop sales
- Supports raw material supply for industries

Disadvantages:

- Land can get exhausted (loss of fertility) if not managed well
- Requires good rainfall or irrigation
- Vulnerable to pests and diseases

2. Pastoral Farming

Definition:

Pastoral farming is the type of agriculture where **only animals are reared**.

Types of animals reared:

- Cattle
- Goats
- Sheep
- Donkeys
- Camels (in arid regions)

Types of pastoral farming:

- **Nomadic Pastoralism**: The herdsman moves animals from one place to another in search of pasture and water.
- **Settled Pastoralism**: Animals are raised in one place, usually with a fenced area or ranch.

Common locations:

- Northern Nigeria, especially among Fulani herdsmen
- Semi-arid and grassland regions

Advantages:

- Provides meat, milk, hides, and skins
- Requires less fertile land
- Can be practiced in areas not suitable for crops

Disadvantages:

- Nomadic movement can lead to **conflicts with farmers**
- Animals can suffer from diseases or water shortage
- Overgrazing can destroy vegetation

Locality Influence on Farming Practice

- In riverine or rainforest areas → Arable farming dominates (cassava, yam, maize)
- In dry, grassy regions → Pastoral farming is common (cattle, goats, sheep)