Subject: Agricultural Science

Class: JSS1

Term: First Term

Week 3

Topic: Other Importance of Agriculture to the Nation

Sub-theme: Introduction to Agriculture

Introduction

Last week, we discussed the three major importance of agriculture — food, clothing, and shelter. However, agriculture does **much more** than just meet our basic needs. It plays a **big role in the economy and growth of a country**. In this lesson, we will explore other key ways agriculture helps the **nation**.

Other Importance of Agriculture to the Nation

1. Provision of Raw Materials for Agro-Allied Industries

Agriculture supplies raw materials used by industries to produce finished goods.

- Examples:
 - Cotton → used in textile industries to make clothes
 - Cocoa → used in food industries to produce chocolate
 - Rubber → used to make tyres, footwear, and plastics
 - Oil palm → used for soap, cream, and cooking oil
 - Cassava → processed into flour, starch, and ethanol

Importance:

Without agriculture, industries that depend on farm products cannot function.

2. Employment or Job Opportunity

Agriculture provides millions of jobs for people in both rural and urban areas.

- Jobs include:
 - Farmers (crop and animal farming)
 - o Farm workers and machine operators
 - Food processors
 - Drivers and transporters
 - Traders and market sellers
 - Agricultural extension workers

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Reduces unemployment and poverty. Agriculture is one of the **largest employers** in most developing countries.

3. Foreign Exchange Earning

Agriculture contributes to national income by **exporting farm products** to other countries.

- Examples of export crops:
 - Cocoa
 - Rubber
 - Sesame seed
 - Groundnut
 - o Palm oil

Importance:

When a country exports agricultural goods, it earns **foreign money** (foreign exchange), which is used to import machinery, vehicles, medicine, and other needs.

4. Source of Income

Agriculture provides income to:

• Farmers who sell crops and livestock

- Government through taxes and export duties
- Families who trade in farm produce

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It helps people improve their standard of living and take care of their needs like school fees, food, and health care.

5. Provision of Market for Industrial Goods

Farmers and rural communities buy products made by industries, such as:

- Cutlasses, hoes, and tractors (from metal industries)
- Fertilizers and chemicals (from chemical industries)
- Baskets, sacks, and packaging materials

Agriculture **encourages local industries** by buying their products, helping them grow.

6. Source of Revenue

The government earns revenue from:

- Taxes paid by farmers and agro-businesses
- · Export duties on agricultural produce
- Licensing of farming operations
- Sale of farm produce by government-owned farms

Importance:

This revenue helps the government build roads, schools, and hospitals.