

Topic: Role of NGOs in Agricultural Development

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

- Define **NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations)**
 - Understand the **roles of NGOs in agricultural development**
 - Identify how NGOs contribute to **capacity building** and **extension services**
 - Mention examples of **NGOs involved in agriculture**
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1. Definition of NGOs

NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) are **private, non-profit, independent organizations** that work to improve the welfare of people in various sectors including **agriculture, health, education, and environment**.

Key Features of NGOs:

- **Non-profit:** They do not operate to make profit.
 - **Independent:** They are separate from the government.
 - **Service-oriented:** They help communities through **projects and support programs**.
 - **Funded by:** Donations, grants, and international bodies (e.g., UN, World Bank).
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2. Roles of NGOs in Agricultural Development

NGOs play **important roles in supporting agriculture**, especially in **rural communities**.

a) Capacity Building

Capacity building means **training and empowering farmers** to improve their skills and knowledge.

How NGOs build capacity:

- Organizing **workshops and seminars** for farmers
- Teaching **modern farming methods**

- Training in **pest and disease control**
 - Providing **business and financial education** (how to sell products, keep farm records)
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b) Extension Services

NGOs also provide **extension services**, similar to government agricultural extension.

Roles of NGOs in Extension Services:

- **Demonstrating improved technologies** like irrigation and mechanization
 - Introducing **improved seeds and breeds**
 - Training farmers on **post-harvest storage and processing**
 - Advising farmers on **environmental conservation** (preventing soil erosion, deforestation)
 - Helping farmers **form cooperatives and farmers' groups**
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c) Financial Support and Input Supply

- Some NGOs help farmers access **loans, grants, or subsidies**
 - They may distribute **free or subsidized seeds, fertilizers, and equipment**
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d) Advocacy and Policy Influence

- NGOs **speak on behalf of farmers** to ensure government creates favorable **agricultural policies**
 - They help defend **farmers' rights** and push for **better rural infrastructure**
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e) Research and Information Dissemination

- NGOs carry out **agricultural research** and share new findings with farmers
 - They **monitor and evaluate** farming projects for improvements
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3. Examples of Agricultural NGOs

NGO Name	Focus Area
IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)	Rural agricultural development
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)	Food security, farmer support
Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA)	Extension services and improved farming practices
Heifer International	Livestock and poverty reduction
FADU (Farmers Development Union)	Smallholder farmer support in Nigeria
Oxfam	Rural development, food security

4. Importance of NGOs in Agriculture

- Help **reduce poverty** through agricultural support
 - Increase **food production and food security**
 - Empower **women and youth in farming**
 - Promote **sustainable farming methods**
 - Provide **relief during agricultural crises** (e.g., floods, droughts)
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5. Challenges Faced by NGOs

- **Limited funds** for large-scale support
 - **Government restrictions** or lack of cooperation
 - **Cultural barriers** in rural areas
 - **Logistical problems** (poor road networks to rural communities)
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6. Summary of Key Points

Concept	Meaning
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
Capacity Building	Training farmers to improve skills
Extension Services	Teaching modern farming methods
Advocacy	Speaking up for farmers' rights

7. Conclusion

NGOs are **essential partners** in agricultural development, especially in rural areas where government support may be limited. They help farmers improve their **skills, productivity, and income**, contributing to overall **national development**.