

Subject: Agricultural Science

Class: JSS1

Term: First Term

Week 2

Topic: Importance of Agriculture

Focus: The Three Major Importance of Agriculture to Man

Introduction

Agriculture is one of the oldest and most important human activities. It involves growing crops and rearing animals for human use. Every person needs food to eat, clothes to wear, and a house to live in. These are called **basic needs**. Agriculture helps us meet these needs.

The Three Major Importance of Agriculture to Man

1. Food

Agriculture is the main source of food for people and animals.

- **Crop farming** gives us:
 - *Cereals*: Rice, maize, millet
 - *Tubers*: Yam, cassava, potatoes
 - *Legumes*: Beans, groundnuts, soybeans
 - *Fruits and vegetables*: Oranges, tomatoes, carrots, bananas
- **Animal farming (livestock)** gives us:
 - Meat (from goats, cows, chickens)
 - Milk (from cows and goats)
 - Eggs (from poultry)
 - Fish (from fish farms and rivers)
 - Honey (from bees)

Why it matters:

Without agriculture, people would starve. Farmers work hard to ensure there is enough food in homes and markets.

2. Clothing

Agriculture provides the raw materials used to make clothes and accessories.

- **Sources of clothing materials from agriculture:**
 - *Cotton* – A soft plant fiber used to make shirts, trousers, dresses, etc.
 - *Silk* – Produced by silkworms and used in making fine clothes.
 - *Wool* – From sheep, used to make sweaters, socks, scarves.
 - *Leather* – From animal skin (like cowhide), used to make shoes, belts, bags, and jackets.

Why it matters:

Without agriculture, we would not have the materials to make clothes. Clothes protect us from weather and make us presentable.

3. Shelter

Agriculture also provides materials used to build homes and furnish them.

- **Building materials from agriculture:**
 - *Timber (wood)* – From trees like iroko and mahogany, used to build doors, windows, roofs, and furniture.
 - *Bamboo* – A strong, fast-growing plant used in roofing and decoration.
 - *Palm fronds* – Used in rural areas for roofing huts.
 - *Raffia and straw* – For making mats and traditional shelters.
 - *Animal hides* – Used in decoration and furniture (e.g., leather chairs).

Why it matters:

Without agriculture, we would lack the materials needed to build comfortable homes.