

CHAPTER 12 INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY, CRAFT AND INDUSTRIES

Objectives

At the end of this chapter, students should be able to:

- mention types of indigenous technology practised in Nigeria.
- identify some areas where these indigenous technologies are practice.

Introduction

This chapter studies the nature of technology used in indigenous industries and craft production. This enables us to have an understanding and appreciate the nature of production and level of technology in the Nigerian area.

12.1 Definition of Indigenous Technology

Indigenous technology is the use of local methods, ideas, initiatives and skills in agriculture and production of industrial goods. The goods were produced for local consumption while the excess serve as articles of trade. Examples of goods produced include: food and raw material, textiles, pottery, iron implement etc

The use of indigenous technology in the production of goods shows that the people of Nigeria had achieved a great level of understanding of how to use their skills to produce their basic needs. Crafts and industry play a important role in the lives of the people.

12.2 Types of Indigenous Technology Practiced in Nigeria

There are different types of indigenous technology practiced in Nigeria. Indigenous technologies practiced in Nigeria include:

- Agriculture:** Technology used in the production of agriculture include:
 - Mixed cropping: This involves the planting of different kind of crops in the same area to promote soil nutrients. For example, planting maize and groundnut in the same place.
 - Shifting cultivation: This involves the use of a piece of land for some time and abandoning it for another until the soil regains its nutrients
 - Indigenous irrigation: This involves the use of a container called shaduf to draw water from a well for the watering of plants. Crops produced through this method include fruits and vegetables. Irrigation is a practice done in Hausaland.
- Metallurgy:** This is the use of iron, brass, gold, silver and tin for the production of implements .Metallurgy is divided into iron working and production of gold and silver. Metal

working is done in Awka, Niger-Benue confluence and other societies in Southern and Northern Nigeria. Metallurgy plays the following role:

- i) Iron is used in the production of farming implements such as hoes, axe heads and cutlasses. It is also used in the production weapons used in war, such as; spear, shields.
- ii) Gold and Silver served as currency used in exchange for goods as well as ornaments
- c. **Salt-making:** This involves the use of local technology to process salt. Salt was traded to other parts of the country. Salt is found in Igboland. It is found through a process of extracting it from the wells where it is found.
- d. **Pottery:** Nigerian societies were known for making pottery material, such as cooking, pots, water pots and bowls. Abuja and some societies in Plateau area were known for pottery production. Pottery is made from clay which is baked with fire.
- e. **Boat building:** This was also an important industry in the riverine areas of Niger-Delta Niger and Benue rivers etc. Boats are made from trees, by cutting down trees and getting the required timber for the boat making. The boats were used for movement of people from one place to another, as well as for fishing activities.
- f. **Cloth-weaving:** Cloth-weaving was important in Nigerian societies as there developed the spinning of cotton which is the raw material used in production and weaving as parts and components of cloth manufacture. Kano, Katsina and other states in Yorubaland were excellent cloth weavers.
- g. **Leather Production:** This was an important industry known for the production of leather goods using animal skin. Goods produced were sandals and bags. These goods were produced Katsina and Kano from where they were exported to some parts of North Africa.
- h. **Tie and die:** This developed from the cloth-weaving technique whereby cloth was dyed into different shades and colours. Abeokuta is famous for tie and die in Nigeria. Tie and dye is made from extracting liquid from trees and flowers.
- i. **Bead-making:** Bead-making was an industry that manufactured all kinds of beads which served as ornaments. Beads were manufactured in Bida and were made from burnt rubber and thread. They were traded in all parts of Northern Nigeria.

Summary

- Indigenous technology is the use of skills and ideas that are indigenous to the people in agriculture and craft production.
- Mixed cropping and shifting cultivation were important components of indigenous agricultural technology in the Nigerian area.
- Crafts and industry play important roles in the lives of the people.
- Crafts and industry include the following: agriculture, iron-working, cloth-weaving, tie and die, leather production, boat building, pottery, etc

Revision Questions

Objectives

1. _____ is the use of indigenous methods, ideas, initiatives and skills in agriculture and production of industrial goods.
 - A. Indigenous education
 - B. Indigenous skills
 - C. Indigenous language
 - D. Indigenous technology
2. _____ is an indigenous technology used in agriculture.
 - A. Planting
 - B. Weeding
 - C. Shifting cultivation
 - D. Harvesting
3. The metallurgy industry is famous in the production of _____.
 - A. iron
 - B. leather
 - C. basket
 - D. beads
4. Katsina and Kano are renown for the production of _____ goods.
 - A. tie and die
 - B. beads
 - C. boat making
 - D. leather
5. Pottery is important in the production of _____.
 - A. pots and bowls
 - B. leather goods
 - C. agricultural implement
 - D. boats
6. Tie and die is mostly practiced in _____.
 - A. Lagos
 - B. Abeokuta
 - C. Niger-Delta
 - D. Nassarawa
7. The iron industry was significant in the production of agricultural and _____ implements
 - A. water
 - B. home
 - C. war

- D. local
8. The following are examples of indigenous industries and crafts except:
- A. cloth making
 - B. leather production
 - C. tie and die
 - D. modern saloon
9. Which of the following is not an indigenous technology used in agriculture:
- A. mechanised agriculture
 - B. indigenous irrigation
 - C. mixed cropping
 - D. shifting cultivation
10. _____ and industry play an important role in the lives of the people.
- A. Fishing
 - B. Crafts
 - C. Weaving
 - D. Indigenous

Essay Questions

1. Explain the meaning of traditional industry.
2. Mention and explain two types of indigenous agricultural technology.
3. List crafts and industries.
4. Explain the importance and items produced in indigenous metallurgical industry.
5. Explain the importance of leather industry.