

CHAPTER TWENTY EIGHT

AGRICULTURAL TOOLS:

DEFINATION: They are devices or designs which help man to do work easily.

Types:

- (1) **Handy Tools:** They are devices which are simply operated by hands.
Examples are: Cutlass, hoe, rake, pick axe, Mattock, etc.
- (2) **Implements:** They are devices, designs or instruments drawn by animals or machines.
Examples are: Harvesters, planters, harrows, etc.
- (3) Other simple tools are associated with the maintenance of farm machines.
Examples are: spanner, screw driver, hammer, bolts and nuts.

Parts of tools:

- (I) **Blade :** Is the portion of a tool used directly to do the work.
- (II) **Cutting edge:** Is sharpened part of a blade which does the work directly.
- (III) **Tang:** Is the part of a tool which is pushed into the handle to hold them together.
- (IV) **Socket or eye:** It is a hole especially made on the handle through which the tang can be fixed.
- (V) **Ferrule:** Is a metal ring at the joint of the blade and the handle. to protect the handle and the blade during use from spoiling.
- (VI) **Grip:** Is part of the handle held directly during operation.
- (VII) **Rivet:** it is a nail like structure used to hold tightly the metal and handle.
- (VIII) **Shoulder:** Part of the blade opposite the cutting edge.

(IX) Prongs: These are pointed parts on some metal tools used in turning or stirring the soil or for collecting rubbish.

(X) Handle: it is the part of a tool held when using the tool. It is made of wood or metal.

Common tools and their uses

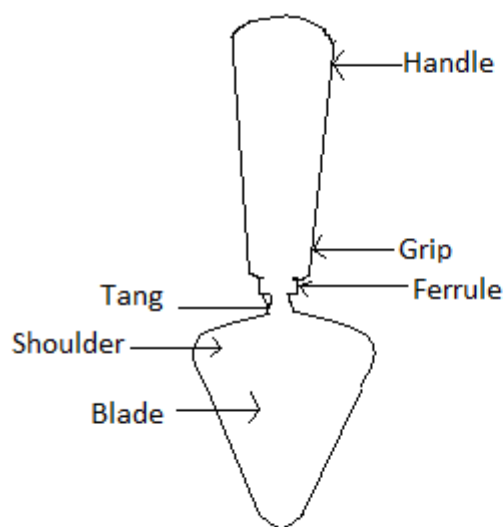
| Tools | Uses |
|-------------------|--|
| (a) Cutlass | (i) For clearing bushes. (ii) For felling trees. (iii) For digging holes for planting. |
| (b) Hoe | (i) For general weeding. (ii) For making mounds, beds and ridges. (iii) Earthing up. |
| (c) Mattock | (i) Removing stumps and roots. (ii) Digging trenches. (iii) Removing stones. |
| (d) Axe | (i) For felling large trees. (ii) For splitting firewood. |
| (e) Pickaxe | (i) Removing stumps, roots and stones. (ii) For splitting firewood. |
| (f) Secateurs | (i) For light pruning of fruits and other parts of plants. (ii) For preparing the cuttings of hard-wooded plants. |
| (g) Garden shears | (i) For trimming bush and shrub hedges. |
| (h) Go-to-hell | (i) Used in harvesting cocoa and fruits on trees. |
| (j) Dibber | (i) For making holes for sowing large seeds or transplanting seedlings. |
| (k) Hand fork | (i) Lifting the top soil around seedlings. |
| (l) Hand trowel | (i) Used for transplanting seedlings. |
| (m) Spade | (i) For digging. (ii) For weeding. |
| (n) Shovel | (i) Mixing feed, soil or cement. |
| (o) Rake | (i) Clearing trash or collecting farm refuse. (ii) Leveling soil surface after weeding. (iii) Breaking soil lumps into smaller pieces. |

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| (p) Watering can | (i) Supply liquid fertilizer. (ii) Watering seedlings. (iii) Watering plant during the dry season. |
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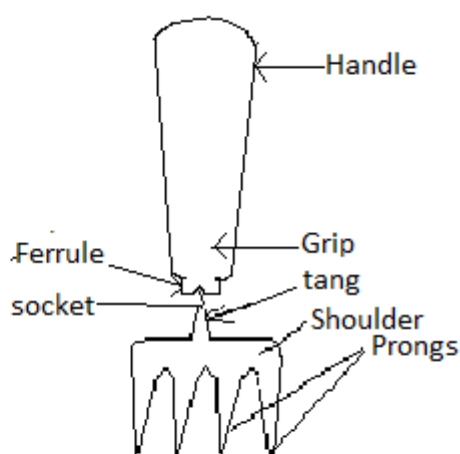
Maintenance of farm tools:

- (1) Wash, dry and oil them after use.
- (2) Tools should be used for the work they are designed for.
- (3) Tools should be kept at a cool and a dry place.
- (4) Records on tools movement should be kept.
- (5) Tools should be sharpened before use.
- (6) Tools should be repaired immediately they are broken.
- (7) Tools should be marked for easy identification.

Diagrams of some common tools:



HAND TROWEL



HAND FORK

