

# **Chapter Twenty Seven**

## **GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE:**

### **Agriculture:**

- This refers to the growing of crops and the raising of animals for sale or for consumption.
- The early men did not practice agriculture, and roamed in the forest looking for food.
- They also killed some of the animals they came across, and ate them as food.
- On certain days they had a lot of food, but on other days they had none.
- This made them to go hungry and some of them even died.
- Sometimes they were killed by some of the animals they tried to kill.
- As a result of these disadvantages, they started growing some of the food they came across near their homes.
- They also started keeping some of the animals they caught near their home.
- This was the beginning of agriculture or farming.

### **The importance of agriculture:**

- Agriculture is very important for a number of reasons, and some of these are:

#### **(1) Provision of employment:**

- The growing of crops and the raising of animals, serve as the work of many people.

#### **(2) Provision of food:**

- Agriculture provides us with the food we need for living.
- This food also provides the energy we need to work and move about.

#### **(3) Provision of raw materials:**

- Through agriculture, we get raw materials.

- Some of these raw materials are used to manufacture or make other products.
- For example, tomato is used in the manufacturing of tin tomato, while meat is used in the manufacturing of corned beef.

**(4) Provision of Income and foreign exchange:**

- Farmers may sell some of their crops or animals to earn some income. Apart from that, agriculture also provides us with foreign exchange.
- We export some of the agriculture products to other countries.
- This makes us earn foreign exchange.

Selection of a site for making a farm:

There are certain factors which must be considered in the selection of a site for your farm. Some of these factors are:

**(a) The topography:**

- This refers to the nature of the land.
- Choose a level or a gentle sloping site for your farm.
- If the slope of your site is too steep, then erosion will occur on your land.
- The land will therefore become less fertile.

**(b) The type of soil:**

- The site chosen must be rich in humus, which is a type of food for the plant.
- The soil must be able to hold or retain a moderate amount of water.

**(c) Nearness of the site to the farmer:**

- The farm site must not be too far from the house of the farmer.
- This will enable him to get to the farm easily, and as often as possible.

**(d) Nearness of the site to the market:**

- Your farm site must not be too far from the market.
- This will easily enable you to send your farm produce to the market.

- It will also cut down cost involved in transporting them to the market.

**(e) Nearness to water source:**

- Your site must be near a water source, so as to enable you get water and water your crops.

**(f) Access to road:**

- There must be an access road to your farm.
- This will facilitate the transportation of your farm produce and input to and from the farm.

**Planting material:**

- There may be different varieties for a particular crop.
- Each variety has its own special features or characteristics.
- Select the variety which will give you a high crop yield, and can also cope with the climatic conditions of your area.
- The variety selected must be able to resist the diseases and pests found in the area.
- Lastly, ensure that seeds of the selected variety are variable in your area.

**Agricultural land:**

- An agricultural land is any land which is used for the growing of crops and the raising of animals.
- Land which is not used for these purposes is referred to as non-agricultural land.
- Agricultural land may be lost through the following:
  - (a) Road construction.
  - (b) Construction of new houses.
  - (c) Bushfire.

**Land tenure system:**

- This refers to the conditions or terms, under which land may be held or acquired.
- There are various types and these are:

**(a) Inheritance:**

- This is the type of land tenure system in which a land owned by an ancestor, is transferred within the family from generation to generation.

**(b) Tenants at the will of government:**

- Under this system, the land is owned by the government and anybody living on it does so at the will of the government.

**(c) Leasehold:**

- Under this system, land is given to individuals for a specific number of years under an agreement.

**(d) Freehold title:**

- Under this system, the land is acquired through purchasing or as a gift.

**(e) Communal land ownership:**

- Under this system, land is collectively owned by members of a community and their future generation.

**Factors influencing agriculture in Ghana:**

- These factors are:

**(1) Climate:**

- Weather conditions such as rainfall, temperature and humidity can affect agriculture.
- For example, at the time that the crops need water badly, the rain may not fall. - This may cause the death of the crops or affect their growth.

**(2) Soil:**

- Crops do well in certain types of soil.
- This affects agriculture, because a farmer who wants to plant certain crops may not do so, since the soil will not permit him.