

Chapter Twenty Three

Farming Systems And Fish Farming:

- Farming systems refers to the different or various methods in which farming is done.
- Some of these systems are:
 - (1) **Subsistence farming:**
- This is the type of farming in which the farmer grows food to feed himself and his family.
- His main aim is not to sell the crops he grows, but if he produces too much crops, then he needs, the farmer may sell some of them.
- Subsistence farmers may also rear animals but these animals are not properly cared for.
- In subsistence farming, the size of the farm made is small and simple tools such as the hoe and the cutlass are used.

(2) Cash crop farming:

- In this type of farming, the farmer grows crops to sell and make money.
- Examples of cash crops grown are cocoa, yam and oil palm.
- Apart from the farming, cash crop farmers do other jobs.
- Cash crop farming is also called plantation farming.

(3) Commercial farming:

- Under this system of farming, the farmer grows crops and rears animals on a large scale.
- Machines and farm inputs such as fertilizers are used.
- Commercial farmers usually do not do other jobs apart from the farming.

(4) Shifting cultivation:

- Under this system, the farmer cultivates or farms on a piece of land until it is no longer fertile, and then leaves it to go and cultivate or farm on another land.
- When the old land becomes fertile again or regains its fertility, the farmer does not return to farm on it.

(5) Land rotation:

In this, after cultivating or farming on a piece of land till it becomes no longer fertile, the farmer goes to farm on a new land.

But when the old land becomes fertile again, he returns to it and farms on it.

(6) Crop rotation:

- This is the type of farming in which a farmer grows different types of crops on different plots in a definite order, on the same piece of land.

(7) Mixed farming:

In mixed farming, the farmer rears animals and grows crops on the same piece of land.

- The area where crops are grown must be fenced, so as to prevent the animals from destroying the crops.

(8) Monocropping:

- In this, the farmer grows one type of animal crop on a piece of land, and changes it during the next farming season.

(9) Monoculture:

- In this, the farmer grows the same crop on the same piece of land every year.
- This farming system is practiced when a particular crop has a good price, or the demand for it is high.

(10) Mixed cropping:

- This is the type of farming system, in which a farmer grows different types of crops on the same piece of land at the same time.

(11) Pastoral farming:

- This is the farming system in which the farmer keeps or rears only farm animals.
- In one form of pastoral farming called pastoralism or nomadism, the farmer moves his animals from place to place.

(12) Irrigation farming:

- This is the type of farming in which water is brought to the farm, in order to water the crops.

Sources of farm power:

- There are different sources of farm power and some of these are:

(1) Animal power:

- This is used to operate implements such as the bullock plough, carts, cultivators and the harrow.

(2) Man Power:

- This can be used to operate tools and equipments such as the hoe, the cutlass and the knapsack sprayer.

(3) Combustion engine:

- This is used to operate machines such as cultivators, pumps, planters and harvesters.

(4) Electrical power:

- This is used to operate pumps, sprayers and mills.

(5) Solar power:

- This can be used to operate dryers and pumps.

(6) Wind power:

- This is used to operate mills, wind vanes and pumps.

(7) Water power:

- This is used to operate turbines, boats and canoes.

(8) Mechanical power:

- This is used to operate ridgers, planters and cultivators.

Classification of the produce of certain systems of farming:

Crops:Class:

Ginger	.....	Spice
Banana	.....	Fruit
Tomato	.....	Vegetable
Rice	.....	Cereal/ grain
Cowpea	.....	Legume
Yam	.....	Stem tuber
Cocoa	.....	Beverage crop

Pineapple	.....	Fruit
Millet	.....	Cereal/ grain
Onion	.....	Vegetable/ spice
Cassava	.....	Root tuber
Pepper	.....	Spice/vegetable
Soya beans	.....	Legume

Record keeping in farming system:

- It is important for a farmer to keep farm records.
- The farmer must keep farm record in order to:
 - (a) Use it to get or secure loans from the bank.
 - (b) Enables him to know the amount to pay as tax.
 - (c) Compare his current business with those of the past.

Fish Farming:

- This is the type of farming in which fishes are raised or reared in water bodies such as ponds, caring for them and harvesting them when they grow.
- It is also referred to as fish culture.
- Fish farming is different from fishing because in fishing, we go and catch fishes which have grown on their own in water bodies such as lakes and rivers.

Reasons why fish farming is important:

- Fish farming is important because:
 - (1) We eat fish as food.
 - (2) Fish is used to prepare poultry and animal feed.
 - (3) We can sell the fish and get money.

Problems faced by fish farmers:

Some of the problems faced by fish farmers are:

- (1) That the water in which the fishes are kept can become polluted.

- (2) Predators such as frogs can kill or eat the fishes in the pond.
- (3) The stealing of fish from the pond by thieves.

Reasons why tilapia is widely reared in fish farming:

Tilapia is widely reared in this country because:

- (1) Compared with other fishes, it grows at a faster rate.
- (2) People are always ready to buy it.
- (3) It reproduces within a short time.