



ZIMBABWE

**MINISTRY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

# **CROP SCIENCE SYLLABUS**

**FORMS 5 - 6**

**2015 - 2022**

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Harare**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education wishes to acknowledge the following for their valued contribution in the production of this syllabus:

- The National Crop Science Syllabus Panel
- Zimbabwe School Examinations Council (ZIMSEC)
- Belvedere Technical Teachers' College
- Seke Teachers' College
- Chibero College Agriculture
- Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development: Department of Research and Specialist Services
- University of Zimbabwe
- United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF)

## CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	i
CONTENTS.....	ii
1.0 PREAMBLE .....	1
2.0 PRESENTATION OF SYLLABUS .....	1
3.0 AIMS.....	1
4.0 SYLLABUS OBJECTIVES .....	2
5.0 METHODOLOGY AND TIME ALLOCATION.....	2
6.0 TOPICS .....	2
7.0 SCOPE AND SEQUENCE.....	3
8.0 COMPETENCY MATRIX.....	6
FORM 5 SYLLABUS.....	6
9.0 FORM 6 SYLLABUS.....	25
10.0 ASSESSMENT MODEL.....	35
11.0 ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES .....	36
12.0 SKILLS SPECIFICATION GRID .....	36
13.0 ASSESSMENT WEIGHTING .....	36
14.0 CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT 30% .....	37
15.0 SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT 70% .....	37

## 1.0 PREAMBLE

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Zimbabwe embarked on an agrarian Land Reform and therefore it is imperative that learners, in their diversity, acquire necessary crop science knowledge and skills to increase food security. This syllabus is designed for Form 5 and 6 learners in Crop Science. It is a two-year learning phase, which covers concepts, principles and practices in crop science. The syllabus will provide learners with a rich experience in identifying, investigating, problem-solving and assessing the viability of sustainable cropping systems. Learners will be assessed through continuous and summative assessments.

### 1.2 RATIONALE

Agriculture is a learning area studied from Grade 3 to Form 4, therefore, it is imperative for learners to specialize at Form 5 and 6 so as to acquire adequate skills and knowledge to create employment and for further learning opportunities. Specialisation would enable learners to be proactive and productive, add value to the community and national economy. Crop Science stimulates in learners, the responsibility to care for the local and global environment and to adopt sustainable cropping systems. The Crop Science learners will at the end of the two-year learning phase, value the dignity of labour and food sovereignty.

The Crop Science syllabus enables learners to develop the following skills:

- Problem-solving
- Critical thinking
- Decision-making
- Conflict resolution
- Leadership and teamwork
- Self-management
- Communication
- Technology and innovation
- Enterprise development
- Disaster and risk reduction

### 1.3 SUMMARY OF CONTENT

The learning area will include the study of crop morphology, physiology, breeding, production, and protection. The syllabus will also help learners to acquire skills in value addition, post-harvest techniques and marketing of selected crop .

### 1.4 ASSUMPTIONS

It is assumed that learners have practical skills and knowledge in:

- growing and managing crops.
- sustainable use of agricultural resources
- e-learning
- marketing of agricultural crops

### 1.5 CROSS- CUTTING ISSUES

The Crop Science learning area will encompass the following cross-cutting themes:

- Disaster and risk reduction
- Enterprise skills
- Environmental issues
- Teamwork
- Sustainable resource utilisation
- Digital literacy
- Inclusivity

## 2.0 PRESENTATION OF SYLLABUS

The Crop Science syllabus is a single document covering Forms 5- 6. The syllabus has a suggested list of resources to be used during teaching and learning.

## 3.0 AIMS

The syllabus aims to help learners to:

- 3.1 develop an appreciation of the socio-economic importance of crop science to the agricultural development of the country.
- 3.2 develop positive attitudes towards Crop Science as a learning area.
- 3.3 apply psycho-motor and cognitive skills in solving problems encountered in crop science.
- 3.4 develop innovativeness in the study of Crop Science by sustainable utilisation of local resources.
- 3.5 prepare learners for life and work, in an indigenised economy and increasingly globalised and competitive environment.
- 3.6 ensure learners demonstrate desirable literacy

and numeracy including practical competences necessary for life.

- Design-based learning
- Survey
- Simulation and modeling

## 4.0 SYLLABUS OBJECTIVES

By the end of the learning phase learners should be able to:

- 4.1 demonstrate the socio-economic importance of crop science to the agricultural development of the country.
- 4.2 demonstrate understanding of crop science concepts, principles and terminology.
- 4.3 apply scientific principles of crop science in a sustainable manner.
- 4.4 apply problem-solving skills in challenges encountered in crop science.
- 4.5 design experiments and investigate problems in crop science.
- 4.6 design and manage a cropping project sustainably.
- 4.7 apply safety precautions in agricultural practice.

NB. The above suggested methods should be enhanced by the application of orthodidactic principles and multi-sensory approaches to teaching. These include tactility, concreteness, individualization, self-activity, totality and wholeness. Teachers are encouraged to address the learners' residual senses.

## 5.1 TIME ALLOCATION

Twelve periods of 40 minutes per week should be allocated to adequately cover the syllabus. Four double periods for theory and a block of 4 periods for practicals or experiments should be allocated. Learners should be engaged in at least two educational tours per year and one seminar per term.

## 6.0 TOPICS

- 6.1 Cytology and plant classification
- 6.2 Plant morphology and physiology.
- 6.3. Plant nutrition and soil fertility
- 6.3 Principles of crop breeding and bio-technology.
- 6.4 Principles of crop protection.
- 6.5 Crop production.
- 6.6 Conservation farming.

## 5.0 METHODOLOGY AND TIME ALLOCATION

Learner-centred and hands-on approaches should be used in the development of concepts and skills. These approaches should be inclusive and should encourage curiosity as well as promote practical-oriented learning. Emphasis should be placed on equipping learners with research skills. Linkage between theory and practice should be implemented in the teaching and learning of Crop Science.

The following are suggested methods of teaching and learning of Crop Science:

- Discussions
- Demonstrations
- Experimentation
- Problem-solving
- Project-based learning
- Research
- E-learning
- Educational tours
- Specimen collections
- Debates
- Seminars

## 7.0 SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

### TOPIC 1: CYTOLOGY AND PLANT CLASSIFICATION

TOPIC	FORM 5	FORM 6
<b>Classification and Cell biology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classification of plants</li> <li>• Cell structure</li> <li>• Cell division</li> </ul>	

### TOPIC 2: PLANT MORPHOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

TOPIC	FORM 5	FORM 6
<b>Plant Growth and Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meristems</li> <li>• Plant Growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant growth regulators</li> </ul>
<b>Flower and fruit development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flower initiation and fertilization</li> <li>• Fruit set and seed development</li> </ul>	
<b>Seed and seed germination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seed structure</li> <li>• Seed germination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seed dormancy</li> </ul>
<b>Plant-water relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water properties</li> <li>• Water movement</li> <li>• Water potential</li> <li>• Radial movement of water</li> <li>• Transpiration</li> </ul>	
<b>Bioenergetics</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photosynthesis</li> <li>• Cellular respiration</li> <li>• Photosynthetic pathways</li> </ul>
<b>Nitrogen Fixation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological Nitrogen Fixation</li> </ul>	
<b>Responses of plants to environmental factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental factors</li> </ul>	

### **TOPIC 3: SOIL FERTILITY AND PLANT NUTRITION**

TOPIC	FORM 5	FORM 6
<b>Soil composition</b>	• Main constituents of soils	
<b>Soil characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical soil properties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil chemical properties</li> </ul>
<b>Plant nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential nutrients</li> </ul>	
<b>Soil organic matter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constituents of soil organic matter</li> <li>• Decomposition of organic residues</li> <li>• Factors affecting soil organic matter levels</li> </ul>	

### **7.4 TOPIC 4: PRINCIPLES OF CROP BREEDING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

TOPIC	FORM 5	FORM 6
<b>Genetics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genetic terms</li> <li>• Mitosis</li> <li>• Meiosis</li> <li>• Mendelian laws of inheritance</li> </ul>	
<b>Plant breeding methods</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant introduction</li> <li>• Plant selection</li> <li>• Hybridization</li> <li>• Genetic engineering</li> </ul>

## 7.5 TOPIC 5: CROP PRODUCTION

TOPIC	FORM 5	FORM 6
<b>Agronomic principles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agro –ecological zones</li> <li>• Tillage practices</li> <li>• Plant population</li> <li>• Crop rotation</li> </ul>	
<b>Cereal and Legume Crop production</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop origins, soil and climatic requirements</li> <li>• Crop management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop management</li> </ul>

## 7.6 TOPIC 6: PRINCIPLES OF CROP PROTECTION

TOPIC	FORM 5	FORM 6
<b>Weeds, Pests and Disease management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weeds</li> <li>• Pests</li> <li>• Diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed management</li> <li>• Safety precautions</li> <li>• Pest management</li> <li>• Disease management</li> <li>• Sprayer calibration</li> </ul>

## 7.7 TOPIC 7: CONSERVATION FARMING

TOPIC	FORM 5	FORM 6
<b>Principles and practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation farming</li> </ul>	

## 8.0 COMPETENCY MATRIX

### FORM 5 SYLLABUS

#### 8.1 TOPIC 1: CYTOLOGY AND PLANT CLASSIFICATION

##### SUBTOPIC: CLASSIFICATION AND CELL BIOLOGY

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learning should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
Classification of plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>classify plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification according to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- scientific --families</li> <li>- uses</li> <li>- morphology</li> <li>- life cycle</li> <li>- habitat</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing life cycle of plants</li> <li>Listing examples of plants under each class</li> <li>Collecting specimens and samples</li> <li>Touring botanical gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plants, plant parts, and products</li> <li>Botanist</li> <li>Print and electronic media ICT tools/ Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
Cell structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>draw a plant cell</li> <li>label parts of a plant cell</li> <li>explain functions of cell parts</li> <li>identify cell organelles</li> <li>outline functions of cell organelles</li> <li>explain the relationship between organelles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Functions of cell parts: cell wall, cell membrane cytoplasm, nucleus vacuole.</li> <li>Cell organelles: - Golgi body/apparatus, endoplasmic reticulum, ribosomes, chloroplasts, mitochondria, microtubules.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drawing and labelling plant cell showing cell parts and organelles</li> <li>Viewing slides showing plant cells</li> <li>Identifying cell parts and structure</li> <li>Describing functions of cell parts and organelles</li> <li>Outlining the relationship between organelles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>Slides showing plant cell parts and structure</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> </ul>

<b>Cell division</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe the process of mitosis</li> <li>explain the significance of mitosis in crop production</li> <li>describe the process of meiosis</li> <li>explain the significance of meiosis in plant reproduction</li> <li>compare and contrast mitosis and meiosis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitosis cycle</li> <li>Significance of mitosis in crop production</li> <li>Meiosis cycle</li> <li>Significance of meiosis in plant reproduction</li> <li>Comparison of mitosis and meiosis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing mitosis</li> <li>Discussing significance of mitosis</li> <li>Describing meiosis</li> <li>Outlining significance of meiosis in plant reproduction</li> <li>Tabulating the differences and similarities between mitosis and meiosis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slides</li> <li>Print and electronic media ICT tools with /jaws software</li> </ul>
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## TOPIC 2: PLANT MORPHOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

### SUB TOPIC: PLANT GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Meristems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe the types of plant meristems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meristems:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- apical</li> <li>- intercalary</li> <li>- lateral</li> <li>- basal</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing the types of meristems</li> <li>Discussing the types of plant meristems</li> <li>Observing meristems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meristems, slides, microscopes</li> <li>Print and electronic media ICT tool</li> </ul>
<b>Plant growth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discuss plant growth and development</li> <li>describe the phases of plant growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant growth and development</li> <li>Phases of plant cell growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing plant growth and development</li> <li>Describing phases of plant cell growth and how they lead to plant growth</li> <li>Experimenting on plant cell growth and development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plants, tissue culture apparatus</li> <li>Print and electronic media ICT tools</li> </ul>

## SUB TOPIC: FLOWER AND FRUIT DEVELOPMENT

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Flower initiation and fertilization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain how vernalisation and photoperiodism influence flower initiation.</li> <li>• describe gamete formation in plants.</li> <li>• describe pollination mechanisms in plants.</li> <li>• explain the concept of double fertilization in plants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vernalisation</li> <li>• Photoperiodism</li> <li>• Gamete formation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ovule</li> <li>- pollen grain</li> <li>- Pollination</li> <li>- Double fertilization</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explaining how vernalisation and photoperiodic influence flower initiation</li> <li>• Describing formation of gametes and pollination mechanisms</li> <li>• Experimenting on pollination</li> <li>• Discussing double fertilization in plants</li> <li>• Watching video clips on pollination and fertilization in plants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flowering plants</li> <li>• Print and electronic media</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>• Video clips</li> </ul>
<b>Fruit set and seed development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe the structural changes that occur after fertilization in plants</li> <li>• differentiate endospermous and non-endospermous seed development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural changes in plants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ovules</li> <li>- ovary</li> <li>- integuments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Endospermous and non-endospermous seed development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing the structural changes that occur after fertilization in plants</li> <li>• Discussing differences between endospermous and non-endospermous seed development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fruits and seeds</li> <li>• Print and electronic media</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>• Video clips</li> </ul>

## **SUB TOPIC: SEED AND SEED GERMINATION**

<b>KEY CONCEPT</b>	<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</b> Learners should be able to:	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES</b>	<b>SUGGESTED RESOURCES</b>
<b>Seed structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe the internal and external parts of a seed</li> <li>• describe functions of seed parts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seed structure:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cereals</li> <li>- legumes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Functions of seed parts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying parts of a seed</li> <li>• Describing functions of seed parts</li> <li>• Dissecting seeds to observe internal seed structure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cereal and legume seeds</li> <li>• Slides</li> <li>• Print and electronic media</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Seed germination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discuss requirements for seed germination</li> <li>• describe the processes of seed germination</li> <li>• distinguish epigeal and hypogeal germination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements for seed germination:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- water,</li> <li>- temperature,</li> <li>- oxygen</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Seed germination processes (imbibition and enzyme activation)</li> <li>• Types of seed germination:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- epigeal,</li> <li>- hypogeal</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing requirements for seed germination</li> <li>• Seed germination substrates</li> <li>• Print and electronic media</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>• Describing the processes of seed germination</li> <li>• Distinguishing epigeal and hypogeal germination</li> <li>• Experiments on germination</li> </ul>	

## SUBTOPIC: PLANT-WATER RELATIONS

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Water properties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe water properties in relation to its functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water properties such as thermal capacity, heat of fusion, heat of vaporization, specific heat capacity, anomalous expansion, universal solvent, cohesion and adhesion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing water properties in relation to its functions</li> <li>Demonstrating water properties in relation to its functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water, apparatus for demonstrating water properties such as capillary tubes</li> <li>Print and electronic media ICT tools/Braille Software/Jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Water movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discuss factors that affect water uptake</li> <li>explain the mechanisms of water uptake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factors affecting water uptake</li> <li>Mechanisms of water uptake (osmosis, diffusion, bulk flow)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing factors that affect water uptake</li> <li>Explaining the mechanisms of water uptake</li> <li>Demonstrating mechanisms of water movement such as osmosis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant parts such potato tubers and, water</li> <li>Print and electronic media ICT tools/Braille Software/Jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Water potential</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explain the components of water potential</li> <li>carry out experiments on osmotic potential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Components of water potential (pressure, osmotic, matric, gravitational potential)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explaining the components of water potential</li> <li>Designing and carrying out experiments on water potential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water, apparatus for demonstrating water potential components</li> <li>Print and electronic media ICT tools/Braille Software/Jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Radial movement of water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe water flow pathways from cell to cell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathways of radial water movement:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing water flow pathways cell to cell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plants and/or plant parts</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- apoplast</li> <li>- symplast</li> <li>- vacuolar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended textbooks/talking textbooks</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Transpiration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe environmental factors affecting the rate of transpiration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factors affecting transpiration:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- light</li> <li>- temperature</li> <li>- humidity</li> <li>- wind</li> <li>- soil-water</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing environmental factors affecting the rate of transpiration</li> <li>• Demonstrating factors affecting transpiration</li> </ul>

### SUBTOPIC: BIOLOGICAL NITROGEN FIXATION

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Biological Nitrogen Fixation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe biological nitrogen fixation in legumes</li> <li>• describe the role of N-fixing bacteria in symbiosis with legumes</li> <li>• outline the importance of biological nitrogen fixation as alternative to inorganic fertilizers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological Nitrogen Fixation (BNF)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing BNF</li> <li>• Describing the role of nitrogen-fixing bacteria in legumes</li> <li>• Designing and carrying out experiments on efficiency of biological nitrogen fixation (BNF)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legume plants, Rhizobium inoculants</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>• Recommended textbooks/talking textbooks</li> </ul>

## **SUB TOPIC: RESPONSES OF PLANTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**

<b>KEY CONCEPT</b>	<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</b> Learners should be able to:	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES</b>	<b>SUGGESTED RESOURCES</b>
<b>Environmental factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe responses of plants to environmental factors</li> <li>• outline physiological responses of plants to adverse environmental factors</li> <li>• explain the effects of environmental factors on crop productivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses of plants to environmental factors such as air circulation, drainage, light intensity, humidity, temperature, soil moisture, soil fertility</li> <li>• Effects of environmental factors on crop productivity</li> <li>• Physiological responses of plants to adverse environmental factors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing responses of plants to environmental factors.</li> <li>• Designing and carrying out experiments on physiological responses of plants to environmental factors</li> <li>• Explaining the effect of environmental factors on crop productivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affected plants</li> <li>• Controlled environments</li> <li>• Recommended textbooks/talking textbooks</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>

## TOPIC 3: SOIL FERTILITY AND PLANT NUTRITION

### SUBTOPIC: SOIL COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Main constituents of soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify the soil minerals.</li> <li>• describe the four components of soil</li> <li>• discuss the significance of soil water to plant growth.</li> <li>• explain the role of soil air in plant growth and microbial activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary and secondary minerals</li> <li>• Organic matter</li> <li>• Soil water</li> <li>• Soil air</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying primary and secondary soil minerals.</li> <li>• Describing organic matter: fresh residues, decomposing organic matter, stable organic matter and living organisms.</li> <li>• Discussing the significance of soil water in plant growth, such as, as a universal solvent and medium for nutrient uptake.</li> <li>• Explaining the roles of soil air such as in root and microbial respiration and organic matter decomposition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil samples, rock specimens</li> <li>• Print and electronic media</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Physical soil properties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe the significance of soil horizons and catena effect.</li> <li>• discuss the significance of soil colour, texture and structure in crop production.</li> <li>• describe the management practices of soil structure and texture in crop production.</li> <li>• discuss the importance of soil organic matter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil horizons and catena effect</li> <li>• Soil colour: - hue - value - chroma</li> <li>• Soil texture: - importance management</li> <li>• Soil structure: - importance management</li> <li>• Soil organic matter:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing soil catena effect, soil horizons and their significance in crop production.</li> <li>• Examining local soil profiles</li> <li>• Discussing the significance of soil colour, texture and structure in crop production</li> <li>• Describing the management practices of soil structure and texture</li> <li>• Discussing the importance of soil organic matter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soils samples, soil profiles</li> <li>• Print and electronic media</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>determine soil bulk and particle density and porosity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Density of soils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determining soil bulk and particle density and porosity</li> </ul>
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### SUBTOPIC: PLANT NUTRITION

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT NOTES	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
Essential Nutrients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explain the roles of macro-nutrients and micro nutrients in plant growth and development</li> <li>determine fertilizer requirements in crops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>macro nutrients: nitrogen - phosphorous - potassium - calcium - sulphur - magnesium</li> <li>micro nutrients: - molybdenum - boron, zinc</li> <li>Fertilizer requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the roles of macronutrients and micronutrients in plant growth and metabolism.</li> <li>Determining fertilizer requirements in crops through soil and plant analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fertilizer samples</li> <li>Soil testing kits</li> <li>Plant samples</li> <li>Soil samples</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/Jaw software</li> </ul>

## SUBTOPIC: SOIL ORGANIC MATTER

KEY CONCEPTS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Constituents of soil organic matter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify constituents of soil organic matter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic matter constituents:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organic residues</li> <li>- water-soluble fraction</li> <li>- alcohol-soluble fraction</li> <li>- proteins</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying constituents of soil organic matter</li> <li>Determining soil organic matter content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil samples</li> <li>Constituents of soil organic matter</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Decomposition of organic residues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe the role of soil organisms in organic matter decomposition</li> <li>identify organisms involved in different stages of the decomposition process</li> <li>describe the carbon: nitrogen (C:N) ratio</li> <li>describe how the C:N ratio affects the rate of decomposition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Role of soil organisms:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bacteria</li> <li>- fungi</li> <li>- termites</li> <li>- earthworms</li> <li>- nematodes</li> <li>- mites</li> </ul> </li> <li>C:N ratio</li> <li>Mineralisation and Immobilisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing the role of soil organisms in organic matter decomposition</li> <li>Identifying organisms involved in different stages of the decomposition process</li> <li>Describing the C:N ratio and how it affects the rate of decomposition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decomposing organic residues</li> <li>Slides</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Factors affecting soil organic matter levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe factors affecting soil organic matter levels.</li> <li>discuss the benefits of soil organic matter.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factors affecting soil organic matter levels:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- original organic matter composition</li> <li>- soil nitrogen levels</li> <li>- climatic conditions</li> <li>- soil drainage conditions</li> <li>- pH of organic matter</li> <li>- organic matter form/size fraction</li> <li>- soil texture</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Samples of organic residues, soils</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>

## TOPIC 4: PRINCIPLES OF CROP BREEDING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

### SUB TOPIC: GENETICS

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
Principles of genetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe the structure of a chromosome</li> <li>• describe the structure of DNA</li> <li>• explain DNA replication</li> <li>• describe protein synthesis starting from DNA</li> <li>• describe the process of mitosis</li> <li>• explain the significance of mitosis in crop production</li> <li>• describe the process of meiosis</li> <li>• explain the significance of meiosis in crop reproduction</li> <li>• compare and contrast mitosis and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chromosomes</li> <li>• DNA and replication</li> <li>• Protein synthesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing the structure of a chromosome.</li> <li>• constructing chromosome model.</li> <li>• Explaining DNA replication</li> <li>• Illustrating the structure of DNA</li> <li>• Describing protein synthesis starting from DNA</li> <li>• Mitosis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phases</li> <li>- Significance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meiosis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phases</li> <li>- Significance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Comparison of mitosis and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chromosome model</li> <li>• Slides</li> <li>• Print and electronic media</li> <li>• Video clips</li> <li>• ICT tools JAWS software</li> <li>• Simulation cards</li> </ul>

<p><b>meiosis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outline Mendelian laws of inheritance</li> <li>• determine genotype and phenotype ratios</li> <li>• outline types of gene expression</li> </ul>	<p><b>and meiosis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mendelian laws</li> <li>• Gene expression:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dominance</li> <li>- Co-dominance</li> <li>- Partial dominance</li> <li>- Over dominance</li> <li>- Gene-environment interaction</li> <li>- Epistasis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• describe effects of environment on gene expression</li> <li>• describe the importance of gene expression</li> <li>• describe types of mutations</li> </ul>	<p><b>meiosis in crop reproduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlining the differences between mitosis and meiosis</li> <li>• Explaining the law of independent assortment</li> <li>• Describing the law of segregation</li> <li>• Determining genotype and phenotype using genetic diagrams</li> <li>• Comparing dominance and co-dominance</li> <li>• Describing the effects of environment on gene expression</li> <li>• Describing gene mutation</li> <li>• Describing types and effects of mutations</li> </ul>
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## TOPIC 5: PRINCIPLES OF CROP PROTECTION

### SUB TOPIC: WEEDS, PESTS AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

<b>KEY CONCEPT</b>	<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES</b>	<b>SUGGESTED RESOURCES</b>
<b>Weeds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outline the socio-economic importance of weeds</li> <li>• identify weeds</li> <li>• classify weeds</li> <li>• describe mechanisms that make weeds persistent</li> <li>• explain the mechanisms of crop-weed competition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio-economic importance of weeds.</li> <li>• Weed identification and classification</li> <li>• Weed persistence mechanisms</li> <li>• Crop-weed competition: inter and intra-specific competition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing the socio-economic importance of weeds</li> <li>• Identifying and classifying weeds</li> <li>• Describing weed persistence mechanisms</li> <li>• Describing crop-weed competition</li> <li>• Touring Weed research stations</li> </ul> <p><b>NB: Learners to collect and preserve local weed species</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed samples/specimens</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>• Herbarium</li> <li>• Recommended textbooks/talking textbooks</li> <li>• Weed specialist</li> </ul>

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Pests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outline the socio-economic importance of pests</li> <li>• identify pests</li> <li>• classify pests according to feeding habits</li> <li>• describe the life-cycle of pests.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio-economic importance of pests.</li> <li>• Identification of pests and classification according to feeding habits</li> <li>• Life-cycle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- complete and incomplete metamorphosis</li> <li>- vivipary</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>NB: learners to study one pest from each of the following groups.</b></p> <p><b>Group I - Biting and chewing</b> (termites, locusts, armyworm, cutworm or semi-looper)</p> <p><b>Group II – Piecing &amp; Sap sucking</b> (aphids, leaf hoppers, whitefly, thrips, red spider mites)</p> <p><b>Group III – Boring (maize stalk borer, weevil, ball worms)</b></p> <p><b>Group IV-Nematodes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing the socio-economic importance of pests</li> <li>• Identifying and classifying pests according to feeding habits</li> <li>• Describing the life-cycle of pests</li> <li>• Collecting and preserving local pest species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pest specimen, Insect pest samples</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille software/jaw</li> <li>• Entomologist</li> <li>• Print and electronic media</li> </ul>

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline the socio-economic importance of diseases</li> <li>• classify diseases into bacterial, fungal and viral.</li> <li>• describe signs and symptoms of diseases.</li> <li>• describe mode of transmission of diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio-economic importance of diseases.</li> <li>• Classification of diseases:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bacterial</li> <li>- fungal</li> <li>- viral.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Signs and symptoms of diseases.</li> <li>• Mode of transmission of diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing the socio-economic importance of diseases.</li> <li>• Classifying diseases into bacterial, viral and fungal.</li> <li>• Describing signs and symptoms of diseases.</li> <li>• Describing mode of transmission of diseases.</li> <li>• Experimenting on disease symptoms and transmission of diseases)</li> <li>• Watching video clips on diseases</li> <li>• Observing diseased plants in the field or elsewhere</li> </ul> <p><b>NB: Learners to study any one disease from each of the following groups.</b></p> <p><b>Group I- Bacterial</b> (wilt, canker, soft rot, bacterial blight )</p> <p><b>Group II – Fungal</b> (leaf spot, powdery mildew, pythium, downy mildew, fusarium wilt, rusts)</p> <p><b>Group III –Viral</b> (maize streak virus, mosaic virus, rosette virus, bushy top)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseased plants, plant parts</li> <li>• Slides</li> <li>• Print and electronic media</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>• Video clips</li> </ul>

## TOPIC 6: CROP PRODUCTION

### SUBTOPIC: AGRONOMIC PRINCIPLES

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Agro-ecological zones of Zimbabwe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explain the basis for dividing Zimbabwe into agro-ecological zones.</li> <li>design suitable cropping programmes for each agro-ecological zone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agro-ecological zones</li> <li>Cropping programmes for each zone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing the basis for dividing Zimbabwe into agro-ecological zones</li> <li>Designing cropping programmes for agro-ecological zones</li> <li>Drawing and identifying agro-ecological zones on the map of Zimbabwe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agro-ecological map</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Tillage practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>distinguish primary from secondary tillage</li> <li>explain the significance of primary and secondary tillage in crop production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary and secondary tillage</li> <li>Significance of primary and secondary tillage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing primary and secondary tillage systems</li> <li>Discussing the significance of primary and secondary tillage</li> <li>Researching on the effectiveness of tillage systems</li> <li>Carrying out tillage practices in the school field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tillage tools, implements and machinery</li> <li>Fields and crops</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Plant population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>calculate plant population per unit area</li> <li>discuss factors that influence plant population</li> <li>discuss implications of plant population in crop production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant population factors that influence plant population</li> <li>implications of plant population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calculating plant population</li> <li>Discussing factors that influence plant population</li> <li>Discussing implications of plant population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop Fields</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparing calculated populations versus actual field plant population</li> </ul>
<b>Crop rotation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain the principles of crop rotation</li> <li>• discuss the advantages and disadvantages of crop rotation</li> <li>• design a 4-crop rotation cycle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principles of rotation           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop rotation design</li> <li>• Advantages and disadvantages of crop rotations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussing the principles of crop rotation</li> <li>• Discussing the advantages and disadvantages of crop rotation</li> <li>• Designing a 4-crop rotation cycle</li> <li>• Practicing crop rotation systems</li> </ul>

Different crops  
Fields and/or gardens  
Print and electronic media  
ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software

## SUB TOPIC: CEREAL AND LEGUME CROP PRODUCTION

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Crop origins, soil and climatic requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discuss the origin of a named legume and cereal crop</li> <li>explain the uses of the named legume and cereal crop</li> <li>describe growth stages of a named cereal and legume crop in relation to moisture stress.</li> <li>describe the soil and climatic requirements of a named legume and cereal crop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Origin and crop uses</li> <li>Plant characteristics and growth stages</li> <li>Soil and climatic requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing crop origins and uses</li> <li>Describing the critical growth stages of a legume crop and a cereal crop.</li> <li>Discussing soil and climatic requirements of a legume and a cereal crop</li> <li>Observing cereal and legume characteristics at different growth stages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legume and cereal crops</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Crop management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discuss factors to consider when choosing appropriate legume and cereal crop cultivars</li> <li>describe the planting of a named cereal and legume crop</li> <li>discuss the management of a named legume and cereal crop</li> <li>identify weeds, pests and diseases of a named cereal and legume crop</li> <li>discuss ways of controlling weeds, pests and diseases in a named cereal and legume crop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choice of suitable cultivars</li> <li>Planting time and method</li> <li>Management practices such as irrigation, fertilization, crop protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing factors considered in the choice of suitable crop cultivars</li> <li>Discussing planting of a named cereal and legume crop</li> <li>Discussing management practices of a named cereal and legume crop</li> <li>Growing of selected cereal and legume crops</li> <li>Keeping records for each crop grown</li> <li>Experiments on crop management practices</li> </ul> <p><b>NB: One crop should be studied and grown from</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fields</li> <li>Crop inputs</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>

## 8.7 TOPIC 7: CONSERVATION FARMING

### SUBTOPIC: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Conservation farming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain the importance of conservation farming</li> <li>• outline the components and practices of conservation farming</li> <li>• describe different conservation farming practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of conservation farming</li> <li>• Components and practices of conservation farming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing the importance of conservation farming practices</li> <li>• Discussing components and practices of conservation farming</li> <li>• Carrying out conservation farming activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields and/or gardens</li> <li>• Inputs</li> <li>• Conservation farming specialist</li> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>• Print and electronic media</li> </ul>

## 9.0 FORM 6 SYLLABUS

### TOPIC 1: PLANT MORPHOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

#### SUBTOPIC: PLANT GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
Plant growth regulators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe the effects of growth regulators on plant growth and development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gibberellins</li> <li>Cytokinins</li> <li>Ethylene</li> <li>Auxins</li> <li>Abscisic acid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing effects of growth regulators on growth and development.</li> <li>Demonstrating the effect of growth regulators such as on rooting, growth and ripening.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plants and plant parts</li> <li>Plant growth regulators</li> <li>Recommended textbooks/talking textbooks</li> <li>ICT tools</li> </ul>

#### SUBTOPIC: SEED AND SEED GERMINATION

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
Seed dormancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>test seed for viability</li> <li>discuss the different types of seed dormancy</li> <li>describe methods of overcoming dormancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seed viability</li> <li>Types of seed dormancy: physical, physiological</li> <li>Overcoming dormancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testing for seed viability</li> <li>Discussing the different types of seed dormancy.</li> <li>Discussing ways of overcoming seed dormancy.</li> <li>Designing and carrying out experiments on seed dormancy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seed samples</li> <li>Recommended textbooks/talking textbooks</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>

## SUBTOPIC: SEED AND SEED GERMINATION

### SUBTOPIC: BIOENERGETICS

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Photosynthesis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain the factors affecting photosynthesis.</li> <li>• describe light-dependent and light-independent reactions</li> <li>• describe photosynthetic electron transport.</li> <li>• describe the structure and synthesis of ATP.</li> <li>• explain the role of ATP as the energy 'currency'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factors affecting photosynthesis</li> <li>Light harvesting: CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation</li> <li>Structure of ATP</li> <li>Synthesis of ATP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explaining the factors affecting photosynthesis (light intensity, water, CO<sub>2</sub> and oxygen concentration).</li> <li>Experimenting on the factors affecting photosynthesis.</li> <li>Describing light-dependent and light-independent reactions</li> <li>Describing the photosynthetic electron transport chain.</li> <li>Describing the structure and synthesis of ATP.</li> <li>Explaining the role of ATP as the energy 'currency'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plants</li> <li>Controlled environments</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>Video clips</li> </ul>
<b>Photosynthetic pathways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe the structural differences between C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> biochemical pathways</li> <li>• discuss Crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM) pathways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C<sub>3</sub> biochemical pathways</li> <li>C<sub>4</sub> biochemical pathways</li> <li>CAM biochemical pathways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing and illustrating C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub> and CAM pathways.</li> <li>Discussing the structural differences between C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> plants.</li> <li>Differentiating C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub> and CAM biochemical pathways.</li> <li>Experimenting on the differences in efficiency in C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> pathways.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant samples</li> <li>Recommended textbooks/talking textbooks</li> <li>Slides</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>Video clips</li> </ul>
<b>Cellular respiration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe the process of respiration</li> <li>• describe the two distinct pathways for the breakdown of starch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process of respiration:</li> <li>- glycolysis</li> <li>- Kreb's cycle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing, the process of respiration</li> <li>Describing the two distinct pathways for the breakdown of starch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plants</li> <li>Recommended textbooks/talking textbooks</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain the universal role of ATP as the energy 'currency' in all living organisms,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• electron transport pathway</li> <li>• Starch mobilization:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- hydrolytic pathway</li> <li>- phospholytic pathway</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• starch.</li> <li>• Experimenting on respiration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
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## TOPIC 3: SOIL FERTILITY AND PLANT NUTRITION

### SUBTOPIC: SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Soil chemical properties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe the formation of clay and humus colloids.</li> <li>describe the basic structure of clays.</li> <li>explain the source of negative charges on clay and humus colloids.</li> <li>explain the origins and significance of cation exchange and anion exchange capacity (CEC and AEC).</li> <li>determine cation exchange capacity (CEC) and base saturation percentage.</li> <li>discuss the significance of base saturation and exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP).</li> <li>discuss the causes of soil acidity and salinity.</li> <li>discuss the effects of soil acidity and salinity on crop growth.</li> <li>explain methods of correcting soil acidity and salinity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formation of clay and humus colloids</li> <li>Basic structure of clays: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1:1 clays such as kaolinite</li> <li>- 2:1 clays such as montmorillonite and illite</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sources of negative charges such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- isomorphic substitution,</li> <li>- exposed crystal edges</li> </ul> </li> <li>Cation exchange capacity (CEC) and anion exchange capacity</li> <li>Base saturation</li> <li>Exchangeable Sodium Percentage (ESP)</li> <li>Soil pH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing the formation of clay and humus colloids.</li> <li>Describing the basic clays.</li> <li>Explaining the sources of negative charges on clay and humus colloids.</li> <li>Explaining the origins and significance of cation and anion exchange capacity (CEC and AEC).</li> <li>Determining CEC and base saturation percentage</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing the formation of clay and humus colloids.</li> <li>Explaining the sources of negative charges on clay and humus colloids.</li> <li>Explaining the origins and significance of cation and anion exchange capacity (CEC and AEC).</li> <li>Determining CEC and base saturation percentage</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing the significance of base saturation and ESP</li> <li>Discussing the causes of soil acidity and salinity.</li> <li>Discussing the effects of soil acidity and salinity on crop growth.</li> <li>Explaining methods of correcting soil acidity and salinity.</li> <li>Carrying out soil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil samples</li> <li>Soil testing kits</li> <li>Liming materials</li> <li>Fields</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• carry out experiments on soil analysis.</li><li>• determine soil pH and calculating liming requirements.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liming</li><li>• Soil sampling</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liming</li><li>• Soil sampling</li><li>• Carrying out experiments on soil analysis.</li><li>• Testing for soil pH and calculating liming requirements.</li><li>• Carry out pH correction such as liming of fields</li><li>• Touring a soil testing lab</li></ul>
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## 9. TOPIC 3: PRINCIPLES OF CROP BREEDING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

### SUBTOPIC: PLANT BREEDING METHODS

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Plant introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explain plant introduction as a breeding method.</li> <li>describe types of plant introduction</li> <li>discuss advantages and disadvantages of plant introduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meaning of plant introduction</li> <li>Types of plant introduction</li> <li>Advantages and disadvantages of plant introduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing the meaning and types of plant introduction</li> <li>Discussing the advantages and disadvantages of plant introduction</li> <li>Touring a plant breeding institution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant breeders</li> <li>Plant breeding institution</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools with JAWS software</li> </ul>
<b>Plant selection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explain selection as a method of plant breeding</li> <li>describe types of selection in plant breeding</li> <li>discuss the advantages and disadvantages of plant selection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selection in plant breeding</li> <li>Types of plant selection</li> <li>Advantages and disadvantages of plant selection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing selection as a method of plant breeding</li> <li>Describing types of plant selection</li> <li>Selecting germplasm</li> <li>Discussing advantages and disadvantages of plant selection</li> <li>Touring plant breeding institution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant breeders</li> <li>Plant breeding institution</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools with JAWS software</li> </ul>
<b>Hybridization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explain methods of hybridization</li> <li>describe advantages and disadvantages of hybridization</li> <li>describe hybrid seed production</li> <li>compare hybrid seed and, traditional and commercial open-pollinated varieties (OPVs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single way cross, double way cross, three way cross</li> <li>Advantages and disadvantages hybridization.</li> <li>Principles of hybrid seed production.</li> <li>Commercial OPVs, Traditional or land OPVs and Hybrids.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing methods, advantages and disadvantages of hybridization</li> <li>Describing hybrid seed production</li> <li>Touring plant breeding institution.</li> <li>Debating on performance of hybrid seed, traditional OPVs and commercial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant breeders</li> <li>Plant breeding institution</li> <li>Seed specimens</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools with jaws software</li> </ul>

	performances.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OPVs</li> <li>• Crossing OPV varieties.</li> <li>• Collecting seed specimens for school seed bank</li> </ul>
<b>Genetic Engineering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe genetic engineering as a breeding method.</li> <li>• discuss advantages and disadvantages of genetically modified crops .</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• genetic engineering as a breeding method</li> <li>• Tissue culture</li> <li>• Gene transfer</li> <li>• Advantages and disadvantages of genetically modified crops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing genetic engineering as a breeding method</li> <li>• Discussing advantages and disadvantages of genetically modified crops.</li> <li>• Touring of biotechnology institution.</li> </ul>

for school seed bank

•

ICT tools/Braille software/jaw

software

•

Video clips

•

Print and electronic media

•

ICT tools/Braille

software/jaw

•

Biotechnology institution

•

Biotechnologist

•

## 9.4 TOPIC 4: PRINCIPLES OF CROP PROTECTION

### SUBTOPIC: WEED, INSECT PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
<b>Safety precautions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe safe handling of agro-chemicals.</li> <li>outline safe storage procedures for agro-chemicals.</li> <li>outline safe disposal of agro-chemicals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety precautions:- - handling - storage - disposal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing safe handling, storage and disposal of agro-chemicals.</li> <li>Demonstrating safe handling, storage and disposal of agro-chemicals.</li> <li>Practising safe handling, storage and disposal of agro-chemicals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protective clothing</li> <li>Agro-chemical dealers</li> <li>Storage rooms</li> <li>Chemicals</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Weed management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>outline the importance of weed management.</li> <li>determine effective timing of weeding.</li> <li>describe the methods of weed management.</li> <li>evaluate weed management methods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importance of weed management</li> <li>Timing of weeding.</li> <li>Methods: - physical/mechanical - cultural - chemical - biological - integrated weed management (IWM)</li> <li>Advantages and disadvantages of each weed management method.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing importance of weed management.</li> <li>Identifying timing of weed management.</li> <li>Advantages and disadvantages of each weed management method.</li> <li>Evaluating methods of weed management.</li> <li>Experimenting on weed management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed samples</li> <li>Botanist</li> <li>Agronomist</li> <li>Herbicides</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>
<b>Pest management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explain the importance of pest management.</li> <li>explain economic threshold and economic injury levels of pests.</li> <li>describe methods of pest management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importance</li> <li>Economic threshold, economic injury level</li> <li>Methods of pest management: - physical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing importance of pest management.</li> <li>Explaining economic threshold and injury levels of pests on selected crops</li> <li>Describing methods of pest management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pests</li> <li>Pesticides</li> <li>Entomologist</li> <li>Agronomist</li> <li>Crop fields</li> <li>Recommended</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• compare and contrast pest management methods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- chemical</li> <li>- biological</li> <li>- cultural</li> <li>- legislative</li> <li>- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management</li> <li>• Comparing pest management methods</li> <li>• Scouting for and controlling pests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>textbooks/talking textbooks</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>Video clips</li> <li>Slides</li> </ul>
<b>Disease management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain importance of disease management</li> <li>• outline the different methods of disease management</li> <li>• compare different methods of disease management</li> <li>• compare different methods of disease management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of disease management</li> <li>• Methods of disease management:</li> <li>- cultural</li> <li>- chemical</li> <li>- biological</li> <li>- legislative</li> <li>- Integrated Disease Management (IPM)</li> <li>• Advantages and disadvantages different methods of disease management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing importance of disease management</li> <li>• Describing the different methods of disease management</li> <li>• Comparing methods of disease management</li> <li>• Carrying out disease control operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agro chemicals</li> <li>Fields</li> <li>Plants</li> <li>Agronomist</li> <li>ICT tools</li> </ul>
<b>Sprayer calibration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• calibrate a knapsack sprayer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calibration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calibrating sprayers</li> <li>• Demonstrating the functional efficiency of sprayers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sprayers</li> <li>Water</li> <li>Agronomist</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> <li>Print and electronic media</li> </ul>

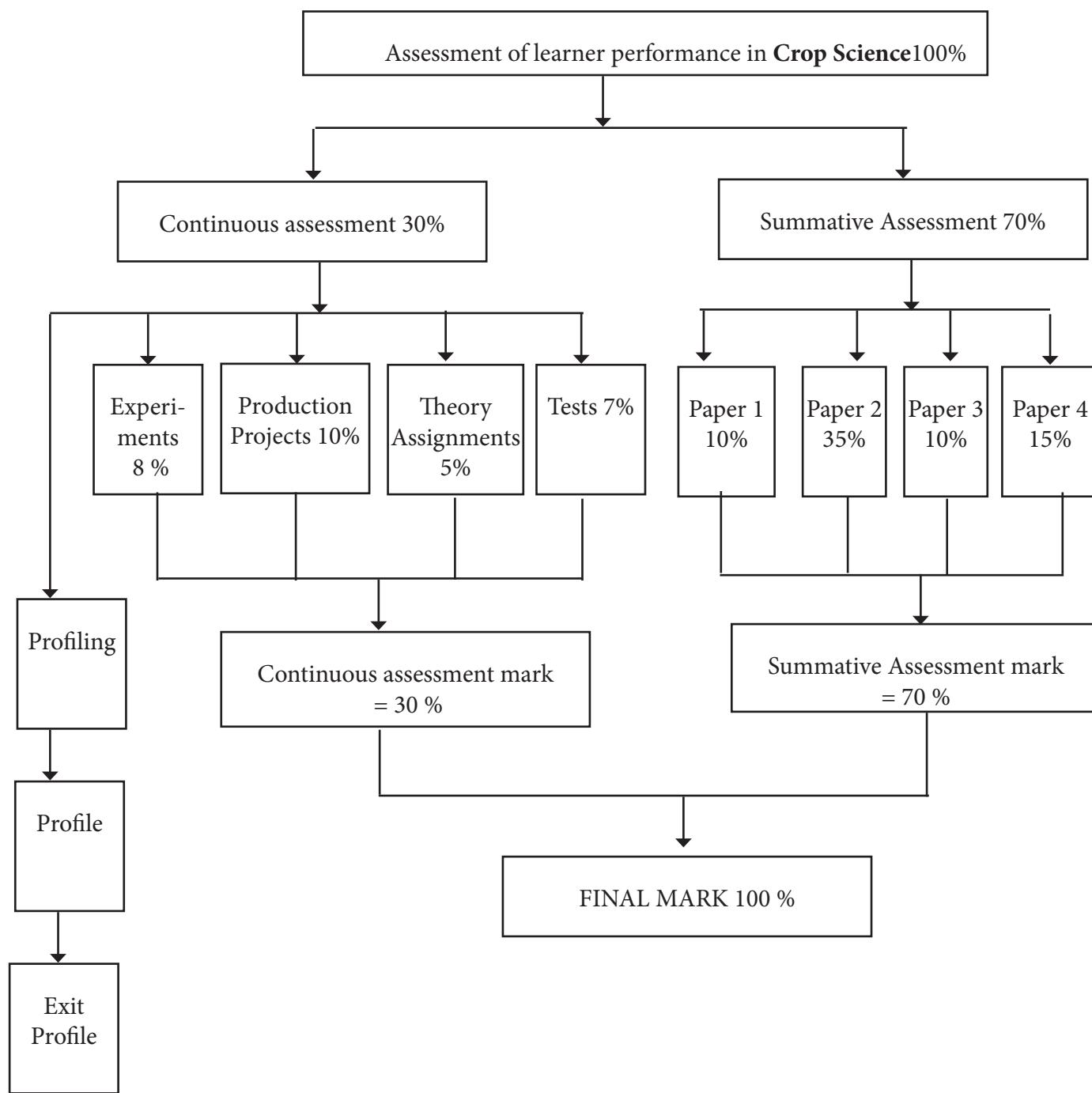
## 9.5 TOPIC 5: CROP PRODUCTION

### SUBTOPIC: CEREAL AND LEGUME CROP PRODUCTION

KEY CONCEPT	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Learners should be able to:	CONTENT	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND NOTES	SUGGESTED RESOURCES
Crop management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe harvesting indices and methods of a named cereal and legume crops.</li> <li>describe post-harvest technology of a named legume and cereal crops.</li> <li>discuss the marketing of a named legume and cereal crops</li> <li>discuss the significance of record-keeping in the production of a named cereal and legume crop.</li> <li>keep records of a named cereal and legume crop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harvesting indices and methods</li> <li>Post-harvest technology: storage, value addition, protection</li> <li>Marketing and records-keeping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing harvesting indices and methods of a named cereal and legume crop.</li> <li>Discussing post-harvest technology of a named cereal and legume crop</li> <li>Harvesting and preparing a named cereal and legume crops for marketing.</li> <li>Discussing the importance of record-keeping of a named cereal and legume crop.</li> <li>Keeping records of a named cereal and legume crop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop produce</li> <li>Harvesting tools, equipment and machinery</li> <li>Processing equipment and machinery</li> <li>Storage structures</li> <li>Recommended textbooks/talki ng textbooks</li> <li>ICT tools/Braille Software/jaw software</li> </ul>

## 10.0 ASSESSMENT MODEL

Crop Science learning area will be assessed through continuous and summative assessments as illustrated in the following diagram



## 11.0 ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Learners will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, application of knowledge and experimental skills.

### Knowledge and understanding

- Identify, explain, describe, discuss and demonstrate specific crop science facts, principles, relationships, concepts, practical techniques and terminology.
- summarise and explain given crop science information.
- Maintain accurate physical and financial records of any crop enterprise.

### Application of knowledge

- Illustrate, evaluate, interpret, solve and criticize specific phenomena of crop science.
- Schedule, test and experiment, using crop science facts and principles.
- Compare, contrast and criticise any procedures, processes and techniques employed in Crop Science.

### Experimental skills

- Design and implement experimental activities in crop science.
- Select and use appropriate equipment and materials to carry out experimental activities safely.
- Report, illustrate and interpret observations correctly.
- Assess and justify methods of production employed in crop science.
- Compose, construct and organise given crop science facts into diagrams, tables and graphs.
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate results from any given crop science activity.

## 12.0 SKILLS SPECIFICATION GRID

ASSESSMENT SKILL	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4
Knowledge with understanding	50	40	15	10
Application of knowledge	30	40	35	40
Experimental skills	20	20	50	50
Total	100	100	100	100

## 13.0 ASSESSMENT WEIGHTING

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT	WEIGHTING
Continuous assessment	30%
Summative assessment	70%

## 14.0 CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT 30%

Assessment will be done through:

Theory Assignments	5%
Tests	7%
Production Projects	10%
Experiments	8%

ASSESSMENT MODE	FORM 5 WEIGHTING	FORM 6 WEIGHTING
Theory assignments	2,5%	2,5%
Tests	3,5%	3,5%
Production Projects	5%	5%
Experiments	4%	4%

ASSESSMENT MODE	FREQUENCY PER LEVEL	
	FORM 5	FORM 6
Theory assignments	2 per year	2 per year
Tests	2 per year	2 per year
Production projects	2 for the 2 levels	
Experiments	2 per year	2 per year

## 15.0 SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT 70%

Learners will be required to sit for papers 1 to 4.

PAPER DESCRIPTION	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	1 hour	40	10%
Paper 2	2 hours 30 mins	100	35%
Paper 3	2 hours	40	10%
Paper 4	4 terms	100	15%

### PAPER 1

Consists of multiple choice questions from the whole syllabus. Candidates will be required to answer all 40 questions.  
Paper Total 40

### PAPER 2

This is a structured free response paper which has 2 sections namely A and B. Both sections are set from any part of the syllabus. Paper Total 100

#### SECTION A

Candidates are required to answer all questions in this section. Six questions will be set, each question carries 10 marks.

Section Total 60

#### SECTION B

Essay type questions will be set from any part of the syllabus. Four questions are set and candidates are required to answer any 2 questions. Each question carries 20 marks. Section Total 40

### PAPER 3

A practical examination will be set from any part of the syllabus. The paper will be based on experiments, investigations, observations and calculations. Full instructions will be given where unfamiliar material or techniques are re-

Crop Science Syllabus Forms 5 - 6

quired. Two compulsory questions will be set, each question carrying 20 marks.

Paper Total 40

**PAPER 4**

Candidates will be required to carry out an experimental or a survey project. Candidates will design and carryout the project work on any part of the syllabus. The research project must emphasise both theoretical and practical aspects of Crop science.

A project report of 2 500 to 3000 words should be prepared and submitted by each candidate.

Paper Total 100