UNIT 2 – PLANTS FOR FOOD AND FIBRE

1.0 STRUCTURES AND LIFE PROCESSES

- Seed plants have roots, stems, leaves and either flowers or cones
- Each structure performs a specific function
- Life processes in plants include: Photosynthesis, Transpiration, Gas exchange (cellular respiration)
- Seed plant life cycle includes three stages: Seed stage, Seedling stage, and Adult stage
- Pollination is the joining of pollen and ovary
- Seed plants can also reproduce in ways not involving seeds: Runners, rhizomes, suckers, cuttings and grafting
- Adaptations help plants get what they need from the environment
- Growing conditions vary between and among plants, and can be modified using technology

2.0 ROLE OF PLANTS TO MEET HUMAN NEEDS

- Plants supply oxygen and food
- Plants are used for food, fibre (to make things), medicine, and other products
- Natural resources vs Managed resources

3.0 SOIL

- Minerals and organic matter in different amounts make clay, sandy soil or loam
- Growing and harvesting methods can improve or degrade soil

4.0 GROWING AND USING PLANTS – SUSTAINABILITY

- Selective breeding provides specific desirable traits
- New varieties may lead to environmental problems
- Resistance, loss of species or pollution can occur with long term use of herbicides and pesticides
- Sustainability – balancing out needs with the needs of the environment and the consequences (social and economic)