GRADE 7 RATIONALIZED AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION LESSON NOTES

STRAND ONE -CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES.

1.1 Controlling soil Pollution

- It is very important to human beings and animals to conserve the agricultural environment.
- This can be done by learning about soil pollution and how to control it when carrying out agricultural farming activities or practices.
- **Soil pollution** is the contamination of soil with harmful substances.
- The harmful substances in the soil are known as **pollutants** or **contaminants**

Causes of soil pollution in farming

- **Excessive use of artificial fertilizers**.

- These fertilizers introduce pollutants such as Nitrogen compounds and heavy metals into the soil which accumulate in the soil to toxic levels and become harmful to crops and soil living organisms.

- **Excessive use of agricultural chemicals (agrochemicals) such as herbicides and pesticides.**

- These chemicals become pollutants when they get into the soil. They accumulate into the soil and become toxic to soil living organisms.

- **Throwing plastic wastes in the garden.**

- Plastic wastes are not broken down by soil living organisms. They contaminate the soil and interfere with the growing crops or reduces agricultural space.

- **Throwing Chemical containers**.

- Chemical leftovers from these containers get into the soil and become pollutants. The pollutants accumulate to toxic levels and become harmful to the soil living organisms.

- **Surface run off carrying contaminated water**

- Surface run-off that contains any contaminants deposits them to the soil when passing over.