1. AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

- **Definition**: It is all forms of mechanical assistance at all levels of sophistication; usually involves injection of capital and labour augmenting.

- **Mechanization policy objectives**

Mechanization must be seen in the context of a broad agricultural development strategy whose objectives are likely to be:

(i) agricultural productivity in order to increase the sector's contribution to economic
growth and security.

(ii) increase rural welfare; income, employment, living standards, alleviating poverty,
etc.

(iii) achieving social modernisation; attitudes and behaviour.

Mechanization decisions need to consider:

(i) farm power requirements to increase agricultural productivity

(ii) appropriate technology choice consistent with resource availability and
social/economic objectives.

Mechanization as a means of increasing productivity will need to:

Increase employment opportunities,
Increase non- farm activity in rural sector,
Increase food supply to farming family,
Increase skills.

Selective mechanization

A number of Governments have advocated a selective approach to farm mechanization
development in order to remove farm power constraints but avoid wasteful and undesirable effects of over mechanization. This approach begins with an assessment of power needs at farm level. The main features are:

- research and development
- mechanization planning and extension management
- provision of selected mechanization services
- formulation of mechanization packages

- institutional/ infrastructural support measures

   Case study – Bacita Sugar Estate
   - o Mechanization on the field
   - o Mechanization policy achieved
   - o Mechanization programmes accomplished
- Selective mechanization project outputs/components
- Selective mechanization project inputs
- Agronomic and environmental variables