

ABSTRACT

This research paper provides an overview of the different types of technologies and entrepreneurship used in hot pepper production in Trinidad. The key areas focused upon were central, south and east Trinidad. These particular areas were chosen because of the high density of hot pepper farmers located there. The paper also looks at the different technologies used and how these affect the profitability of the hot pepper farmers. Also illustrated is the view of the farmer as an entrepreneur and what creative ideas and technologies are incorporated to increase the yield of hot pepper. The production of hot pepper across central, east and south Trinidad vary in numerous ways depending on several factors, all of which are discussed. This information was obtained from 20 farmers across east, central and south Trinidad. The data was collected via a combination of both telephone as well as face to face interviews. These two methods had both their advantages as well as disadvantages.

Increasing the use of new technologies can maximize the yield of production of hot peppers by reducing the percentage post harvest loss and even cutting down the cost to produce hot peppers. Farmers with their growing knowledge and experience have been employing the use of new technologies as well as even creating their own ideas in hot pepper production. They have come up with innovative ideas to prevent diseases and combat pests, to extend the life of their pepper trees in order to ensure maximum yield and cost efficiency. The cost of production can even be reduced as a number of techniques and methods are applied at the right time and in the right amount. Farmers in their thirst for knowledge and advice about improving their hot pepper production, turn to other farmers, extension officers, agricultural supply stores and institutions such as NAMDEVCO, ADB AND ECIAF.

There are several factors that affect and in turn, determine the types of technologies and entrepreneurship used, such as knowledge about farming, income, land, type of pepper, if other crops are grown etc.