INTRODUCTION

In Trinidad it is the usual practice of market gardeners to plant dwarf beans on ridges. Occasionally ridges are sown with two rows of beans, but generally only one.

There is very little literature on dwarf bean cultivation in the tropics and practically no published experimental work. As there was no evidence to show whether or not two-row planting on the ridge was better than single row planting a field trial was laid down at the Imperial College New Farm to compare the two methods. In addition the trial was designed to compare various interplant and interrow spacings.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

In view of the limited information available on dwarf bean cultivation in the tropics some reference has been made to methods employed in the United States of America. Many of the vegetables in Trinidad are grown from American seed, therefore it is possible in some cases to compare cultural practices.

In the United States dwarf beans (Phaseolus vulgaris) grown for the sake of the edible pods are termed snap beans. They may be grown for other purposes such as the production of green-shelled beans or dry-shelled beans.

Dwarf beans may be classified either according to their uses or according to colour and shape of the pod and seed. A classification based on pod colour and shape, flower colour, seed colour and disease tolerance is given by Shoemaker (8). Contender, the variety used in this field trial