

A STUDY OF THE INFLUENCE OF INTENSITY OF CULTIVATION ON
THE FINANCIAL RESULTS OF CACAO GROWING IN TRINIDAD.

Foreword:-

The cacao industry of Trinidad savours of a certain amount of antiquity. Its development may be traced back over nearly two hundred years to the time of the Spanish occupation. The last five or six decades have especially seen its greatest expansion, concurrently with increasing facilities for transport both on land and sea.

During this period there was a large influx of colonists into Trinidad, who became interested in the crop because it offered a means of livelihood as well as a prospect of making a substantial profit. Others followed their example, until a stage was reached when the possession of a cacao estate was quite the vogue among the wealthier classes. These were intelligent and enterprising men who developed the industry on progressive lines. Many of the practices followed at the present time are the outcome of the accumulation of their experiences in growing the crop, and the demands of local conditions. These methods have generally become standardised throughout the Island, although considerable controversy still exists regarding the value of certain operations that may be advocated. Up to the moment, any scientific knowledge concerning the crop has been too meagre to rely upon to modify methods with a view to increased and more economical production.

Cacao, being the staple crop of Trinidad, provides employment for the vast majority of the inhabitants; and despite the development of other industries, cocoa continues to be an important export from the Colony. Thus the industry is intimately concerned with its economic welfare.