## INTRODUCTION

Trinidad had no concrete form of land allocation policy until 1944. A steady population increase, coupled with mismanagement of the land, led to the formulation by the Lands Advisory Committee of a definite policy in that year. (Trin. & Tob. Council Paper,1944).

Before this ~~time~~, general soil, vegetation, and agricultural usage surveys were carried out on the Island, and the soil surveys showed that about 37% of the land area was suitable for agriculture. With this survey as a basis, the Policy proposed the following points:-

(1) Only areas with suitable soil and topography would be allocated for agriculture.

(2) Crown Land would be disposed of on a strict lease, which could dictate the crops and policy to be followed.

(3) The Crown would appropriate all private land needed for conservation and development of water resources, and would resettle dispossessed persons on leased land.

(4) Agricultural development was to be kept off oil-bearing land as far as possible.

(5) Reclamation of swamp lands.

(6) Adjustment and confirmation of Forest Reserve boundaries, in particular extending afforestation to cover the poorest soils.

(7) Development of towns, industry and recreation facilities was to take place on some of the poorer soils not used for forestry.

(8) Rehabilitation of degraded land.

(9) Acquisition of areas of scientific, historic or aesthetic value, by the Crown.

The present population pressure, not yet serious, influenced a search for more land to be used for food production. The soil

survey of Central Trinidad (Chenery, 1949) formed an essential background to the Policy. However, Chenery did not survey some of the areas of poorer soil types in detail, and the I.C.T.A. Soils and Chemistry Department began a more detailed investigation in October, 1956.

Chenery's report showed the soils to vary from agriculturally useless, to soils which were poor but could perhaps be improved by judicious fertilizing. It was thus intended to classify these soils from the data of six sample survey areas in the Freeport-Edinburgh region, and to consider their agricultural possibilities.

The present report covers one of the six sample strips, and was particularly aimed at investigating soils of the Las Lomas Series, with a view to finding a suitable system of agriculture for these soils. No experiments have been carried out on these soils in the first year.

The soils of the area were known to differ mainly in drainage, from a practical point of view, and so a review of some literature concerning the significance of drainage in soil classification and survey has been carried out.