

INTRODUCTION

The pig industry of Trinidad provides less than 50% of the pigmeat consumed on the island so that there is tremendous scope for increasing the present low level of production. One of the major obstacles preventing any large scale expansion at the present time is the high cost of meal. All the proprietary brands on sale are imported ready compounded or they are produced in Trinidad from imported grain. Transportation of meal and grain is expensive and this cost has to be passed on to the pig farmer in the price which he pays for his meals. This is the case in many tropical countries with climates unsuitable for large scale production of cereal grains and so unable to produce a surplus over the requirements for direct human consumption. Since feed costs constitute a very large proportion of the costs of pig production it is vitally important for the tropical pig producer to obtain maximum efficiency in the utilisation of costly imported meal. The only feeding standards available today, however, have been devised in temperate countries and these do not necessarily apply in the very different environments of the tropics.

This is the third experiment in a series of pig nutrition studies carried out at the Government Stock Farm, St. Joseph, by members of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in an effort to obtain information on the effects of varying levels of feeding in the tropical climate of Trinidad. Special attention has been paid to the effect of restricted feeding on carcass quality and on feed conversion efficiency.