

INTRODUCTION

Most of the tobacco used in Trinidad and Tobago is imported. In 1963 1,690,800 lbs. worth B.W.I. \$2,536,700 was imported and this contributed about \$6 million to government revenue through import duty. The West Indian Tobacco Co. Ltd. is the larger of the two cigarette manufacturers in Trinidad having over 90 per cent of the market.

In 1956 the West Indian Tobacco Co. started a scheme in Tobago for growing flue cured tobacco by small farmers. In 1960 the scheme was extended to Trinidad. Promising results have been obtained in the last few years particularly in Trinidad. At present home production supplies about five per cent of the islands' needs.

All tobacco is sold to the West Indian Tobacco Co. who administer the scheme and provide credit in the form of cash and materials. Various aspects of production are discussed in this report. A survey of production costs has been made and there appears to be considerable scope for improving productivity and raising profits. The price paid for Trinidad and Tobago tobacco is very favourable to the farmer.

While much of the information in this report has been derived of necessity from the West Indian Tobacco Co. and the writer acknowledges his debt to the company elsewhere, the report aims to appear as a disinterested account of tobacco production in Trinidad. *an objective*

The report ends on an optimistic note for the future.