

A SAMPLE SURVEY OF CITRUS.

INTRODUCTION.

Surveys in agriculture have been carried out for a number of years in the more developed temperate countries, particularly in Europe and North America. The demands of these countries with their high living standards has made it essential that the governments of these countries be provided with the up-to-date vital information regarding such factors as population increase, food production, land resources, and other agricultural factors of immediate importance to the national economy. In the less developed countries, particularly in many tropical areas there has not been the same vital need for such detailed information. Consequently the need for agricultural survey or census work has been correspondingly less. However, with the increasing momentum of economic development in many tropical territories over the last few years the need for agricultural surveys in these countries is assuming increasing importance. The real value of surveys is that they provide important statistics and information which are necessary before efficient planning of improvements and new developments is possible.

Complete surveys, generally referred to as censuses, can be very costly and time-consuming, though the results obtained are usually accurate and are not subject to sampling errors. Sample surveys, as distinct from complete surveys, are surveys carried out on a properly selected sample. Although the cost of a sample survey is normally greater per unit than for a complete survey, the overall cost is usually much less in the case of the sample survey. This is particularly so where the size of the sample required represents only a small proportion of the total population. Sampling also facilitates ready follow-up work, which in some instances may make for greater accuracy of results. This is illustrated where in a population of individuals it is necessary for the purposes of the survey for each member in the sample to be personally contacted.