

INTRODUCTIONA B S T R A C T

This study traces the history of Aranjuez from the time when it was a sugar estate, employing indentured labourers, to the present day when it has become the principal and most progressive market-gardening district in Trinidad. Although the gardeners of Aranjuez have adopted many modern agricultural practices for use on their small-holdings, production costs remain high. As a consequence, unless the system of production is modified to increase profits, there is a serious danger that gardeners will not be able to maintain sufficiently high standards of living to allow market-gardening to survive as an industry in an area of growing urbanity. A number of improvements to the system of production are proposed, but it is recognised that any attempt to introduce changes must take into account the existence of strong economic and social restraints imposed by the community and by the 'exterior' agencies concerned with development. Some conclusions are drawn as to how the further development of the area might be approached in a way which would be compatible with these environmental restrictions. Finally, reasons are sought for the remarkably high rate of growth in production from the gardens in Aranjuez during the post-war period, and suggestions are made as to how the example of this area might be applied to current thinking on national agricultural development in Trinidad and Tobago.