

INTRODUCTION.

ABSTRACT

- (1) The suitability of 8 varieties of rice, all imported, for off season production in Trinidad, is judged by a randomised block field experiment.
- (2) An account is given of the various operations carried out.
- (3) The results obtained are discussed and conclusions arrived at.

The answer to the problem of increasing supplies of the one commodity which is still rationed in the island is to increase home production. This could be most easily achieved by cultivating more land. However, even if the land were available the environmental factors and the competition from more profitable crops would impose severe limitations.

For the most part the crop is grown in small fields lacking efficient water control, holdings tend to be fragmented so that one farmer may cultivate several small plots in different places and as a general rule planting, weeding, harvesting, threshing, winnowing and drying are all performed by hand.

In Trinidad, swamp rice is normally grown as a single maincrop from June till December. This period corresponds with the wet season which runs from May, with a short break in October, until December. During the remainder of the year no second crop is grown. A small crop is sometimes taken from the tillers springing from the cut stools, but