

INTRODUCTION

Peasant Agriculture is an essential part of the economy of all agricultural communities in the tropics. Despite that fact little attention has in the past been paid to the accurate determination of size of holding suitable to the varying type of peasant found in the tropics.

It is at present the policy of most Agricultural Departments to get the people safely established on the land, but before this can be done suitable holding size must be determined by experiment. Such work has just been started by the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture and have so far established four experimental holdings on the College farm:-

Holding No. I	(Diaram's holding)
Holding No. II	Cows (Garib's holding)
Holding No. III	Ploughing oxen (Ramnauth's holding)
Holding No. IV	Vegetables (Baboolal's holding)

In such experiments the soil aspect is usually overlooked. This, however, has not been the case at the College, where the soil nutrient status has been given detailed attention, especially in the search for deficiencies of the three main plant nutrients, namely: Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash.