

ABSTRACT

The thesis attempts to assess the impact State intervention has had on the agricultural development of St. Vincent. The issue is put in perspective by outlining the problems posed by the agricultural sector at different stages of the development process. It is pointed out that while in the advanced countries the critical issue is the relatively low income received by persons engaged in agriculture as compared to that earned by persons employed in other industries, in the underdeveloped countries, where agriculture is often the leading sector, the problem is to raise the level of production in that sector and to ensure that the returns accruing to such production are equitably divided among the farming population.

In St. Vincent, unlike many other underdeveloped countries, the State has from the very beginning of the century placed great emphasis on the development of the agricultural sector. To raise the level of income in the sector the State has established research, credit and marketing facilities, while it has sought to improve the distribution by land redistribution, land settlement, fostering the growth of trade unions and the enactment of minimum wage legislation.

It has been found, however, that these measures have not had a very great impact. In the sixty-four period covered by the study, total physical output increased only fourfold and this has been due mainly to increases in acreage cultivated, since yields have remained low. Moreover,

there has been little, if any, improvement in the distribution of income, but rather the form of mal-distribution has changed. Whereas at the beginning of the century it was simply a matter of the landed and the landless, today the dichotomy is between a few, large, highly capitalised farms and many, small, under-capitalised farms.

The failure of State intervention to have a greater impact has been due to the unco-ordinated manner in which it has been carried out. This has resulted not only in individual measures failing to achieve their objective but also in conflict between measures aimed at different objectives.

Recommendations are made as to how the situation can be improved.

## CHAPTER I. MEASURES TO INCREASE INCOME

### CHAPTER I. SUMMARY OF MEASURES TO INCREASE INCOME

Income

Quality

Marketing

The Marketing Board

The Growers Board

The St. Vincent Marketing Board

The Oils and Fats Agreement

The Sugar Agreement

Industry

### CHAPTER II. ESTIMATION OF MEASURES TO INCREASE INCOME

Changes in Income

Extent and Rate of Change

Price and Quantity Changes