

Abstract.

Land settlement in Trinidad has been considered since 1897 and schemes have been in operation since 1930. Because of the lack of infrastructure and basic amenities these schemes have not been a success.

The Revised Crown Lands Development Programme of 1965 laid down that, under full development, the farms would not only be supplied with a complete infrastructure, but also with full on-farm development. In the case of the dairy farms this consists of the provision of a house, pen, pastures, paddocks and the allocation of cattle.

Under such a system, where a large amount of capital is set aside for each farm, the selection of the right prospective farmer and his subsequent training is of extreme importance. Thus, this project sets out to analyse the present pattern of selection and training at Carlson Field, (a dairy settlement area), and to postulate from experience elsewhere in the world and by personal experiment how these two aspects could best be altered to cope better with the situation. The analysis was carried out by the use of a schedule, attitude test and by the setting up of an experimental teaching situation.

There was found to be a strong relationship between youth, literacy, education, innovativeness and small family size with better managerial and husbandry practices. Also it could be conjectured from the attitude test that the financially better off were more innovative, more economically orientated and more willing to support the development scheme.

It was decided that the present methods of training were inadequate, both with regard to technique and with regard to the approach of the extension officers to the educational process. As few of the farmers received any training before they took over their farms it was advised that there should be a 3-4 month residential pre-farm training course and a six month on-farm training period. Both of these sessions should be run by fully trained extension staff who should be able to draw on both the Ministry of Agriculture and the University of the West Indies for technical assistance.