

INTRODUCTION

The cacao industry of Grenada, though of small consequence if judged by the magnitude of its contribution to world production, has always been looked upon with particular interest. It has been recognised as an exceptionally successful industry, its average yield figure ranking among the highest of any cacao industry. Of greater significance is the fact that this success has apparently been achieved by a tradition of intensive cultivation unique among cacao-growing countries. For these reasons, a study of the Grenada industry is of particular interest in view of the possible adoption of such methods of cultivation elsewhere.

In this paper an investigation is made of selected individual fields in Grenada with the object of analysing the factors affecting yields and profitability of estates, and comparing with data obtained by similar methods in Trinidad where cacao is grown under very different conditions of management. Apart from the local application of the results to the Grenada industry itself, it is hoped that the comparisons may be useful in deciding to what extent the methods of cultivation adopted in Grenada may be successfully reproduced elsewhere, or how far they are dependent for their success purely on local favourable factors.

Part III of this paper outlines a scheme of manurial and cultural experiments designed to provide information on the main manurial requirements of Grenada cacao soils, and to suggest profitable applications of manure.