

INTRODUCTION

The physiology of Tropical crops is an almost unstudied subject, and much work remains to be done on the water relations of crop plants in the Tropics.

The water relations of Cacao appear to be of great importance for a correct understanding of the best methods to use in the growing and cultivation of the crop.

Shading and windbreaks in growing Cacao are requirements well known to the planter, while die-back of the more exposed shoots is frequently observed in Trinidad at the end of a prolonged dry season. These facts point to the need for a careful study of the water economy of Cacao.

This work was commenced with a view to obtaining methods for the study of water relations in crops, and has taken the form of a technical investigation of method, little information being obtained about the Cacao crop under field conditions.