

SUMMARY

An experiment with Virginia flue-cured tobacco was carried out to investigate the effects on the yield and quality of three different varieties and four levels of application of nitrogenous fertiliser.

The difficult season and marked soil variation within the site caused high coefficient of variation of the yield data, consequently no significant treatment differences were recorded. The variety 'Hicks' appeared to produce the best quality leaf and gave the highest returns although it yielded slightly less than 'Harrison Special'. In relation to fertiliser, the 30 lbs. per acre level of nitrogen appeared to give a higher return than the 0, 10 or 20 lbs. per acre level of nitrogen, but the yield appeared to be limited as much by the low levels of available calcium as by to nitrogen levels.

2 The reason for the disappointing results are discussed and some recommendations are given. The economic feasibility of flue-cured tobacco under local conditions appears to be sound.

The ultimate aim is for Trinidad to be as self-sufficient as possible for cigarette tobacco; at present less than 5 per cent of local consumption is produced on the island. However the Company feel that it is undesirable for the acreage to increase substantially above its present level unless the quality of the leaf improves considerably, and it was with this in mind that an experiment was laid down to determine:-

- a. the optimum level of nitrogen for plants in the field,
- b. to test and compare two (2) cultivars of tobacco, Hicks and Harrison Special, which at present accounts for nearly all local production.