

## INTRODUCTION.

### Section A.

Agriculture is the oldest of the professions. The earliest known crop relics, which are those of six-rowed barleys and of the Emmer type of wheat, are at least as old as 5000 B.C.

Throughout the ages, the presence of weeds has constituted one of the greatest draw-backs to the successful production of good crops, so much so, that "agriculture" has been defined as "a controversy with weeds". The following data compiled by Korsmo (1) in Norway from an experiment with duplicate plots of the same size, effectively demonstrate the harmful influence of weeds upon crop yields.

<u>Crop.</u>	<u>Yield per acre.</u>		<u>%age loss in money value on weedy plot compared with clean plot.</u>
	<u>Clean Plot</u>	<u>Weedy Plot</u>	
	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>%</u>
Hay	49.0	*13.8 23.0	47
Barley			
Grain	18.0	6.6	
Straw	30.0	*13.8 19.0	46
Potatoes	175.0	90.0	49

\*Weight of weeds included with hay and straw.

The above figures are further corroborated by those of Percival (2) who, twenty-nine years ago, observed that, in many cases, the moderately weeded areas carried 40-50% more crop than those on which the weeds were unchecked. In Bavaria, Wollny(3) estimated the crop loss due to weeds as 30%. Moreover, it was estimated before the War, that the loss due to reduction in crop and to labour expended in the suppression of weeds in Great Britain alone, was in the neighbourhood of sixteen and a half million pounds sterling per annum.

The production of better crops and greater returns is enhanced by the use of more efficient implements and improved systems of cultivation, consequently, considerable agricultural research work has been done, especially in temperate climates. What is beneficial in one country is not always so in another, however, and very little accurate information is available with regard to modern agricultural practices, when applied to tropical conditions. Hence, the need for such information is considerable.

This year, an experiment has been designed in order to accumulate useful data concerning different types of modern tillage implements under Trinidad conditions.