

INTRODUCTION.

Wherever man exists, a form of land use is practiced. The

SUMMARY.

forms vary in intensity, but where conditions have remained fairly static

or changed but slowly, the use pattern is usually finely adjusted to the

This thesis is in two parts.

conditions. In New Guinea for example, a tribe was discovered

practising a form of agriculture, both they and their agriculture were well attuned to the

soil survey.

PART II is the report of the survey of a sample strip in

the EDINBURGH (CARLSEN) FIELD area in Central Trinidad, on an area

previously mapped by Chenery (1952) as McBean sands to loams, but

which this investigation showed to be of a more silty nature, and

more compatible with the description of Chenery's Freeport Loams.

prevailing. For example, in East Africa today, the better areas are

overcrowded, due to the increase in population in the last fifty years;

the old system of bush fallow is no longer suitable, and the soil fertility

is no longer being maintained. Even in the less populated regions, increase

in the cattle population is having a disastrous effect upon the soil

(East Africa Royal Commission : Report 1955).

In all countries land is ultimately limited, and in some it is

already becoming scarce. In a planned economy, it is essential to know

the quality and extent of all resources. Thus a survey of the land or

soil, and assessment of its value should be a part of the progress of any

country. Because of its scarcity, use of the land should be planned,

taking into consideration the period under which use it is intended to

place the land, and the ease with which it may be converted to another

use. Thus where permanent building is envisaged, one considers that

the planners should not look less than 100 years ahead. These therefore

the more general reasons for and aims of soil survey.

The more directly agricultural aims of soil survey are

indicated by Mellor (1949) and Stephens (1953)* as being to define

areas of reasonable uniformity, such that the experience of the past,