

INTRODUCTION

Since 1956 much work has been done on the soils of the Longdenville-Freeport-Chickland district of Central Trinidad. It is stated in the Supervisor's note of the D.T.A. reports of E.K. Clark and others that there were three purposes for the work.

- (i) to contribute to the solution of problems of land-use policy in Trinidad.
- (ii) to give some information on general problems of maintaining or increasing fertility.
- (iii) to provide training in soil and agricultural surveys and the appraisal of soils.

The present work is largely confined to the second of these purposes with particular reference to peasant agriculture which is widely practised in the district. It is well known that little use of fertilisers is made by peasant farmers in Trinidad. For this reason pot experiments were undertaken to test responses to fertilisers in peasant soils from this district.

In the period 1956 - 1958 soil surveys were made of seven sample strips throughout the district and as a result various suggestions have been put forward as to the agricultural use of the land under study. In 1957 Isherwood and MacDonald (1958) made a semi-detailed soil and agricultural survey of an area South of Longdenville. More recently Obihara (1958) has performed pot experiments to study responses to the major plant nutrients and to the trace elements, whilst Egbe (1960) has done incubation studies to test the nitrification rates of some soils of the district.