

CACAO IN TRINIDAD.Yield and Rainfall.Preface.

In the first instance, the aim of these investigations was to determine whether any correlations existed between the rainfall and the yield of cacao on some Trinidad estates. The data available can not be considered very satisfactory from the statistical standpoint : it was collected from records of estates visited during the Economic Survey, and consists of an heterogenous mass of yield data of varying exactness, and a few examples of more exact rainfall data. The data has been reduced, as far as possible, to a common standard and is presented in Part I. No claim is made of any definite rainfall-yield correlations, but several interesting results have come out of it. These are dealt with in Part II. That definite correlations exist is highly probable, and further study of the data presented would be well worth while. For this reason many tables are included which would otherwise have no bearing on the results given in Part II. Some suggestions are made in Part III of possible lines of investigation, which will be carried out as opportunity occurs, but which are impossible now on account of lack of time to devote to them.

In collecting the data considerable help was given by Mr. E. M. Cook, of the Gold Coast Department of Agriculture, who accompanied me on visits to estates. I am indebted to the managers concerned for the information always freely given of long term yield data, and particularly to Messrs A. H. de Boehmler, R. de Verteuil and B. T. Murray for supplying data of individual fields, of monthly periods, and of rainfall. I am also indebted to the manager of the C. P. A. who afforded me facilities for extracting the information contained in Table XX, out of records, and the several members of the staff of Trinidad Department of Agriculture for rainfall statistics and other information. Use has also been made of information contained in the Survey Reports by Prof. Shephard, which is gratefully acknowledged.