

I N T R O D U C T I O N

It is generally accepted that under any organised system of agriculture, the maintenance of soil fertility depends in part upon the addition of organic matter to the soil.

The development of the composting system in the tropics is taking place with great rapidity, and in recent years, it has been the subject of much research at Agricultural Institutions. Experiments have been conducted at the College for a number of years, primarily with the object of determining the optimum conditions necessary for the production of compost from a variety of raw materials. Few attempts have been made to compare by field trial the manurial value of composts varying in degree of maturity, and it is with this aspect of the problem that the writer is concerned.

The building of compost heaps, particularly from village waste material, has given rise to the suggestion that they may be too suitable as a breeding ground for flies, and thus become a factor in the spread of disease.

To what extent fly breeding takes place in compost heaps made on the College system has also been investigated.