

INTRODUCTION.

Technically the familiar name cacao is only applied to this product after it has passed into the hands of the manufacturer or processor. In all its primary stages of production the crop is referred to as cacao; e.g. the cacao tree, cacao pods, cacao beans etc..

The relative importance of this crop as a world commodity is indicated by the following estimated monetary values of the world's most important crops in 1936.

TABLE I.

Estimated Monetary Values of Important Crops.

World Production of :-	Estimated Monetary Value
Wheat	£ 1,260,000,000
Potatoes	£ 1,000,000,000
Rice	£ 940,000,000
Sugar (Cane and Beet)	£ 560,000,000
Cotton	£ 530,000,000
Coffee	£ 83,000,000
Tea	£ 50,000,000
Cacao	£ 30,000,000

Data collected from the International Year-Book of Agricultural Statistics, 1937-38.

Cacao beans are contained in variously coloured and shaped Pods, which are themselves borne in varying sizes and numbers upon the trunk and branches of the cacao tree (*Theobroma cacao* L., sensu lato).

Botanically, the various authorities do not agree in their systematic definition of the present crop, but the outline given by Cheeseman (1) appears to be the most acceptable to-date.