

JUTE TRIALS.

An Experiment With Two Varieties Carried on at
The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture
Trinidad,
B.W.I.

1926 - 1927.

THE OBJECT OF THE EXPERIMENT.

Owing to the ravages of the froghopper, which has so seriously affected the sugar industry in Trinidad, many schemes were put forward to attempt to alleviate the situation. It was thought that instead of leaving cane to ratoon for so many seasons and thus in a way aiding the froghopper, it would be better to put in a short season rotation crop, preferably of high commercial value which would not be affected by the pest.

It was suggested that Jute might be the crop for two reasons:-

(1). It is a crop of different growing habit from sugar cane, and would, therefore, be suitable for rotation; it needs thorough cultivation which is thought necessary to check the froghopper.

(2). Jute is used in the manufacture of sugar bags in Dundee, which have to be shipped out here. If the planters took up this crop, it might be possible to start a plant here for the manufacture of their own sugar bags.

Following on this some plots were laid down at the College with a view to ascertaining whether the conditions here would allow of Jute cultivation to any extent on the Island.

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