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ABSTRACT

The report takes the form of a primary regional survey of North-East Trinidad. An analysis of its natural resources and present agronomic practices is conducted and suggestions made as to where future secondary surveys should be carried out either to the overall benefit of the region in total, or more specifically, to certain areas/crops within the region.

From an agronomic point of view the region has all the necessary natural inputs to generate a highly productive agriculture; its biggest drawback at present is its rather steep topography. However, it soon appears obvious that far from this being the case, the region as a whole is in decay and the majority of crops in the area produced uneconomically.

The major crops of the region were considered separately. Analysis of their specific markets was conducted, present production figures calculated and the effectiveness of the various Government services analysed. Briefly the findings were:

- (a) By not following a policy of selective felling, large areas of forest reserves are now entirely unproductive.
- (b) The indications are that the cocoa, copra and citrus productions of the region are all in decline.
- (c) The region is ideally suited to coffee production for which there is a guaranteed market and an economic price. Crop diversification from cocoa to coffee is suggested.
- (d) Domestic food crops are mainly grown for self-sufficiency and there is little inter-regional trade.

- (e) Bananas are grown widely on the north coast. These are generally of a poor standard and suitable only for local consumption.

The major reasons for this general state of decay are: (Export) Ltd. -

- (a) Lack of management ability - a direct result of poor education and lack of motivation. in Tropical Agriculture.
- (b) Poor marketing arrangements for domestic food crops and bananas. project.
- (c) Ineffective extension service. interest in its formation.

The report concludes by analysing why these deficiencies are present and puts forward recommendations as to how they may be overcome.

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