

P R E F A C E

The main aim of this project was to study certain aspects pertaining to the storage of crop seeds in Trinidad. This required the storing of seeds under a wide range of conditions and the regular testing of their germination capacity to determine the effect of storage on their viability.

It was found that the existing laboratory germination technique led to various factors - such as the spread of mould over the sample under test - greatly influencing the eventual results. Thus it was decided to examine this problem first and to investigate any possible improvements in the laboratory practice. (Section I).

After these difficulties had been overcome the true effects of the varied storage conditions on the crop seeds were then determined (Section II).

The third section of the project was devoted to investigations into certain legumes which had proved difficult to germinate in previous laboratory tests. Attempts were made to overcome this phenomenon by various seed treatments and to ascertain the eventual effect these treatments had on the ability of the seed to germinate successfully after a period of storage.