

## Introduction.

On the arrival of the writers at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, St. Augustine, Trinidad, early in October 1927, an investigation was started upon the Soy Bean. At this period there were three small plots, of roughly one tenth of an acre each, upon which there were three types of Soy Bean growing. These contiguous plots were at the north end of a field which had been under Tobacco for some time - and have since again gone under Tobacco.

Plot I. consisted of a Venezuelan strain which had been imported from Venezuela.

Plot II. was under an American variety with large brown beans - probably a Biloxi.

Plot III. was under a crop of Indian Soy Beans which had been imported from Darjeeling the previous year.

It was from this material that the subsequent selections were made.

Early in October 1927 the three plots were well on the way to maturity, and all showed vigorous growth and appeared to be quite healthy. It must be borne in mind that the soil they were growing on had been manured more than any other part of the College Farm and consequently they had been given every chance.

The three plots had been sown on July 15th 1927 which is close to the beginning of the rainy season in a normal year. Consequently they were ripening off in the hottest time of the year.

One of the first things to strike the newcomer was the entire absence of root nodules on any of these bean plants.