

Report on the work carried out at the
Government Stock Farm, St. Joseph, TRINIDAD.

by
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Introductory

In an interview with the Professor of Agriculture, Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, at the beginning of the first Term of the 1947/48 Session I was questioned to state what other work in addition to the normal course of studies at the College I would like to undertake. Realising the ever growing importance of Mixed Farming which is now practically non-existent in the tropical African Dependencies where Agriculture is mainly peasant, and having had no previous experience in Livestock work apart from handling ploughing Oxen in Uganda in 1935, I elected to take Livestock with particular reference to management, handling and feeding. As the College had not established as yet a sound Livestock Farm of its own, it became necessary for the Professor of Agriculture to approach the management at the Government Stock Farm, St. Joseph, with a view to asking them if it would be possible to arrange for me to go to that farm at certain times to gain some experience. It was not an easy matter to arrange especially as the Government Stock Farm is outside the control of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. This state of affairs resulted in considerable delay in commencing on the project and it was not until after the end of the second Term that these arrangements were completed and a start made. My first attendance was on Monday, the 22nd March, 1948. In this short course it was laid down that on specified days I should take part in the early morning as well as in the afternoon when routine work is carried out.

It is perhaps well to give a brief description of the Government Stock Farm, St. Joseph, Trinidad. The farm is a section of the Trinidad Department of Agriculture. This farm, which used to be near Port of Spain, the Capitol and chief port of Trinidad, was moved to the present site in 1901. The area of the farm up to 1946 was 340 acres. Another 40 acres were added in that year bringing the area to 380 acres. It is situated approximately two miles west of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture along the Eastern main road.