

(II) INTRODUCTION

The well being of any country which has not been highly industrialized depends upon its agriculture. The people of an agricultural country can only attain a high standard of living if the best use is made of the man power and land available; When considering agriculture a long view must be taken for soil fertility is a capital asset which must be maintained as increased and probable trends of population must be related to the land which must feed and clothe the people. Estate agriculture may increase or decrease but even if it increases a considerable proportion of tropical agriculture will remain in the hands of peasants. The peasant has many inherent disadvantages to overcome, one of the greatest is his lack of education. He is often unable to plan the work of his holding; what to produce, how to dispose of it and the best use to make of the money obtained from its sale.

The area surveyed though small presents many of the problems found among peasant agriculturists all over the tropics. There is serious soil erosion in the northern area with wastage of soil capital and flooding. In the southern area the yield of rice is thought to be falling and ^{no} thought is given to planting material. Much of the man power is wasted; going to and from the holding, cutting fodder for cattle, by bad selection of crops and in marketing.

If any of these problems can be answered in an area like this and more important still if a means can be found of incorporating these findings in the peasants way of life; informations will be available which will be of value over a wide area of the tropics.