

INTRODUCTION

This work is a continuation of work performed at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, to select varieties of Swamp padi for growing under irrigation in Trinidad during the dry season. The original intention of the investigations had been to select varieties that could be grown at this time of the year in order that a source of experimental material might be available. Since the investigations were started it has been decided to enlarge their scope in order to select varieties that might be suitable for commercial use so that two crops could be taken each year. This would be of value in Trinidad where, at present, 55% of the rice that is consumed is imported.

In Trinidad, the dry season occurs from January to April. The main rice crop is harvested in November and, if irrigation were available, it would be possible to grow a second crop for harvest in March or April. During the dry season, day lengths are increasing and this can exert a photoperiodic influence upon the time and evenness of maturity of some varieties. Accordingly it is necessary to select varieties that are particularly adapted to the day length conditions that prevail at this time of the year. In addition, varieties must be chosen with due reference to yield, evenness of height and ripening, standing ability, and resistance to pests, diseases and shattering.