

SOIL EROSION ON AN AREA OF THE NORTHERN RANGE OF TRINIDAD

Introduction

It is only within comparatively recent years that civilised peoples have become fully aware of the existence and world-wide importance of the phenomenon known as soil erosion. Moreover it is only within the present generation that a section of the general public may be said to have become erosion-conscious, and the subject of soil erosion to have become a fashionable subject of conservation and controversy in agricultural circles generally. Like other parts of the world, Trinidad along with the other West Indian islands, has its own erosion problems and though these may not compare in seriousness with those of the Southern States of the U.S.A, or of South or East Africa, they have at any rate been the subject of much discussion and some disquiet. It was accordingly with the purpose of examining the position as regards soil erosion in the Northern Range of Trinidad, that the author and Mr. E.C.M.Green, Refresher Student undertook a survey of an area of the range during the present College session. The ensuing paper is an account of our survey. In Part I a restricted area of the Northern Range is examined in detail and from the point of soil erosion. In Part II the conclusions reached are used to examine the position in the Northern Range as a whole and with special reference to soil conservation and remedial methods that might be put into force. It must be stressed at this point that our observations were exploratory and our suggestions^{ave} tentative. The subject is one of such importance as to warrant a full scale survey at the earliest possible opportunity.