

REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL INVESTIGATIONS
IN THE ZUARUNGU DISTRICT, 1932.

INTRODUCTION.

This report deals with agricultural investigations carried out during the 1932 season into the alleged food shortage in the district around Zuarungu in the Northern Province of the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast. (See sketch map of the district.)

2. In the past many generalisations have been made concerning the economic position of the district but no specific investigation has been carried out over a period long enough to give valid information in sufficient detail. A paper by Muir and Williams, "Agriculture in the Navrongo and Zuarungu Districts" (1) records the results of observations made during a limited period in 1930; the work this season goes over similar ground but in greater detail for one complete cropping period. Dr. McCulloch, Dietetics Research Officer, Nigeria, has written a report upon "Food shortage at Navrongo, Gold Coast", (2) but its scope is limited by the fact that observations were made in a single day at the beginning of the growing season. Local agriculture and native customs are inseparable and "Natives of the Northern Territories" (Cardinal) (3) in recording the customs of the people, provides definite information which can be linked up with many of the agricultural practices common to the District.

3. In order that the cause of the food shortage could be diagnosed correctly and suitable ameliorative measures could be suggested, it was necessary first to obtain sound, information upon the present economic position of the farmer, his crops, system of cropping, yields etc. Work during this season has been concerned mainly with obtaining this information.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE.

SCOPE OF REPORT.

In presenting the data in this report it has been divided for convenience into three sections, with an introduction, a summary, and various appendices. The first section, General Notes on the District, contains general matter pertinent to the investigation ; the second deals with the results of definite investigations into areas, yields, and farming methods ; and the third, is a discussion of findings in relation to the food problem.