

THE DESIRABILITY AND POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVEMENTIN THE CACAO PRODUCING INDUSTRYINTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The present comparatively unprofitable state of the cacao producing industry in Trinidad and elsewhere has stimulated enquiry into the possibility of placing the grower in a happier economic position.

There has been recent movement on the part of the manufacturers of cacao products and the colonies concerned with producing the raw product towards the formation of a comprehensive long term research scheme (1). The purposes of this paper are.-

1. Briefly to review the economic condition of the industry during the period 1900 - 1930 and to examine the possible effects and desirability of a research scheme to provide "improvements" in an industry which at present is suffering from overproduction.
2. To mention possible methods of "improvement", special emphasis being laid on the provision of better types of tree - a branch of the subject in which the writer is particularly interested. To discuss the methods of obtaining better types of trees and their possible measure of success.
3. To record the results of some experimental work which may be regarded as of fundamental importance in the provision of improved types of cacao trees.