

BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM

Imports, Local Production and Consumption of Milk

At present, Trinidad and Tobago import some \$14 million worth of milk and milk products (Table I).

TABLE I. IMPORTS OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS (N.T. \$ MILLION)
(GOVT. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE)

INTRODUCTION

In an effort to improve and expand the local dairy industry, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has set up a Pilot Dairy Scheme. This consists of five farms, of approximately 20 acres each, in the Waller Field area. It is hoped to demonstrate the economic feasibility of producing milk on a commercial scale on such poor soil types as are found in this and many other parts of Trinidad, where the growing of cash crops is not practicable.

This report presents an analysis of the farm records and accounts since the initial settlement of the farmers twenty months previously. The analysis covers three main objectives:-

1. to determine the costs per gallon of producing milk on the farms under study,
2. to investigate the economic viability of these dairy farms at present cost/price relationships, and
3. to attempt to estimate the minimum size of unit that will give the operator a net farm income of \$1,800, when dairying on these poor soil types.

TABLE II. MARKET PRICES OF MILK

Form of Milk	Price per pint of liquid milk equivalent
Powdered whole milk in 5 lb. tins	13.5¢
Powdered skim milk in 5 lb. tins	7.0¢
Evaporated milk in 14½ oz. tins	14.5¢
Condensed milk in 14½ oz. tins	12.0¢
Locally produced liquid fresh milk (retail)	22 - 26¢

The question arises as to whether one should rely on imports from countries which can produce much more cheaply (Table III).