

Section 1.

### INTRODUCTION.

The usual procedure in Trinidad rice growing is to start the crop in a nursery and then transplant it to the field, which is laborious and not suitable for large scale production. This experiment was conducted, possibly as the first of a series, to see how similar or better yields could be obtained by drilling or broadcasting; for if they could be, one of the drawbacks to large scale production would be removed and a less laborious method be available to peasant producers.

The experimental treatments to this end were designed to eradicate obvious advantages inherent in, but not fundamental to, the methods of sowing, as they would mask any real differences in yielding ability. The foremost of these was weed infestation. Transplanting naturally suffers little weed competition in early growth and to overcome this immediate advantage the broadcast treatment and half of the drilled were to be sown with germinated seed, to try to get a rapid cover and give weeds less opportunity to gain entry - only half of the drilled seed would be germinated because sowing it might be difficult and soaked seed might establish almost as quickly. In later growth the transplanted and drilled treatments could be weeded by hand while the broadcast could not, so half of it was to be sprayed with a chemical herbicide and in case this had some effect over and above its effect on weeds, half the transplanted treatment, which would be weeded by hand, would be sprayed as well.

Significant differences in yield, if they occurred, should be due then to other, probably more fundamental causes and the value of the experiment lay in the opportunity afforded for evaluating these causes and suggesting means of overcoming them.