

INTRODUCTION

This project is an enquiry into the potential of extension methods for improving the Trinidad cane farming industry, with special reference to cultivators delivering canes to Orange Grove Estate.

The title suggests three processes, all of which form essential parts of agricultural extension.

1. A situation in which one, or relatively few, farmers have adopted an innovation of their own accord - the actual process of adoption occurring as the innovation is taken up by others.
2. A situation in which an innovation is introduced to cane farmers from outside, perhaps by Government persuasion, aimed along clearly foreseen lines, for achieving a socially and economically desirable goal.
3. A situation in which an innovation is forced upon cane farmers no matter what their attitudes may be.

Since Trinidad is a free country the latter 'autocratic' approach scarcely applies. Attention is therefore concentrated on the first two situations: that of the 'laissez-faire' approach, and that of the 'democratic' progressive approach.

Chapter One gives a background picture of cane farming.

Chapter Two describes the methods chosen for conducting this enquiry.

Chapter Three discusses the present situation of cane farmers with reference to certain innovations selected for study. Since they have largely been left to their own devices, this chapter is, in an important sense, a critique of 'laissez-faire'.

Chapter Four discusses the targets which should be aimed at, how they could be achieved, and the role which extension should play as a 'democratic' approach to solving cane farmers' problems, and to realizing their potential.