

## INTRODUCTION

Pangola Grass (Digitaria decumbens Stent.), introduced to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture from Surinam and Costa Rica in 1953 - Dadey (1955) - has been chosen from the grasses available here as being one of great promise. This promise has not been tried out fully on an experimental basis however, and yet the Department of Agriculture are going as far as to offer subsidies to those who plant it, and, have planted it on their own stations at Centeno and Government Stock Farm, St. Joseph.

Undoubtedly it is a good grass and perhaps it is the best grass available for use as a pasture grass here in the wet tropics, but how does it compare with Toco Grass (Ischaemum aristatum L.) or say Lucuntu Grass (Ischaemum timorense Kunth.) both of which are of the same growth habit?

Answering these questions is not the aim of this project however nor could it be for it will take years to find out which grass will be the best grazing grass for this and every area of the wet tropics. The fact remains that it is the policy of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture to plant this grass and try it as a grazing grass for its dairy herd. What Pangola Grass as is available on the College Farms has stood up to the grazing but little is known about it and even less is known about the best means of establishing it under Trinidad conditions.

It was with this aim, to find the best means of establishing Pangola Grass, that the following project was laid down at I.C.T.A. New College Farm, November 1957.

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