

STUDIES IN TROPICAL POULTRY NUTRITION

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Tropical Animal Nutrition is yet to be developed. Little critical work has been undertaken and as a consequence published literature on this subject is almost non-existent. This state of affairs stems from the fact that livestock feeding in the tropics has not been the object of scientific investigation to the same extent as it has been in the temperate countries, largely because of the lack of education and interest. In most of the colonial territories, livestock keeping occupies a secondary place in agriculture, most of the attention being paid to cash and provision crops.

The beginning of scientific agriculture in tropical territories is quite recent, and animal nutrition is an important part of any agricultural improvement policy. Better standards of animal nutrition will be possible as tropical territories improve their homegrown food production. Besides the desire to maintain soil fertility, there is, amongst tropical peoples, a growing desire to adopt better standards of livestock nutrition. A rising standard of living implies a greater use of animal products such as milk, cheese, eggs, meat, etc., all of which are being more widely used in the diets of tropical peoples. Whereas animals used to be allowed to fend for themselves, it has now become imperative that they be managed in an organised fashion in order to produce economically.