

I. INTRODUCTION.

The present investigation forms part of a project started by the Soil Science and Chemistry Department in 1956. That project is intended to serve three purposes :-

1. to contribute to the solution of problems of land use policy in Trinidad;
2. to give some information on general problems of maintaining or increasing fertility;
3. to provide training in soil and agricultural surveys and the appraisal of soils. ⁽¹⁾

Work conducted in 1956/57 emphasised the fact that drainage is a limiting factor on the heavy soils of Central Trinidad. No satisfactory method of estimating the permeability of the soils was immediately available. Data on soil structure, mottling etc. included in normal profile descriptions was inadequate for differentiating between soils with regard to drainage.

The present study was therefore designed with three objects in view :-

1. To investigate the possibility of making quantitative measurements of soil permeability.
2. To determine a more precise method of estimating permeability from the appearance of the soil in the field.
3. To study and compare the drainage and related characteristics of two Trinidad soils.

(1) From Supervisor's note in 1957 D.T.A. Reports by Clark, E.K. and others.