

EXPERIMENTS IN GROWING SHORT TERM CROPS
ON THE FLAT AND IN BANKS (RIDGES)
WITH OBSERVATIONS ON MOISTURE AND AERATION.

INTRODUCTION.

Time being a limiting factor to the scope of the project, it was decided to choose one short term crop, namely Maize for the observations which are recorded in this paper.

There is no record of previous work on this subject, having been done in Trinidad. It was thought that, in the cultivation of such crops as Maize and Soy Bean on the heavier soils during the wet season, the use of banks would produce better conditions for growth in the form of better drainage and aeration. Very wet and even water-logged conditions are likely to prevail in the soil over much of the period June to December each year. Apart from quicker drainage when the crop is ridged, it was thought that incident rain would run off the ridges quickly and if the furrows between be given adequate outlet, decrease the amount of standing water in the field. This in effect would reduce the absorption by the soil of the incident rainfall.

Assuming then that all this occurred, the objects of the following experiments were an attempt to ascertain whether any advantages were significant and vice versa. From a practical point of view, the advantages, if any, would have to be set against the costs of initial cultivation, greater in the ridged crop than in the flat.

There is a paucity of other work done on this subject, but what has been done is mainly American, and will be discussed later in the paper.