

INTRODUCTION

In the two previous years, Colonial Agricultural Probationers have carried out general agricultural surveys of the areas surrounding the College, the object being to familiarise them with the technique of agricultural surveys, as a preliminary to investigation, research and extension.

A mass of data has now accumulated on the general agricultural practices of peasant farmers in the St. Augustine and surrounding areas. On the suggestion of Mr. C.W. Lynn, Acting Professor of Agriculture and Lecturer in Agricultural Advisory and Extension Methods, students this year have been able to choose one from a number of specific features of the agricultural economy that now require further investigation.

This particular report is devoted to a study of the place of cattle in the local economy; it was thought that the experience of such a survey would be of use in later years since cattle play an important part in most systems of peasant agriculture in the British Colonial Empire.

In itself this report is very general and attempts to cover the systems of feeding, breeding and management, dairying and the use of work oxen and buffaloes. A section has been included on pen manure since it is felt that cattle play an important part in the maintenance of soil fertility.

The salient feature of the local cattle husbandry and which deserves mention here is that in all but a few cases no crop whatsoever, not even grass is grown for the prime purpose of providing fodder. Therefore, apart from providing manure and power for cultivation cattle are almost completely divorced from the local crop husbandry, a situation rarely met with in temperate agriculture.

The report would be of little meaning without any background information or reference to the local systems of agriculture, so is thus divided into two short sections dealing with background and systems of agriculture, the third main section on cattle, followed by a final section dealing with recommendations and conclusions.

Appendices, Maps and Diagrams are included.