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It naturally followed that the behaviour of  
in its new environment and the results of field experiments  
looked

**§ 1. INTRODUCTION.**

The cultivation of Soya Beans was first started in 1927 on the College Farm, where it was grown with the object of discovering the economic value of this crop, if any, under Trinidad conditions of crop husbandry.

From ancient times the Soya Bean has been one of the principal staple foods of the peoples of the Eastern Hemisphere. An idea of its immense popularity can best be gauged by quoting figures of the acreage under cultivation in the principal Soya Bean growing countries:

TABLE I.

	1914	1918	1920
	Acreage	Acreage	Acreage
Manchuria	3,331,057	12,000,000	12,000,000
Japan	1,153,000	1,072,000	1,072,000
U. S. A.	169,000	169,000	190,000

Figures are not available for Korea, but it is reported to be the second largest producer of Soya Beans.

In the United States of America, the Soya Bean has roused considerable interest during recent years amongst farmers in the Corn Belt, where it is being grown on increasing acreages, primarily as a forage crop.

This is of course, contrary to normal practice in the East, where the oil, extracted from the seed, is the only matter of consideration. The plant is a native of Eastern Asia in its wild state, and therefore when grown in the U.S.A. or Trinidad is far remote from its natural habitat. However, provided the plant could adapt itself to local conditions of soil and climate, it was thought that it might prove a valuable asset to cane planters as a cover crop for sugar cane. At the time of its introduction to Trinidad, a special effort on the part of cane farmers was being made to find a better type of cover crop to suit their particular requirements.