

PIG HUSBANDRY in the St. Augustine Area of
Trinidad; Present Position, Limita-
tions and Potentialities.

INTRODUCTION.

A recommendation contained in the West Indian Royal Commission of 1938-39 (Cmd. 6174, page 20 para.20) is as follows :

"The outstanding agricultural need in the West Indies is more intensive use of the land, with increased production of food in order to support a rapidly growing population. The most urgent need is the development of peasant agriculture. ----- The practice of shifting cultivation by peasant farmers must be abandoned and replaced by an organised system of mixed farming."

2. This report is written as a first step towards achieving a more intensive use of the land, but is directed towards a single item, which is essentially part of a mixed farming system. The first step indicated by the Commission, was to survey the present system of peasant agriculture for the purpose of devising better peasant farming systems. With this view in mind then, it was decided to study the husbandry of pigs in the St. Augustine Area of Trinidad; to show as far as possible the background of the people, land and crops, which are relative to this study; and to describe the practices of pig keeping.

3. The scope of the survey is confined to the St. Augustine Area of Trinidad as shown on the sketch map. The words "St. Augustine Area" are here used loosely to describe the land within a two mile radius of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. In this area many pigs and pig keepers were contacted; from the size and shape of the former and the happy indifference of the latter, it was quite safe to conclude that teaching, knowledge and literature on the subject of pigs would be in short supply. This proved to be correct and the report is an effort to indicate the level of knowledge and the starting points for investigation and later extension.

4. It was encouraging however to find that many pigs existed, even though they must prove to be of little economic value; filling

more the role of household pets when the weaner takes up to 18 months to become a reasonable bacon weight pig. It was felt that surely there must be a place for pig husbandry amongst these people, and that they would take up an improved system if they were taught sound principles based on investigations on all the local problems.

5. This report is divided up into three parts, which are also an indication of the order in which the work was undertaken. To these three parts are added an Introduction, Summary and Conclusions, Acknowledgments and Appendices. The first part - General Background Information, includes the setting of the picture regarding land, climate and human factors. The second part deals with the local agricultural situation in special relation to pig keeping. The final part deals with suggestions for investigations preliminary to a policy for pig keeping developments.

*Small grass
Main roads
Rivers
Streams*

Scale 1 inch = 0.25 mile