

INTRODUCTION

A survey was carried out between October 1956 and May 1957 of a small area of land near Freeport, in the Caroni/Montserrat district of Central Trinidad. The primary object was to identify the soil types present and to determine any significant variations from those described and mapped by CHENERY (3) in the period 1926-1948.

This survey is intended to form part of a more extensive investigation into soil variations in Central Trinidad to be carried out in the future. As such, it is one of six separate surveys, each covering a similarly sized area of land, carried out at the same time by Messrs. Clark, Dickin, Orr, Smethurst, Weare and the writer.

The land chosen for the survey is part of an area of approximately 4500 acres lying around Freeport, consisting of savannah and secondary bush, with shifting cultivation and small areas of tree-crops in places. This area was in 1944 designated as "land recommended as unsuitable for agriculture, and to be transferred to the Crown for allocation as forestry development, subject to the results of a more detailed soil survey." (8)

It is felt that the recommendations of the Land Allocation Policy committee cannot be taken as final, and that agricultural development of a large part of Central Trinidad might be feasible. It is partly for this reason that the above investigations have been instituted.

The report submitted herewith is based primarily on a detailed soil survey of a sample strip with secondary investigations into vegetation as a guide to understanding present and possible land use.

As one of the primary aims of the survey was to gain experience in methods and to appreciate the problems involved in systematic investigations, a fairly general approach has been made rather than a specialised study of any particular aspect.