

## INTRODUCTION

Several experiments have been conducted to investigate the effects of hatching at different times of the year. An early worker in this field was Garé (1942) who, working at Ithaca, hatched birds in each month. At the present time the poultry industry makes a substantial contribution to world agricultural output. Organised poultry keeping is mainly confined to temperate areas but in recent years some tropical countries have developed a poultry industry. Previously in such countries, and still the case in many, poultry were kept in small numbers and allowed to scavenge for food.

Trinidad has developed quite a substantial poultry industry and it seems likely that its growth will continue to be rapid so long as present levels of profitability continue. Since organised poultry keeping in the tropics is of recent origin there has been little research conducted in order to study the various aspects of poultry husbandry there.

This report is the continuation of a study begun in 1960 by Okediran to investigate the effect of month of hatch on the various factors affecting total production of eggs. The experiment is in the nature of a preliminary trial with no replication and small numbers of birds. It is hoped that further more detailed work will follow.