

I N T R O D U C T I O N .

The need for a greater knowledge of peasant agriculture in Trinidad has become very apparent, and until recently very little work has been done on surveys of peasant agriculture in order to obtain that knowledge. Until such survey work has been carried out and investigations made by setting up experimental peasant holdings it is futile to attempt to improve the peasant agriculture and raise the standard of living of the peasants. The Department of Agriculture has been carrying out investigations on the crops grown, and yields obtained by peasants. This work necessarily takes considerable time, but fairly extensive areas have now been covered by Agricultural Officers and Crop Record Sheets have been compiled. The Department of Agriculture at the Imperial College has now started its programme for investigation of peasant agriculture by means of experimental holdings. This experiment is designed to enable the department to work out from the results the most suitable size and type of holding for land settlement. The object of the present survey has been to collect information as to the present state of peasant agriculture in Trinidad which may prove of some value in the working out of a policy for improvement of the peasants' agricultural practice. Unfortunately the area surveyed has of necessity been limited due to the lack of time but I think has been sufficient to bring to light several points of interest which are worthy of further investigation - points which may help in the development of a new and far-sighted policy for the improvement of peasant agriculture in Trinidad.