

1. INTRODUCTION.

In the past, the control of cocoa pod pathogens using fungicides has only been attempted experimentally in the field. Today, with the rapid development of new chemicals, such as the latest copper and organic fungicides, it would, in practise, be impossible to try all of them in this manner, due to such factors as prohibitive cost, time, limited acreages of available cocoa and more important, diseased cocoa. The main idea behind the present study, then, was to develop some simple, rapid, laboratory technique whereby samples of new fungicides could be tested. From the results the most promising ones might be selected for putting into field trials later.

At the same time, in the case of Phytophthora palmivora, very simple, restricted trials of fungicides on pods in the field, might indicate correlation with results obtained in the laboratory.

As the work proceeded, alterations, in both the object and the programme, became necessary. These are mentioned in the text and later in the discussion.