

## INTRODUCTION

This is a semi-detailed survey of a 600 acre block of largely derelict land, which a 1944 Land Advisory Committee recommended should be given to the Forestry Department. The area includes three sample strips surveyed in detail last year. The purpose of this survey is to investigate the soils, the vegetation, the livestock, and discuss prospects of grass farming on these soils.

This survey project is one of several that will be carried out in the Caparo River Basin over the next few years. It is hoped that these projects will serve three purposes: (Supervisor's note in D.T.A. Reports on soil survey projects 1957).

(1) contribute to the solution of land-use policy in Trinidad. The choice of the neighbourhood of Freeport and Edinburgh Field was influenced by comments of Dr. Greene in 1956. He was impressed by the extent of unproductive semi-derelict land, with considerable range of upland soil types, in Central Trinidad, and suggested it might possibly be better at this stage to spend money on fertilizers to make some of these areas productive, than to proceed with a very costly scheme to reclaim the Nariva Swamp.

(2) give some information on general problems of maintaining or increasing fertility, especially in strongly leached latosols\*. Types of general problems which will later be investigated include (a) fixation of atmospheric nitrogen (b) accumulation of O.M. and its transformations (c) effects of lime.

(3) provide training in soil and agricultural surveys and the appraisal of soils.

Parts of the survey were done jointly with K.F. Isherwood (D.T.A. Report 1958). These parts consist of:

- (1) Fieldwork
  - (a) a chain and compass survey of the area.
  - (b) marking in traverses.
  - (c) soil sampling ;