

LITERATURE REVIEW

INTRODUCTION.

Besides serving as an introduction to the crop, the purpose of this project is to examine the effect of plant population, method of sowing and nutrition on the yield of two varieties of groundnuts.

The first part of the report is taken up with a brief review of work already conducted, on the above agronomical factors, in other parts of the world. Part two deals with two experiments conducted on the College Old Farm in the 1957/58 season and the final section is devoted to a discussion of the results.

In Trinidad, groundnuts are not grown commercially, though there is a good local demand. In 1957, 467,182 pounds were imported, valued at \$493,436. The main exporting countries to Trinidad are British countries in Africa, Union of South Africa, India, Netherlands, China and St. Vincent (Gov. Trinidad and Tobago Report, 1956).

At the present time groundnuts in the shell are 35 cents per pound in St. Vincent and at this price it should be profitable to grow the crop in Trinidad, providing good yields can be obtained.

Therefore, this experiment was undertaken to see what would be the most suitable agricultural practices to adopt to produce maximum yields. It must be borne in mind that the available literature on the agronomy of groundnuts is drawn from many parts of the world, where the soil, systems of agriculture and climate vary greatly and consequently this investigation is one of an exploratory nature rather than specific.