

I. CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SURVEY.

This survey was conducted in part fulfilment of the Diploma of Tropical Agriculture of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, B.W.I.

2. INTRODUCTION.

i. General.

The ability of Anacardium occidentale to survive and to produce reasonable crops on a soil type such as exists on the Mousica Savanna, is characteristic of the species. It appears to be tolerant both in regard to poor soil structure and low nutrient status. In Trinidad, the species is found scattered over soil so poor as to be almost infertile - in areas of waste ground where other crops would prove unprofitable - if they grew at all.

In all countries where A. occidentale is grown, it is more common as a naturalized plant, than as a plantation crop. Also, the technical problems of plantation crops are in some cases given a disproportionately large amount of attention as compared with their economic aspects, where the latter, especially in times of low price levels and scanty profits, are really of fundamental importance.

It is the purpose of this preliminary survey to investigate the cultivation of cashew nuts on a plantation basis, with particular reference to the inherently poor soil on which the particular orchard is situated.