

## INTRODUCTION

This survey was carried out between October 1948 and June 1949, the object being to obtain a broad picture of peasant agriculture in the St. Augustine - Streatham Lodge area immediately to the south of the College. The survey was to have a dual function. Firstly to provide experience in carrying out a general agricultural survey and to demonstrate its importance as the logical starting point in any agricultural development. Secondly to obtain information which might be useful to the college in any agricultural extension programme which it might be in a position to embark on at a future date.

The survey area is approximately 700 acres of low lying, fairly flat land, inhabited almost entirely by East Indians who live gregariously, cultivate small scattered holdings of cane, rice and provisions, keep a few livestock for a variety of purposes, and are mostly dependent on the neighbouring sugar estates for part of their livelihood.

Right from the start it was apparent that this area had one very big advantage from the survey point of view, namely the extreme friendliness of the Indians. But at the same time a big difficulty became clear, namely the difficulty in obtaining really reliable, accurate information on such things as size of holdings and crop yields, which was the kind of information which was badly needed.