

INTRODUCTION.

The Colonial Agricultural Probationers' surveys of peasant farming were undertaken with the guidance of Mr. C.W. Lynn, Lecturer in Agricultural Advisory and Extension Methods.

The object was to familiarise the student with the technique of agricultural surveys, as a preliminary to investigation, research and extension work, and to serve as a basis for any extension work which the College may undertake in the future. Agricultural extension should be a function of the local Department of Agriculture and the college should only undertake this work for the purpose of demonstrating to and training students in the methods involved.

On account of transport difficulties an area near the College had to be used. Crops and cultivations in the district are diverse but unfortunately the area is predominantly urban and the large majority of the cultivators are not true peasants but wage earners who subsidise their earnings, in direct contrast to the true peasants with whom most of the probationers will be dealing in their Colonies.

The survey was undertaken between October 1948 and June 1949.

It afforded me adequate opportunity of seeing the small cultivator at work, talking to him and familiarising myself with many tropical crops and fruits - this forming perhaps its most useful function.

The report contains a general survey of the area, giving background information, accounts of the agriculture of the lowland and hill areas, and recommendations for ~~the~~ improvement~~s~~ of the agriculture. The appendices contain lists of crops and fruits cultivated, descriptions of soil types, rainfall distribution and a note on share cropping practised by the St. Benedict Monastery Estate. A general map of the whole area and a soil map of the southern area are included.

Photographs, other than those acknowledged, were taken by the writer.