

P A R T I

A Survey of Chemical Weed Control in Sugar Cane

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Object of Survey

This survey was undertaken with the object of reviewing the chemical methods of weed control employed in the growing of sugar cane. Reference has been made to the literature available and information has also been obtained from the Agronomists of Caroni Ltd., Trinidad and the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co.Ltd., Trinidad during excursions to these estates. Information on chemical weed control practices in British Guiana was obtained from Dr. H. Evans, Agricultural Director of Bookers' Sugar Estates Ltd. while on a recent visit to one of this Company's estates.

In this report special reference has been made to work done in the B.W.I. where the data have been available.

2. A brief History of Chemical Weed Control in Sugar Cane.

Chemical weed control in sugar cane has been widely accepted only since the discovery of the herbicidal properties of certain synthetic phenoxyacetic acid compounds. Prior to this discovery (which took place during World War II) the weed killers available were restricted from general use because they were either too damaging to the crop, corrosive to machinery, poisonous or too expensive to use in effective dosages. The herbicidal phenoxyacetic acid compounds overcame most of these limitations; when used with certain precautions they are harmless to sugar cane, are easy to handle and are effective in sufficiently small doses to render their use economical in many instances.