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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND
FARM MANAGEMENT

PROCEEDINGS
of the
SECOND WEST INDIAN
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE

held at the

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES,
ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD

April 7 - 11, 1967

Editor : Kenneth A. Leslie
Lecturer in Agricultural Economics

FOREWORD

— by —

D. T. Edwards

*Head, Department of Agricultural Economics and
Farm Management*

U.W.I., St. Augustine.

The success of the First West Indian Agricultural Economics Conference led to the decision that Annual Conferences should be held. As the Foreword to the Proceedings of the First Conference envisaged, the Second Conference covered a much narrower range of subjects, which allowed for much greater concentration on a few subjects.

Four subjects were covered : the Economics of Root Crops ; the Banana Industry ; Land-use Planning and Policy ; and, The Social Aspects of Agricultural Development. The first two sessions —devoted to the Economics of Root Crops — took the form of combined meetings with the Tropical Root Crop Symposium, which was being held at St. Augustine at about the same time, under the aegis of the Faculty of Agriculture.

The wide support given to the Conference is well illustrated by the diverse origin of the authors of the twenty-one papers. In addition to the staff of the University of the West Indies and overseas Universities, and post-graduate students of the University of the West Indies, papers were written by staff of Commonwealth Caribbean Governments, of a United Nations Agency with a local Regional Office, Commodity Research Organisations, and of Commercial Firms.

The proceedings of the First Conference have been extremely well received. The interest evinced by the volume would appear to reflect the demand for material on the economics of agriculture in the area. In response to this interest an attempt is being made to publish the proceedings of the Second Conference much more quickly than was possible for the First Conference. An important innovation is also being made by including reports of the discussions which followed the presentation of the papers. This will make the proceedings much more complete and useful as a permanent record of the Conference.

It is not possible to identify the full impact of the Conferences, but it is indisputable that considerable benefits have been generated. One clear and unique contribution is the rapidly

growing sense of community, through contact between persons from various territories and varied responsibilities, with a common interest in the economic problems of agriculture.

Among the many persons who contributed to the success of the Conference, Mr. Kenneth Leslie of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management of the University of the West Indies stands out, for his organisation of the Conference and the editing and publication of these proceedings.

Thanks are due to the organizations in the Area and, especially the Governments, which supported the work of the Conference by enabling members of staff to attend. Some commercial firms also assisted in other ways: the Shell (Trinidad) Limited in meeting part of the cost of printing these Proceedings; Sanbach Motors Limited, by providing the excellent services of the Sanbach City Syncopators Steel Orchestra and Angostura Limited, for organizing the refreshments at the Cocktail Party held for the participants of the Conference.

EDITOR'S NOTE

by

Kenneth A. Leslie

*Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics and
Farm Management*

The papers and discussions contained in this volume represent, apart from some minor revisions, a verbatim record of three of the five Sessions of the Second West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference. The papers and discussions of the first two Sessions dealt with the "Economics of Root Crop Production," and are being published along with other papers presented at the First International Symposium on Tropical Root Crops in the Proceedings of the Symposium.

The papers and discussions here published are in the same order in which they appeared in the programme. A list of the participants to the Conference and of Liaison Officers for the respective territories is presented at the end of the volume.

The Editor wishes to thank all persons who assisted in making the proceedings possible, and in particular, the many persons who contributed papers and Mr. Winston Phillips who acted as Rapporteur for the several sessions of the Conference.

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THE BANANA INDUSTRY
in
LATIN AMERICA and THE CARIBBEAN

Chairman : Mr. A. Mc Intyre¹

Introduction

I need hardly say how important the subject for discussion is to people who are concerned with economic development in the Caribbean, because it is perhaps platitudinous to emphasise the crucial significance of the Banana Industry in several of the Caribbean territories.

We have with us this morning a very distinguished list of speakers. First of all, Mr. Silbourne Clarke, the Director of the E.C.L.A. Office in the Caribbean, who is going to speak on "Some Aspects of the Banana Industry in Latin America"; he is going to be followed by Mr. B. Persaud of the I.S.E.R. in Barbados, who has for the past two or three years been working continuously on problems of agricultural development in the Windward and Leeward Islands, and he is going to speak on the "Economics of Banana Production in the Windwards"; then we have a contribution from one of the Windward Islands itself, coming from Mr. M. White of Dominica who, I believe, is an Administrative Officer in the Ministry of Communications in Dominica but will shortly be going to the Marketing Board in that island. And finally, we shall have Mr. I. Twyford who is in charge of the "WINBAN" Research Scheme and who is a former colleague in the sense that he was hitherto on the staff of the University.

So ladies and gentlemen, I may hardly say that an interesting morning awaits us and without further comment I would like to pass the microphone on to Mr. Clarke, who as I said, is going to deal with the Banana Industry in Latin America.

1

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