AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
http://ageconsearch.umn.edu
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

PROCEEDINGS

of the

FIFTH WEST INDIAN

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE

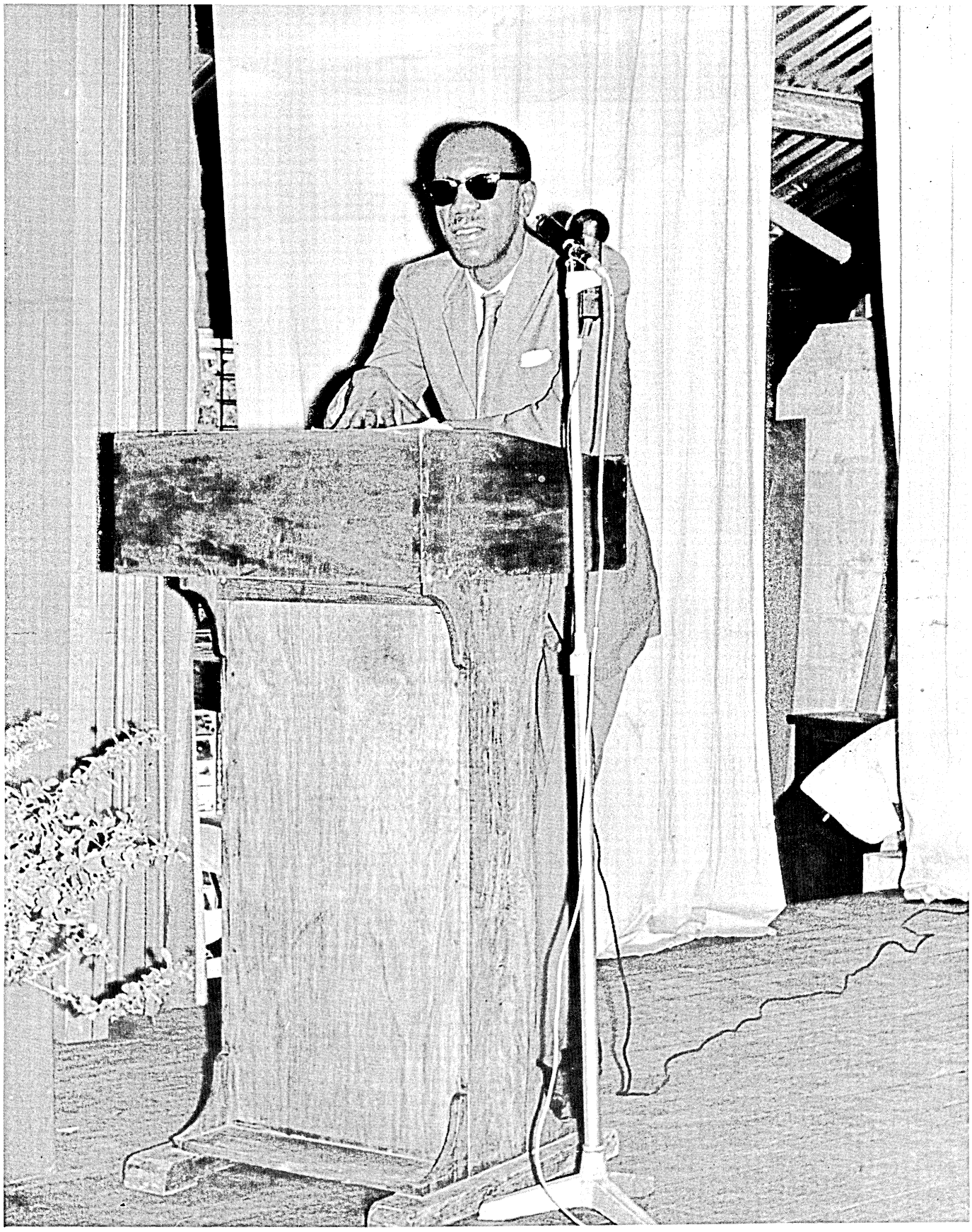
held at

ROSEAU, DOMINICA

April 5th – 11th, 1970

DEPT AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
& FARM MANAGEMENT
U.W.I. ST AUGUSTINE,
TRINIDAD W.I.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND
FARM MANAGEMENT



MR. W.G. DEMAS, SECRETARY-GENERAL, CARIFTA SECRETARIAT, DELIVERING THE FEATURE ADDRESS.

FOREWORD

The Fifth West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference was held in Dominica during 5th to 11th April 1970. This was the first Conference in the Series to be held away from a Campus of the University of the West Indies. However, the Conference was sponsored by the University and was organised by a Local Committee in conjunction with the Department of Agricultural Economics of the University. The Local Organising Committee, led by Dr. Bernard Yankey and Mr. Frank Watty, must take considerable credit for the satisfactory arrangements, despite the large number of participants and the limited accommodation for visitors in the Island.

A record number of persons (130) participated in the Conference. Sixty-seven persons travelled to Dominica specially for the Conference, most from other Countries in the Commonwealth Caribbean. A small number of participants travelled from Surinam, Martinique, Guadeloupe, United States of America and Canada. The Conference was attended by an unusually large number of farmers from Dominica and a Government-sponsored group of farmers from Grenada. Though the Conference was not designed to cater particularly to farmer-participants, their presence was occasionally salutary in bringing discussion 'down to earth'.

Two main themes were followed in the meetings: the "Prospects for Developing Agriculture in the Small Caribbean Commonwealth Territories" and "The Role of the Small-scale Farmer in the Caribbean Economy". The Conference Programme commenced with a Feature Address to a well attended public session by Mr. William Demas, the Secretary-General of the Regional Secretarial of Carifta. The Address, which was followed by a long and lively discussion, provided a background to both major themes.

About twenty papers were presented. An unusually high proportion drew on research which had been conducted by the authors. In a few cases field surveys were carried out specially to provide data for the

Dept. of Agricultural
Economics & Farm Management
U. W. I, St. Augustine
Trinidad, W. I.

papers. In this respect the Fifth Conference represented a positive response to one of the recommendations made at the Fourth Conference -" ... that relevant empirical studies should make a greater contribution to the Conference papers" (from the "Foreword" to the Proceedings of the Fourth West Indian Agricultural Economics Conference). Despite the wide range of interesting case studies of small farming - and partly because of the number of the papers - little progress was made in resolving, by discussion, various views on the role of small farming in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

There was preliminary discussion at the Conference on the need to institutionalise the organisation of the Conference Series while continuing to benefit from the sponsorship of the University of the West Indies. The Discussions will be continued at subsequent Conference.

The decision to hold the Sixth Conference in Guyana was confirmed. It was agreed that the Conference should be organised by a Local Committee. The final decisions on dates and theme were to be taken by the Local Committee. It has been decided that the Conference will be held from March 28th to April 3rd, 1971 on the Campus of the University of Guyana. The theme will be "The Role of Marketing in Caribbean Agricultural Development".

D.T. EDWARDS
Head, Dept. of Agricultural Economics
U.W.I., Trinidad & Tobago

EDITORS' NOTE

The papers which have been published in these Proceedings discuss the two themes of the 5th West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference. These were:

> "The prospects for developing agriculture in the small Caribbean Commonwealth territories" "The role of the small-scale farmer in the Caribbean economy".

All but two of the papers presented have been published, the ommissions being for technical reasons. In addition, three papers which were distributed but not read have not been published.

In a few cases, the revised version of an original paper has been published, with the author's approval. In other cases authors consented to minor modifications.

Papers have been published in the order in which they were distributed at the Conference. No attempt has been made to produce the Proceedings in two sections, each relating to one of the two themes. It was felt that the themes are both strongly related and part of the wider theme of agricultural development which was discussed at the 3rd West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference in 1968. As such, it is difficult to conceptualize the two themes in isolation. The papers themselves and discussion at the Conference seem to bear this out.

The editors have published all the papers (with the exception of the two noted above) in the hope that the Proceedings will provide interested parties with a complete record of the broadly based Conference. The participants came from differing backgrounds - some academic, some business, some farming, some government - and from differing academic disciplines.

The papers by Charles and White deal with the problem of transforming Dominican agriculture. Their prescriptions are not new and this is evidence of the fact that accepted measures of improving agriculture in the Region are still to be translated into effective policies.

Both Charles and White represent the business and farmer background. Many of the papers were presented by university research workers, who have the advantage of time and resources in preparing papers. Of note in this respect are the papers by Momsen, Maharaj and Buckmire. However, together with the paper by Nurse (of the Ministry of Agriculture, Barbados) of greater note is that these four authors, independently of each other, show how the limited quantity and poor quality of resources at the disposal of the small-scale farmer have produced the present state of small-scale farming in the Caribbean.

Notes were made on the discussions by a team of rapporteurs let by Dr. R.D. Thomas of the Faculty of Social Sciences, U.W.I., St. Augustine. The discussion reports in these Proceedings were produced from these notes and, where possible, have been presented following individual papers. Reports of the workshop sessions, compiled by secretaries of the four workshops, are also included. The editors wish to acknowledge the contribution made by the team of rapporteurs and also by the Chairman and secretaries of the various Conference sessions to the preparation of these proceedings.

Acknowledgement must also be made of the considerable assistance given by Miss M. Strachan, Research Assistant in the Department of Agricultural Economics & Farm Management, by the secretarial staff of this department and by Mrs. R. Rawlins and the staff of the Central Statistical Office, Trinidad.

DAYANAND MAHARAJ
JOHN STRAUSS

U.W.I., St. Augustine
December, 1970

CONTENTS

FEATURE ADDRESS

The Prospects for Developing Agriculture in the Small Commonwealth Caribbean Territories: The Role of the Small-Scale Farmer ..... W.G. Demas 3

Discussion Report 10

Conversion of Forest Lands into Agriculture ..... C. Maximea and J. Robinson 12

Discussion Report 15

A Preliminary Investigation into the Agricultural Sector of Dominica ..... N. Prevost and B. Yankey 17

Discussion Report 19

A Programme for Agricultural Development: The Case of Dominica ..... F.L.A. Charles 22

Discussion Report 23

The Introduction and Development of New Crops in Dominica ..... M.G. White 24

Discussion Report 26

The Soils of Dominica ..... S. McConaghy 27

Discussion Report 33

Some Aspects of Compatibility Between Tourism and Agricultural Development in the State of St. Kitts–Nevis–Anguilla ..... M.A. Archibald 34

Discussion Report 40

Alien Land Ownership and Agricultural Development Issues, Problems and the Policy Framework ..... F. Watty 41

Discussion Report 46

Some Ideas on the Sociology of Small Farming in Jamaica ..... C.S. McCulloch 47

Discussion Report 52

A Comparative Study of Two Rural Farming Communities: The Social Dimension ..... R.E. Riviere and J.B. Yankey 53

CONTENTS – Continued

Discussion Report 65

Selecting Extension Workers for the Development of Small-Scale Farming in the West Indies ..... T.H. Henderson 66

Discussion Report 73

The Future of Small Farming in the Commonwealth Caribbean: A Preliminary Consideration of some of the Issues ..... D.T. Edwards and A.M. Strachan 74

Small Scale Farming in Barbados, St. Lucia and Martinique ..... J.D. Momsen 78

Small Scale Farming in Barbados ..... J.O.J. Nurse 85

Discussion Report on Papers by Edwards and Strachan, Momsen and Nurse 103

The Small Farmer in the Trinidad Sugar Industry ..... D. Maharaj 104

The Emergence and Resilience of the Jamaica Peasantry ..... G.E. Buckmire 129

Discussion Report on Papers by Maharaj and Buckmire 136

Farming Under the Milpa System ..... C.C. Borland 138

Discussion Report 141

Programming Small Farms in Yucatan ..... D. Winkelmann and L.M. Bassoco 142

Discussion Report 146

An Interim Economic Appraisal of the New Medium–Sized Dairy Farm Project in Jamaica ..... C.L. Dunn 148

Discussion Report 155

A Strategy for Development of Small Scale Farming in the Commonwealth Caribbean with Special Reference to Grenada ..... D. Noel and G.I. Marecheau 162

Discussion Report 165

Discussion Report on Paper by L. James 166

CONTENTS – Continued

WORKSHOP REPORTS

1. Report on the Workshop on Sociological and Extension Aspects of Small-Scale Farming Development 169

2. The Problems of Introducing New Market Crops in a Small Agricultural Economy Dominated by a Major Export Cash Crop 170

3. Land and Labour in the Development of Dominican Agriculture 172

4. Small-Scale Farm: Planning and Land Settlement 174

THE PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPING AGRICULTURE IN THE SMALL CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH TERRITORIES

THE ROLE OF THE SMALL–SCALE FARMER IN THE CARIBBEAN ECONOMY