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PROCEEDINGS
of the
EIGHTH WEST INDIES
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE

held at

Hilton Hotel, Trinidad

April 1st - 7th, 1973

EDITOR: DR. C.E. McINTOSH

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND FARM MANAGEMENT

FOREWORD

The Eighth Conference returned to the starting place of the Conference Series. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and various farmers organisations, joined the University of the West Indies in sponsoring the Conference, which was held in Trinidad.

The main themes of the Conference - *The Impact of Britain's Entry into the European Economic Community on Caribbean Economies*, and *The Scope and Progress of Rationalization in Caribbean Agriculture* - were the subject of lively and well informed discussion. The first theme benefitted from the knowledgeable and thoughtful views of several participants who had previously been involved in official discussions and negotiations, as well as from the analytical rigour of other delegates who had not had the same intimate experience of the subject. The Conference undoubtedly led to a much greater understanding of the issues: thus, some participants were able to derive specific proposals for their countries to pursue in negotiating trade arrangements with the E.C.M.

One of the highlights of the Conference was a tour of the sugar industry, and food crops farms, culminating in a Panel Discussion on the subject - *Is Trinidad's Agriculture Ready for Diversification?* - at the headquarters of the Trinidad and Tobago Island-wide Cane Farmers' Association. Tribute must be paid particularly to the President of the Association, his staff and friends who entertained the party so generously and graciously towards the end of the day.

Progress was made at two sessions of the Business Meeting held during the Conference week, in preparing a draft scheme and constitution for a Society to be associated with the Conference Series, with a view to institutionalising the organisation for the Series.

Decisions were taken to hold the Ninth Conference in Jamaica in 1974, with the theme - *The Relationship between Agriculture and Other Sectors, with particular reference to the Competition for Resources in the Commonwealth Caribbean*.

D. T. Edwards
Head, Department of Agricultural
Economics and Farm Management

EDITORIAL

The Eighth West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference was held in Trinidad and Tobago from April 1-7, at the Hilton Hotel, Port-of-Spain. The Conference was sponsored jointly by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and the University of the West Indies. The theme of the Conference -- *The Impact of Britain's Entry in the ECM on the Caribbean Region, and The Rationalisation of Agriculture in the Caribbean* -- embraced two important areas of agriculture in the Region.

This volume constitutes the significant aspects of the Conference Proceedings. In presenting the Plenary and Contributed Papers and Workshop Reports, some editorial cuts, some very severe, were warranted to facilitate presentation and minimise cost. It is hoped that such surgery was short of the emasculation of the basic ideas presented by the participants.

My sincere gratitude to all those who took part in, and contributed so generously to the Conference. However, this report would not have been completed by this time without the assistance of Miss Janice Ford and Mrs. June Shaw (Editorial Assistants), and Mrs. Hyacinth Mohammed who was responsible for the printing of the manuscript. To these individuals I am particularly indebted and express my deepest gratitude.

Thanks also to the Graduate Students of the Department of Agricultural Economics, who took extensive notes of the discussions, the Government Broadcasting Unit for recording assistance, and the Staff of the Department of Agricultural Economics for their general support.

Curtis E. McIntosh
Editor

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THEMES:

**“THE IMPACT OF BRITAIN’S ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ON CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES”**

And

**“THE SCOPE AND PROGRESS OF RATIONALIZATION IN
CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE”**