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PROCEEDINGS OF THE
TENTH
WEST INDIES AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE

Volume I: Plenary Papers

EDITOR: S.C. BIRLA

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EDITOR'S NOTE

During April 6 - 12, 1975, the Tenth West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference was held in association with the Eighth Technical Group Meeting of the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute at the Pegasus Hotel, Georgetown, Guyana. The Conference was sponsored by the University of the West Indies, University of Guyana, Government of Guyana, Caribbean Agro-Economic Society, and Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute.

The Conference was very well attended with approximately 130 registered participants who came from various institutions, organizations and other bodies throughout the Caribbean, Latin America, United States of America and Canada. The Conference had the distinction of being visited by Dr. S.R. Sen, President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

The main theme of the Conference was *Maximizing Regional Self-sufficiency in Food in the Commonwealth Caribbean*. The conference programme was organized into three main sessions - Opening Session, Plenary Session, and Technical Group Session. The Opening Address was made by the Minister of Agriculture, Guyana, Mr. Mohammed Kassim. The Plenary Session consisted of seven well-presented papers which was followed by lively discussions, all of which provided background to the main theme. The Technical Group Sessions considered various themes based on four convenient food groupings:- Cereals (Rice & Maize); Root Crops, Fruits & Vegetables; Fish & Livestock; and Grain/Legume & Other Protein Sources. There were also a Panel Discussion and Field Trip included as part of the programme.

The Proceedings are published into two volumes. Volume I consists of the four main speeches presented at the Opening Session followed by the Plenary Session papers and available discussion reports. The Luncheon and Dinner Speeches, given by Mr. W. Roberts and Dr. I. Jainarain, respectively; the Workshop Reports and a list of registered participants are also included.

Volume II consists of the four Technical Group Session papers which are grouped as follows:

- I. Developing the Region's Cereal (Rice & Maize) Industry
- II. Developing the Region's Root Crops, Fruits & Vegetables
- III. Developing the Region's Fish and Livestock Industry; and
- IV. Developing the Region's Grain/Legume and Other Protein Sources.

Our sincere thanks go to the following organizations which assisted the Conference financially:- University of Guyana,

Government of Guyana, Research and Publications Committee of the University of the West Indies, Barclays Bank International Ltd., Guyana Agricultural Cooperative Development Bank, The Ford Foundation, British West Indian Airways, Guyana School of Agriculture, Bank of Nova Scotia, Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, and Caribbean Agro-Economic Society. Acknowledgements must also go to all the authors of papers and special thanks are due to Mr. R. Sookram, Mrs. H. Mohammed, Mrs. J. Cato, Mr. H. Taylor and Mr. J. Johnson for the assistance in editing, typing, proof-reading, duplicating and binding of this report.

The Eleventh Conference which will be held in Dominica in April 1976 is in its planning stages.

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