

CARIBBEAN COMMISSION
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

SOIL
SCIENCE
IN THE
CARIBBEAN

Report of the Soils Conference held in
Puerto Rico, March 30—April 8, 1950

KENT HOUSE
PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD
1950

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FOREWORD

The report of the Soils Conference, held in Puerto Rico from March 31 to April 8, 1950, under the joint auspices of the Caribbean Commission and the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Puerto Rico, is not only of intrinsic value; it also has special significance for the forthcoming West Indian Conference (Fourth Session) in Curacao in November of this year, the theme of which is "The Agricultural Problems of the Caribbean Area".

The Central Secretariat of the Commission takes this opportunity of expressing its warmest appreciation of the collaboration of the territorial governments in presenting the detailed statements, included in this publication, of the existing state of knowledge, problems and needs with respect to soil science in their respective territories.

The Caribbean Commission has assigned to the Secretariat as one of its continuing activities the preparation and publication of bibliographies in the various fields of inquiry within its terms of reference. A comprehensive bibliography on soil science is appended to this report, for the several territories. The Central Secretariat acknowledges with appreciation the collaboration of: Professor F. Hardy, of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, who prepared the bibliographies for individual British territories and for the independent republics, and indicated additional titles for Puerto Rico; the Department of Agriculture, Jamaica; and Dr. J.A. Bonnet and Dr. M.A. Lugo Lopez of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Puerto Rico. The attention of interested specialists is invited to the bibliography included in the companion volume, Forest Research Within the Caribbean Area, published by the Caribbean Commission in 1947, and to the pertinent sections of the bibliography included in the Year Book of Caribbean Research, 1949 Supplement. Part I, Agriculture, Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, published by the Caribbean Commission in 1950.

LAWRENCE W. CRAMER
Secretary General
Caribbean Commission

The Anglo-American Caribbean Commission was created by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom on March 9, 1942, for the purpose of encouraging and strengthening social and economic co-operation between the United States of America and its possessions and bases in the area known geographically and politically as the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom and the British Colonies in the same area, and to avoid duplication of research in these fields. On December 20, 1945, the following joint communiqué was issued: "The Governments of France and of the Netherlands have accepted an invitation extended to them by the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America to join the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission. The name of the Commission will be changed appropriately..." The Commission is now known as the Caribbean Commission.

The Caribbean Research Council was established by the Commission in August, 1943, to survey needs, to determine what research has been done, to facilitate research on a cooperative basis, and to arrange for the prompt dissemination of the results of research, all without limitation to the field of inquiry.

In pursuance of these objectives, a number of Research Committees has been appointed for various fields of research.

The Central Secretariat of the Commission is located at Kent House, Port of Spain, Trinidad. The work of the Secretariat is divided into two main branches: administrative and research. The Research Branch, which includes a Statistical Unit, works in close cooperation with the Caribbean Research Council and its various Research Committees.

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