

PREFACE

In July 1992 the Commonwealth Secretariat published a report by Dr. Frank Gumbs, Reader in Soil Physics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of the West Indies entitled Integrating Soil Conservation into Farming Systems in the Commonwealth Caribbean. This was described as a Status Report and it provided a useful overview of the successes and failures in soil conservation work in the Region.

This work was initiated at the request of CARDI by the Commonwealth Secretariat and funded by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC). This work was well received and it was decided to explore the subject in greater depth and Dr. Gumbs began a second document, which we are now pleased to publish under the title ***Farmers and Soil Conservation in the Caribbean***.

This document is presented in two volumes. Volume I examines the status of soil erosion and conservation in the Region, the sociological factors in soil conservation programmes, and the legal and institutional context in which all soil conservation must be implemented and managed. It is now realised that these factors are as important as the technology of soil conservation and have not been given sufficient attention in the past. Volume II focuses on the technology. It examines the farming systems approach to soil conservation and the methods now being employed to ensure that conservation projects are integrated into the farming system. The Hillside Agricultural Project in Jamaica is a major initiative in the Caribbean and has attempted to adopt this integrated approach. This project is therefore discussed in some depth.

A short final Chapter draws conclusions and suggests some guidelines for future projects and programmes which will be of interest to planners, agriculturalists and everyone concerned with land use in the Region.

Core funding for the project was supplied by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), and the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), UK assisted with a grant which is gratefully acknowledged.

Copies of the first report and additional copies of this volume are available from the Commonwealth Secretariat.

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