

INTRODUCTION

The soil erosion status in the Caribbean, and the sociological, institutional and legislative factors which influence soil conservation were considered in Volume I.

Volume II deals with the practical measures or methodologies for integrating soil conservation into farming systems in the agricultural context of the Caribbean. It therefore considers the requirements for successful adoption and implementation of the farming systems approach, and the physical data which are required for making decisions on the actions to be taken. It is with regard to the latter that the information to be collected in baseline surveys, and land capability and land use are considered.

The methodologies emphasise the agronomic or biological approach. They focus on methods that are within the capability of small farmers. Gullies are common features of farmlands in the Caribbean and these are therefore considered even though the control of the large gullies is often beyond the capability of the small farmer. Most farmers clear the land at one time or the other and therefore it is important for them to be aware of the most appropriate methods of land clearing.

Volume II examines existing systems of soil conservation which are integrated into farming systems but does not examine proposed models. The Hillside Agricultural Project in Jamaica is also discussed as a practical example of an attempt to integrate soil conservation into farming systems based on a tree crop system of farming. Some of the shortcomings of this effort are also considered. Finally in the Appendices it presents Case Study Exercises for the student of soil conservation to work through using the principles considered in the book.