

In addition, the company entered into rice production in 1985, reaping 0.7 million kg of paddy from 267 ha under cultivation. Plans are to produce 5.4 million kg paddy from 800 ha by 1989. In 1985, 475 ha of land were put under citrus cultivation. This was expanded to 800 ha in 1988, in the hope that locally available citrus concentrate would replace imports.

The company also has 106 ha of coffee, 227 ha of bananas and 85 ha of miscellaneous food crops such as passion fruit, cassava, pawpaw, pigeon peas, pineapples, and corn under cultivation. Studies are underway to test the feasibility of growing peanuts and white potatoes. The government of Trinidad and Tobago is optimistic that Caroni's diversification plan will yield the desired results and will ensure the company's viability in the future.

Plans are under way to make greater and more efficient use, where feasible, of by-products such as bagasse for the production of particle board and animal feed, as well as to diversify the output mix into the manufacture of chemicals using proven technical processes. These initiatives include:

- the manufacture of industrial alcohol, compressed yeast, citric acid and fancy molasses;
- the manufacture of feed production of syrups based on sugar; and
- the production of soil conditioners from bagasse.

Viable agro-industries will also serve as a major source of industrial raw materials to strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce reliance on imports.

**Fisheries.** Fishing has grown in importance over the past few years and the processing industry is largely owned by the state. In an effort to reduce the country's TT\$30-million annual imports of fish and fish products, the government has placed emphasis on the exploitation of marine resources, including aquaculture geared towards the rearing of freshwater fish and development of shrimp farming for both domestic and export markets.

**Forestry and Mining.** Approximately 45 per cent of Trinidad and Tobago's land surface is forested. Forest resources include teak, pine and a variety of other species. The government would like to see these fully utilized, thus maximizing the commercial value of the resource. The ultimate aim is to produce veneer, furniture, handicrafts, toys, souvenirs, etc., as opposed to maintaining the traditional focus on unfinished lumber for the building industry.