

encouraging commercial production, the government advanced laws which exempted all demonstration plots (whether erected on Jewish land or on so-called state land) from taxes.(12)

Of particular significance in this context was the role the Department of Agriculture assumed in promoting capitalist agriculture. Established in 1929 and directed by a Jewish agricultural expert, the Department was almost exclusively put under the services of Jewish settlements. Government investment in the Department in a two year period of 1929 and 1930 amounted to P.L. 153,767. (13)

The Department of Agriculture was not an independent body. In fact, as one British analyst noticed, the Department was a mere extension of some Jewish scientific centres and mainly the Hebrew University.(14)

While there is no evidence to show that the Department made any significant contribution, financial or otherwise to the indigenous population, there is ample evidence to demonstrate its contribution to the Jewish agricultural settlements. Worth noting here is the assistance provided by the Department to the Tel-Aviv experimental station.

In a secret dispatch by the British Secretary of State for the Colonies to the High Commissioner of Palestine in 1933, it was revealed that the Department planned to spend P.L.3,000 a year for a period of five years "to the Jewish Agency's experimental station and the establishment of a government citrus demonstration grove". The same dispatch also stated that "the Director of Agriculture suggested that the Jewish Agency contribute P.L.49,000 and government spend P.L.70,000 to be completed within 5 years for agricultural