

particularly the Maritime Plain.

In 1944, the Moshavot owned 90 per cent of the total land under Jewish citrus plantations. They occupied 21,800d or 50 per cent of all Jewish land under fruits other than citrus and 297,500d. or over 40 per cent of the total Jewish land under irrigated fodder, vegetables..etc., leaving most of the land under less commercial and more extensive methods of cereal cultivation to other settlements.(24)

Agricultural production was highly specialized in the Moshavot. In 1939 a survey of 34 Moshavot revealed that out of a total area of 208,000d. occupied by these settlements, 46,000 dunams or 22.1 per cent was under citrus production; 26,000 dunams or 12.5 per cent under grape and 19,000 dunams only or 9.1 per cent was under extensive cereal cultivation (cited in Gozansky, 1986:173).

The private nature of these settlements and the economic prosperity they provided to their owners attracted many settlers. Whether wage labourers or capitalist farmers, the population of these settlements witnessed a sharp increase during the British rule as the following table illustrates:

**Table 4: Number and Percentage of Moshavot Population vis Total Jewish Rural Population.**

Year	Total Jewish Rural Population	Private Settlements Rural Population	% Of Total Rural Population
1922	14,140	11,540	82
1927	27,500	20,220	74
1931	37,240	27,740	75
1936	87,110	59,530	68
1941	111,250	63,240	57
1944	139,000	76,000	56

Source: Survey of Palestine, 1945-46, Chapter VII, p. 372.

In absolute terms, the number of people in these settlements