

this contractual agreement, the scattering of the fallah holdings obviously increased. Finally, the scattering of the fallah's holdings could possibly be a remnant of a pre-existing system of musha' allocation (Rosenfeld, 1970).

Taking into consideration the scattering of land holdings described above, and the periodic demands of the land which must be met on time, the necessity for cooperation became absolute, especially under conditions whereby any neglect or lack of coordination or cooperation between neighbouring parcels must be paid for dearly in reduced or perhaps ruined crops. Hence success in agriculture demanded cooperation amongst villagers.

In Deir Ghassaneh, the area of cultivated land was vast and the accessibility to distant areas was difficult, especially because the village built-up area was not centrally located in relation to its fields. (Most of the village fields were located to the west of the village (Fig. 3.11)).

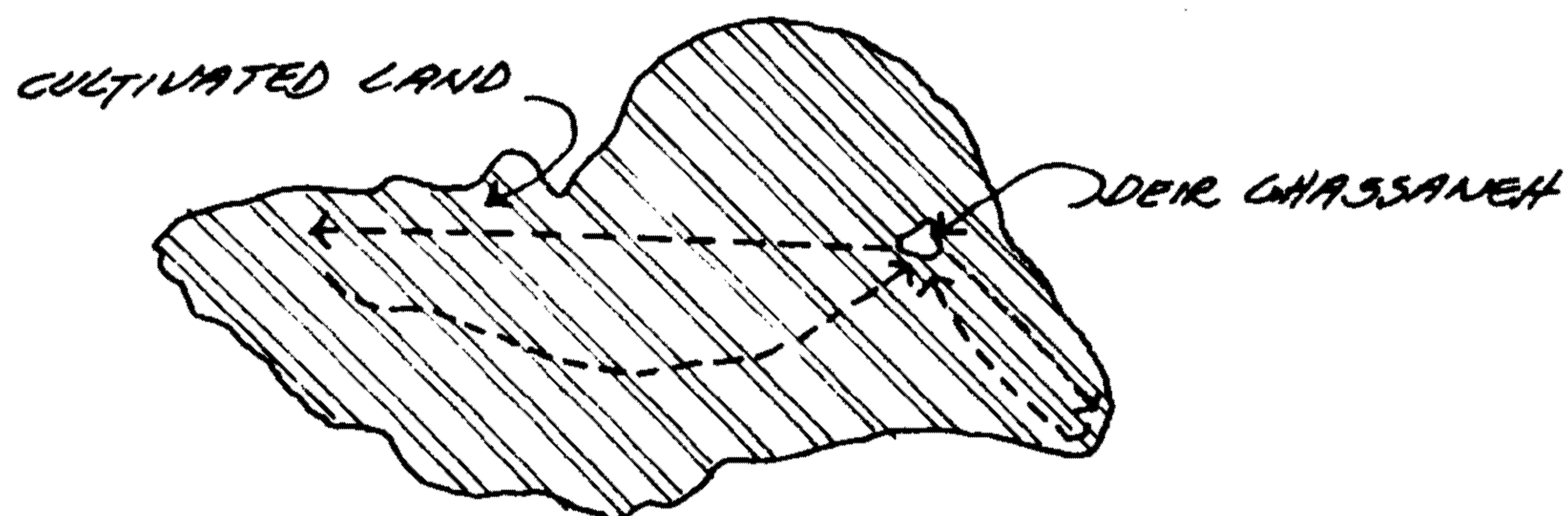


Fig. 3.11: The majority of the village fields were located to the west

----- distance walked back and forth daily .

Under this pattern of land distribution, where each fallah had distant and nearby parcels of land, the villagers interaction with one another was much more than if landholdings had been solidified into one continuous block. The fallaheen spent relatively long hours walking back and forth between their different parcels and hence their interaction and encounters were maximized.