

As the figures show, most of the expansion in area and output of vegetables occurred during WWII. As mentioned earlier, part of the market for vegetables was provided by the presence of allied troops in Palestine. However, that in itself does not explain the substantial increase in vegetable production. That also needed the encouragement and material support of the government.

As part of its war economic measures, the government established the War Supply Board in order “to do all things necessary to ensure that production in Palestine is so organized as to enable the country to make the maximum possible contribution to the war effort and to safeguard the essential needs of the community.”<sup>4</sup> To implement this in the area of food, an ordinance was issued and a controller appointed to regulate the trade and production of food.<sup>5</sup>

More specifically, this was translated into active government participation in promoting agricultural production that included the production and sale, “at nominal prices,” of 10 million in vegetable seedlings a year, the production of vegetable seed, and the distribution of half a million chicks a year produced in government farms. By December 1943, the government’s effort included the import and distribution, on a “lease/land” basis, of 410 tractors, 254 plows, and 120 combine harvesters. The government also exercised control over the import of

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<sup>4</sup>*Survey II*, 985.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, 996.