

### 4.1.3 Fruits

Another cash crop that underwent substantial growth during the Mandate was fruits, other than citrus. The growing of fruit trees was a centuries-old tradition with grapes, figs, melons, and almonds being the principal ones.

No complete figures are available for area cultivated with fruits for the 1931-1934 period, but the increase in area between this period and the 1935-1939 period must have been substantial given the difference in production levels of the two periods, even if we allow sufficient time before trees mature and start bearing fruit.

Average annual output increased from 36,399 tons in 1931-1934 to 188,529 tons in 1940-1944 (i.e., over a fivefold increase). By 1945, output reached an even higher figure of 237,545 tons. The increase in output and value was such that by 1944, the share of fruits in the value of all principal crops reached 27 percent in 1944, thus becoming the second most valuable crop for that year after vegetables if citrus is excluded, when in 1937, its share was 10 percent. If citrus is included, the share of fruits would have been 20 percent in 1937 increasing to 30 percent in 1944.

Most of the increase in the output of fruits was because of the increase in melon production, which represented, on average, about 50 percent of the total output of fruits for the Mandate period, but which accounted for only a little over 17 percent of the total value of fruits for 1937-1944. Although the increase in