

main markets for soap were Egypt, Syrian, and, to a lesser extent, Asia Minor.

Olives also underwent substantial increase whether measured in area or output. The area cultivated with olives increased from nearly 308,000 to 593,000 *dunums* from 1931-1934 to 1940-1944, respectively, a 93 percent increase. Output increased from about 15,000 tons to more than 41,000 tons between 1920-1924 and 1940-1944, respectively, a 174 percent increase. In terms of value, it is not possible to establish a continuous tendency of increase or decrease because of the substantial fluctuations in annual yield derived primarily from the nature of the olive tree and, to some extent, the amount of rainfall.

By 1945, the area cultivated with olive trees grew to more than 600,000 *dunums* of which more than 592,000 were Arab owned (i.e., about 99 percent of total).<sup>61</sup> Jewish European cultivation of olives was insignificant at less than 8,000 *dunums*. This is explained by the labor-intensive requirements of olive cultivation that included extensive terracing to prevent soil erosion. During the Mandate, labor-intensive agriculture was, on the whole, eschewed by Jewish European farmers, as intensive methods of production were increasingly adopted.

There are no continuous figures for the production of olive oil. However, it appears that the increase in output was not substantial although the area cultivated with olives greatly increased. For the years preceding WWI, average annual production of olive oil was about 7,000 tons, of which about half was conserved and the other half used in the manufacture of soap for the domestic and regional

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<sup>61</sup>*Survey I*, 323.