

4.1.5 Fodder

In Table 4.1 fodder is included in two separate entries: (a) one for fodder for the dairy industry and (b) one for barely, *kersenneh*, and so on. This, as will be shown, reflects the difference in method of production and use of output.

The cultivation of fodder for the dairy industry, or green fodder, was an almost exclusive Jewish European agricultural practice. They cultivated about 85 percent of the land devoted to fodder, and accounted for almost 90 percent of all output.⁷⁸

The cultivation of green fodder accompanied the adoption of mixed farming after WWI, as the most appropriate form of agriculture by the European Jewish settlers for economic and political reasons: economic because it provided a higher income than cereal cultivation and was less dependent on market and natural conditions than the wine and other plantations; and politically, because they could absorb and settle immigrants rather than employ Arab labor as was the case with earlier plantations.⁷⁹

There was rapid growth in the cultivation of green fodder so that by 1945, more than 144,000 *dunums* were planted with a yield of 300,000 tons. This reflects, and was accompanied by, the substantial growth in the dairy industry, which will be discussed in a separate section below.

⁷⁸*Survey I*, 323.

⁷⁹Gurevich, *Handbook*, 125-6.