

1943, and 1944 in the amount of 124 tons, 198 tons, and 251 tons, respectively.⁹⁶

The export of *tahini* gives more weight to the proposition that the import tax on sesame seed imports was not protective enough. The cultivation of sesame was confined to Arab peasants, but European Jewish farmers also avoided it because of its labor-intensive requirements.⁹⁷

4.1.7 Tobacco

Before the Mandate, the cultivation of tobacco in Palestine, as in other parts of the Ottoman Empire, was banned except in a few villages. A license was required for cultivation, and the manufacture and sale of tobacco products were assigned to a monopoly, the *Regie Co-Interessee des Tabacs de l'Empire Ottoman*.⁹⁸ In 1921, the monopoly was abolished resulting in an increase of output of 265 tons for that year to 694 tons in 1922.⁹⁹

Up to 1938, output of tobacco was adequate for the country except for about 10 to 15 percent of local output imported for blending.¹⁰⁰ The annual oscillations in output and area cultivated with tobacco were because of the growers' adjustment to overproduction in certain years. For example, in 1937, more than 55,000 *dunums* were cultivated with tobacco yielding 2,500 tons that exceeded the

⁹⁶Ibid., 74.

⁹⁷Hope-Simpson Report, 103; Smith, 174.

⁹⁸Brown, "Agriculture," 162; *Survey I*, 457.

⁹⁹Brown, "Agriculture," 163.

¹⁰⁰Ibid.