

We do not have figures for the number of cattle prior to 1930 and thus cannot estimate the output of milk. If we reason that the same general conditions prevailed in the case of cattle as that of sheep and goats, we may conclude that if there was any increase in the number of cattle, and thus of milk production after 1930, it would have been insubstantial. Most of the output, in the form of milk and milk products, was consumed by the producers. Less than 8 percent¹⁶¹ was marketed in the form of *samn* (a form of butter), yogurt, and cheese. This marketing was primarily in February, March, and April (i.e., right after the rainy season), another fact that reflects the dependence of the animals on natural grazing.

4.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, although there was substantial increase in agricultural production, accompanied by an increase in wage labor, it was very uneven at different levels: (a) between European settlers and indigenous agriculture in terms of the rate of increase in production and productivity, (b) within the different strata of the Arab cultivators, and (c) within crops with cash crops becoming dominant in terms of value of output.

With time, Palestinian agriculture became more integrated with the world market, which also increased its vulnerability to international prices. The dependence on a single commodity (citrus) for export heightened this vulnerability.

¹⁶¹Calculated from Brown, "Agriculture," 178.