

Table II:2

Distribution of Farm Size in the West Bank, 1953-1969

<u>Area (dunums)</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1968/69</u>
Up to 50	68.2%	71.5%
50-100	15.8	17.2
100+	<u>16.0</u>	<u>11.3</u>
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Kahan (1983:12, Table 3).

The slight increase of small and intermediate holdings observed between 1953 to 1968/69 (Table II:2) can be attributed to the incidence of partible inheritance countervailed by the tendency of smallholders to crop inherited fragments jointly after the death of the patriarch (see Chapter 7 below). While the 5% increase in large-sized farms noted here are probably the result of the acquisition and consolidation of irrigated farmland in the Jordan Valley after 1961 (Chapter 10).

Still, the above table signifies a certain amount of differentiation in land holdings which exaggerates the magnitude of disparities among West Bank farmers today. The first agricultural survey carried out in the region after Israeli occupation (1969-1970), listed the number of farm households as 58,000. Of those, the vast majority (84.6% of the total, or 49,500 farms) consisted of plots more than 5 dunums in size, that is, non-marginal plots (CBS, MSOAT, 1971:Appendix XIV). Although the statistics do not distinguish between landlords, sharetenants and cash tenants in the farm surveys,² it is known that cultivation by owner-occupiers constitute more than 91.5% of the total cultivated area (Kahan, 1983:14; Lipshitz, 1976:37). These smallholders are concentrated, as might be expected, in the central highlands and decrease in number in the irrigated plains of the north and in the Jordan Valley (e.g. 98.5% of the