

Moreover, control of the marketing outlets by landlords and over disposition of the yield by urban financiers today, is a decisive factor in defining the content of the sharecontract to the extent that agricultural production has become export-oriented.

The persistence of sharetenancy in Palestinian agriculture is explained here negatively by the failure of capitalist relations in agriculture to take hold in mountainous (dry farming) areas, and, with few exceptions, in irrigated farming. It is explained positively by the continued injection of landless peasant refugees into the network of tenancy and sharecropping compacts with both big landlords and smallholders.

The magnitude of internal migration (peasant-workers seeking work in Israel) and emigration among rural households have sustained a strong demand for tenancy among all categories of farmers, including smallholders. The high risk factor involved in dry farming continues to favour share-rent contracts as opposed to cash rents. In the midst of a stagnant urban economy under Israeli rule today, the adaptive flexibility of such share-contracts are responsible, to a considerable extent, for the continued survival and resilience of the agricultural sector among Palestinians.