

more than trippled between 1970 and 1979, from 11,200 to 34,400 workers (FSAA:23, Table 6).

The Peasant's Household

A clarification is necessary here on the use of the term "peasant's household" as a unit of analysis. The Israeli census data defines a household simply as "persons who live together in the same dwelling and take meals together" (Israel CBS, 1967:XXXIII). This is in line with the concept of a peasant's household developed by the famous Survey of Arab Villages in 1944 conducted by the Mandatory regime where the household was defined as "a family or group of people living together in the same quarters and having the same cooking arrangements" (Government of Palestine, 1945:9). Besides the core group that definition included "relatives, permanent agriculturer labourers and servants living and eating with the family." In the actual count however, non-blood relatives (including resident workers) were excluded (ibid.).

The decline of the average peasant household from 6.1 members in 1944 to 5.0 in the 1967 census (Government of Palestine, 1945:9; Israel CBS, 1967:37, Table 1) reflects the nucleisation of the residential unit rather than a decline in fertility, since net growth in rural population has actually increased, given the lower infant mortality rates. However, these averages are of little help for the purposes of this study since what we are concerned with is the continued functioning of the extended peasant family as a unit even after it becomes residentially nucliated. Cohen (1965), Rosenfeld (1972), and Nakhleh (1975) have shown, using different interpretations, how the Palestinian extended family in the Galilee (Israel) have been reinforced as a result of political manipulation by the regime of traditional hamula alliances. The situation in