

dependent on the family farm to create some savings; the olives are pressed and the oil is sold in Jordan dinars only, which is "hard" currency in Israel. In addition, the supply of the annual household provision of olives, olive oil and other basic staples is assured.

Under Jordanian rule, many farmers in Ras el-Tin used to hire themselves as field workers to the big landlords of neighbouring Burham. Husam's father, for example, worked for 10 piastres a day in the fifties as a hoe tiller (bahhash). His elder brother earned sixty piastres a day working in a nearby quarry. Work chances in wage labour outside the village were then limited, unless one had the initial investment (and contacts) to enable him to migrate to the Gulf.

With the opening of employment opportunities in Israel after occupation, many family farms were marginalized and increasingly neglected. Several workers from Ras el-Tin claimed that they can make more money working one week in construction than their farm income in olives for a whole season. Not only the pull factor of wage labour must be considered in this context, but also an ecological factor, that is, whether the olive year is fertile (masiah) or infertile (shalatuneh). To illustrate the wide fluctuations in production implied by this factor, we cite the results of the survey referred to above: