

Table 8:2

Differential Income from Marketing of Olive Oil Caused by the Annual  
Fluctuation of the Olive Cycle: West Bank, 1973/4 (I.L./dunum)

Net Income per dunum of olive trees	"Roman" trees		Regular trees	
	Fertile year	Infertile year	Fertile year	Infertile year
1. Local marketing	724.3	337.0	337.9	80.5
2. Export to Jordan <sup>9</sup>	493.9	70.8	124.5	60.7

Source: S. Farhat-Nasir, The Olives of Palestine and Their Problems, adapted from Tables 22 and 23, pp. 59 and 61.

Bearing in mind that 80% of the produce has to be exported, due to the limitations of the local market (ibid.:62), the profit margin in fertile years varies from twice to as much as seven times the income from infertile years. In 1978 Mustafa's family produced 60 cannisters of oil; in 1977 only 3 ruttles (9 kg.) During shalatuneh seasons workers make little effort to absent themselves from their work sites in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and leave the whole crop for their womenfolk and children to pick.

Another crucial determinant of involvement in the family farm is the decreasing size of agricultural land resulting from partible inheritance. (In the region of Ras el-Tin, and in the Ramallah district in general, unlike Nablus and the Jordan Valley, there have been only a few cases of confiscation of agricultural land for Jewish settlements). Here is how Husam describes this process:

If our family plot produces 30 jarras of oil a year and it supports four sons, each son's portion becomes 6 or 7 jarras. For example, I currently make 50 cannisters a year (when it is masiah), and I have a son and a daughter. In the future each one of my sons (sic) will have a share of 20 or 10 cannisters.