

latter constituted a substantial portion of Jordan's agricultural export income from the marketing of citrus and olive oil. Land reform was thus necessitated by the loss incurred from agricultural income, by the inefficiency in existing land tenure systems, and by the social tensions originating in the existence of large unused lands in absentee hands.

The ideology behind the land reform utilized similar concepts to those prevailing in mandatory Palestine, especially that of the "plot viable", discussed in chapter 6, but with heavy emphasis on productivity. Thus,

"The minimum size unit was stipulated (by the land reform) to be large enough to ensure a decent standard of living for a farm family averaging six persons, to support livestock, and to assure efficient production, but to also be small enough to ensure that the managerial ability of the average farmer would not be taxed." (Dajani et al., 1980: 41).

A 1980 study commissioned to assess the past performance of government schemes in the Valley listed the following as the objectives of the various development laws, carried in 1959, 1962, 1968, 1973 and 1978:

1. Reduction in the size of holdings on irrigated lands in the East Ghor area.
2. The creation of a modest number of new holdings, giving ownership or irrigated land to previously landless farmers. And,
3. "A reduction in the degree of fragmentation of holdings, i.e., consolidation of previously dispersed holdings into a single contiguous holding." (Dajani, 1980:49).