

and producing less than one ton of vegetables (e.g., tomatoes, cucumbers), the net income would be 400 JDs per annum (about \$1,300), which is the bare subsistence level for an average family of eight (1979:16-17).

In the marketing of produce and provision of credit commission agents were, since the fifties, and continue to be, the main link between the peasant and the market. Other forms of marketing such as direct sales to retailers, and sales to processors (especially in the case of grain and poultry), involve only a minor number of farmers.

The arrival of the technological revolution in agriculture accentuated many of these uneven relations. First, the introduction of fertilizers and insecticides in the early fifties, then the introduction of plastic tunnels and high-yielding variety seeds in the late sixties, and, finally, the diffusion of drip irrigation methods and hothouses since the mid-seventies, radically transformed agricultural techniques, without -- at the same time -- altering the social relations of agricultural production.

An evaluation of the impact of drip irrigation and plastic tunnels for the period 1973-1980 found that:

"Where the landlord bears the entire cost of the new technology, the sharecropper pays for the use of this technology by making a fixed cash payment per dunum. Where the sharecropper bears a portion of the cost of the new technology, the sharecropper and the landlord also share the costs of all other inputs, including labour, and the returns in small proportion."
(Interim Evaluation, Dajani et al., 1980:65).

The evaluation concluded that while the system of share-tenancy prevalent in the Valley adapted itself efficiently (in terms of productivity) to the new technology the under-capitalized tenant has suffered badly. Despite the presumed archaicness of the share system (cf. Sharab, 1975:4-9) many landless refugee farmers seemed to adapt themselves success-