

1980:68) -- an undertaking which most landlords refuse to extend to their tenants for fear it might be used to further the latter's claims to the land, in case of future redistribution schemes.

In the Western Valley several agricultural cooperatives have been established with the aim of helping members in the acquisition of capital loans and securing marketing outlets, including "certificates of origin" for exporting crops to Jordan. But the membership of these cooperatives has been heavily weighed in favour of landlords (see next chapter). More significantly, the Israeli military government in the West Bank has refused to grant permission for the release of \$7.13 million allocated as loans for agricultural development through the Jordan Cooperative Organization in 1979 (Khraisheh and Ebersole, 1980:31) thus stifling their growth.

As in South Asia, the introduction of technical innovations in the Jordan Valley has benefited the big landlords and helped in the emergence of a new kulak class among the wealthier sharetenants. Here, too, as in India, the sharecropping system has adapted itself efficiently to the new methods of production and marketing (see Chapter 5, above). Because of labour shortages, however, we do not witness sharpening class antagonism in the agrarian system. In particular, the pattern of large farmers evicting tenants and replacing them with wage workers does not obtain here (Griffin, 1979:93). This is partly due to the inability of large landowners to supervise their farmsteads directly in an efficient way, and partly to the lack of demographic pressure by tenants equivalent to the situation in South Asia. In the Western Valley, however, the main "demographic" pressure has resulted from land confiscation by Jewish settlements rather than by the pressing competition of landless peasants.