

Table 11:4

Share-cropped & Rented Land in Zbeidat in Relation  
to Owned Land, & Average Land Cultivated, by Sub-clan, 1980

Name of Sub-Clan	Area Owned (Dunums)	Area Share-Cropped	Area Rented	Total Cultivated	Percent Owned	Average Area/Household	
						Owned	Cultivated (Dunums)
Shahabat	103.7	131.1	-	234.8	44%	6.9	15.7
Salaymeh	66.4	131.0	-	197.4	34%	4.7	14.1
Abu Sabbah	64.1	72.0	47.0	183.1	35%	4.6	13.1
Mahameed	<u>17.7</u>	<u>55.7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73.4</u>	<u>24%</u>	<u>3.5</u>	<u>14.7</u>
Totals	251.9	389.8	47.0	688.7	37%	5.2	14.3

Sources: Author's 1980 Zbeidat Household Survey and interviews with landlords.

Since the average area under de facto possession by an average peasant household in Zbeidat is so small (5.2 dunums), a crucial determinant of the farmer's ability to survive, if he is to remain on his farm, would be his access to surplus land to share-crop. Before the introduction of drip irrigation, a family of eight members would have needed a plot of twelve to fifteen dunums to survive, but this figure presumes control by the cultivator of his total yield, which is obviously not the case with share-croppers. The average figure of 14.3 dunums per Zbeidat household, which appears in table 11:4 above, contains both "owned" and "share-cropped" categories. It would seem, however, that the extra seven dunums which are supplemented by share-cropping is what guaranteed the continued existence of Zbeidat peasants as a farming community -- the alternative being their transformation (or part of them) into wage workers in nearby Jewish settlements.