

appearing in Table 12:3 tend to slightly distort the level of education in Zbeidat since the households concerned contain a demographically older population than the rest of the village. Hence, both illiteracy numbers and years spent in school would be higher than those for the village as a whole.

### Productivity & Farm Budgets

Crop yield in the central Jordan Valley is dependent on a variety of factors including the degree of salinity in the soil, amount of fertilizers and water used, nature of irrigation (sprinkler, furrow, or drip), time of cultivation, use of insecticides and weather. Other relevant factors are plot size, number of parcels per holder, and (in terms of actual yield cropped) market prices.

The peculiarity of Zbeidat is that the nature of the soil and amount of salinity for most of the cultivated parcels is homogeneous. This is due to the fact that all village plots are irrigated from the same well, and that the only land with a substantially different soil structure and mode of irrigation (the Zor area by the river), has been fenced-off by the army. Furthermore, despite the presence of some differential in the size of land owned and sharecropped, the social composition of the village population allows for a uniform cycle of ploughing, cultivation, and cropping - hence, for relatively similar crop yield per unit of cultivation. My investigation shows that the introduction of drip irrigation to most village plots in 1977/78 was followed uniformly by the use of the most sophisticated factors of scientific farming now utilized in Israel. Those factors include: double plastic sheaths (for weed control, frost protection, and preservation of uniform temperature), optimum combination of liquid fertilizers, insecticides, weed killers, and the use of hybrid saline-resistant seeds and seedlings. Among the scientific practices still not performed by Zbeidat