

Jericho and Amman. At best they can establish a supplies cooperative which will improve their buying power of agricultural inputs and cancel the projects of intermediate agents. They can also sponsor a maintenance system for their delapidated water pump and for the drip system, thus reducing the magnitude of their "technological dependency". They can even make a deal with the Jiftlek marketing cooperative which might enhance their marketing possibilities by acquiring "certificates of origin" without having to go through a number of brokers. But the system is ultimately rigged against them and the constellation of forces facing them are too powerful to confront without a substantial change in the agrarian regime that has established itself firmly in the Jordan Valley.

#### Farm Income and Internal Differentiation

Since land is the main source of livelihood for the vast majority of Zbeidat farmers, it is possible to establish a criteria of measuring household income on the basis of estimated cash return from the marketing of crops, while taking into account the additional income from ownership of capital goods (e.g., trucks, tractors), wage labour, and salaries.

The basis of computation used and the appropriate farm budget are outlined in detail in Appendix D at the end of this thesis. The owner-cultivator/share-cropper farm budget utilized there reveals several features of income distribution in Zbeidat. First, the figures confirm our initial hypothesis that there is a higher degree of homogeneity in social conditions than elsewhere in the West Bank. The 3:1 ratio in average household income between the highest and the lowest income group is hardly an indication of extreme distribution of "wealth" (if the word may be used). Furthermore, several disguised sources of additional income have been neglected here because of their marginal nature -- these include wages for seasonal work