

he also made trips for similar purposes to the United States, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan. (See Appendix 1 for a list of the visits undertaken for the purpose of this research in Britain and elsewhere.)

During his stay in Bradford the researcher managed to refine his proposed outline and then formulate questionnaires and schedules needed in the fieldwork. The questionnaires were translated into Arabic and field-tested on a small sample of respondents during the Easter vacation of 1980. They were then heavily refined back in Bradford and were put in the final form by the end of June 1980. Three questionnaires were used in recording responses of farmers interviewed in the profitability analysis survey, covering fruit trees, field crops, and livestock. English and Arabic versions of these questionnaires are reproduced in Appendix 2.

The second and perhaps the most important part of the field work consisted of interviews with a comprehensive sample of individuals who were well-informed on one or more of the sectors explored. This was envisaged to include extension agents, farmers, businessmen, academics, and members of local councils. For several practical and psychological reasons which will be discussed later it was decided to carry out these interviews without using a questionnaire form. Instead, a special list of questions was directed to each category of respondents and responses were recorded on plain sheets. The main theme which was sustained all through these interviews was the identification of technical, economic, and social problems facing certain forms of farming and hence the identification of those measures and policies which would respond to existing needs and constraints. (See Appendix 3 for a copy of each kind of question sheet used for the purpose).

The field work commenced in July 1980 and continued through August 1981, during which time the researcher was based at An-Najah University in Nablus. The contacts between the researcher and his supervisors were effectively maintained. In January 1981 he returned to Bradford for two weeks of consultation with his supervisors, and in April and July 1981 he was visited respectively by Dr Paul Rogers and Mr Andrew Coulson. In November 1981 the researcher visited again in Bradford for two more weeks of consultation.

During his year in the West Bank, the researcher proceeded in his field study more or less in accordance with set plans. His work was well received by all persons and organisations approached for cooperation. It was extremely gratifying to gain the confidence of respondents and solicit their cooperation in a particularly sensitive piece of research and under unusual circumstances. Being a local resident with a fairly well-known academic identity helped the researcher reach people and communities who would not otherwise be easily accessible.

Sampling

Sampling problems were encountered in two parts of the field work - profitability analyses and interviews of local experts. For reasons which will be explained below, in neither case was it possible nor advisable to adhere strictly to classical techniques of random sampling. In previous work the present researcher had used more authentic sampling techniques for at least two large scale surveys. In 1963-64 he conducted a poultry marketing study in Jordan involving a sample of 600 respondents. The sample was selected at random from a population properly stratified on the basis of location, income, and education.

The data was published in an M.Sc. thesis which was presented to