

the Department of Agricultural Economics at the American University of Beirut in August 1964.¹

In 1968 the researcher was commissioned by the Jordan Development Board to conduct a progress appraisal of the East Ghor Rural Development Project. With the help of eight field interviewers, it was possible to reach a sample of 220 farmers (about 7 per cent of total in the area). Sampled respondents were selected at random by picking every fifteenth name on the Land Registry list. The report on that study was published by the Cooperative Institute in 1968.²

In the present study, after a preliminary investigation of the relative significance of various types of rainfed farming it was decided to conduct profitability analyses for olives, almonds, grapes, wheat, barley, chickpeas, lentils, melons, sheep, cows, broilers and egg farms. Ideally it would have been preferable to select a sample which adequately accounted for variations in such attributes as size of farm, educational level of owners, and geographic distribution. But this was not strictly adhered to in this study. In the first place it was not intended to be a fully-fledged cost benefit study. It only aimed, in this connection, at presenting a fairly realistic picture of the profitability of those types of farming which constituted the backbone of West Bank rainfed agriculture.

More important, however, it was recognized that the selection of a

1. Hisham Awartani, Marketing of Eggs and Broilers in Jordan, (M.Sc. thesis, American University of Beirut, 1964).

2. Hisham Awartani, Progress Appraisal of the East Ghor Rural Development Project, (Amman: Cooperative Institute, 1968).

large randomized sample lead to unusual problems arising from the fact that the Military Administration in the West Bank is excessively sensitive to all uncensored dealings with local communities. Conducting any form of social research requires a prior permit from the Military Headquarters, which is not, in practice, granted for an Arab. Infringements are likely to be taken seriously. A striking precedent was set in 1978 when a field interviewer (who was working for the present researcher) was detained for three months for "illegal activities".

In view of tangible security constraints, the researcher selected his sample of farmers in a way which would insure proper representation of just the dominant production trends in respective sectors, taking into consideration the obvious regional concentration of certain types of farming (over 90% of grains are produced in the Jenin district and 70% of grapes are grown in the Hebron-Bethlehem belt).

By the end of the summer of 1981 the researcher had interviewed for the profitability part of the study a sample of 120 farmers distributed as follows:

| <u>I. Fruit Trees</u> | <u>Number of Farmers</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Olives | 25 |
| Grapes | 15 |
| Almonds | 10 |
| Total | 50 |
| <u>II. Field Crops and Vegetables</u> | |
| Wheat | 10 |
| Barley | 5 |
| Chickpeas | 5 |
| Lentils | 5 |
| Melons | 10 |
| Total | 35 |
| <u>III. Livestock and Poultry</u> | |
| Sheep (scavenger grazing) | 10 |
| Dairy Cattle | 5 |
| Broiler farms | 10 |
| Egg farms | 10 |
| Total | 35 |
| Grand Total | 120 |