

a long-time FAO expert, was dismissed. By 1980 agricultural research on the West Bank itself was practically abolished and entrusted instead to Israeli hands.

Table (IV - 2)

Number of college graduates on West Bank research stations

<u>Name of station</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1980</u>
Total	12	4
Beit Kad	2	1
Kabatia	1	-
Tulkarn	1	-
Askar	1	-
Arroub	2	1
Jericho	2	1
Fara'a	3	1

Source: Files of research stations.

Evaluation of the Department's Record

The services extended by the Department of Agriculture were rated as poor by all farmers and leaders of rural communities who were interviewed in the course of this study. The same feeling was reiterated by directors of district offices and extension agents themselves. This prompted the researcher to explore this issue with various concerned people. The following is a summary of their responses regarding the factors responsible for current stagnation in the Department of Agriculture:

1. Very low salaries of Arabs working in the Department. The purchasing value of salaries has fallen steeply with soaring inflation rates, and it generally covers no more than 60 percent of subsistence requirements for a medium-size family. Israeli civil servants, in contrast, receive more than twice

their Arab counterparts.¹ This situation has forced a large number of qualified technicians to leave their jobs and seek employment elsewhere abroad. The researcher has recorded 15 resignations of agricultural engineers over the last three years alone, which makes up about one fourth of all engineers employed at the Department of Agriculture in 1978. Many more are hoping to leave. Not one vacant post has been added or substituted since 1976. On the next page is a photocopy of the letter circulated to all district offices of agriculture in which they are told to freeze all appointments, even of unskilled workers employed on a daily basis, as of September 4, 1981.

2. The morale of workers in the Department of Agriculture has further deteriorated by arbitrary sacking and transfer measures adopted by the Military Administration following the accession of Mr Begin into power in 1977. At least five senior technicians were dismissed in a gesture of exemplary toughness. Arab workers in the Department are repeatedly warned against unauthorized contacts with voluntary agencies or persons interested in extending aid or conducting research. This became clear when the directors of both the Cooperative Department in Hebron and Agricultural Research in Ramallah were dismissed, reportedly for their excessive contacts with American and British aid agencies.

1. By inquiring with senior accountants at the Department, the researcher learnt that Israeli officials earn, relative to West Bank counterparts, 50% more in take-home salary, 100% more on mileage allowance, and 100% more on per diem allowance.