

motives. It appears that Israel's encroachment policies are better served by emphasizing the barren image of West Bank land.

Bearing this factor in mind Table (VI-3) measures rates of change in the output of major farming patterns on the basis of the average yields for the last three years preceding occupation.

Table (VI - 3)

Trends in output

(Quantity in thousand tons, livestock in number)

Branch	Average for base period, 64-66	1969-72 average quantity	1969-72 average % change	1976-79 average quantity	1976-79 average % change
Wheat	51.0	34.4	-33	31.8	-38
Tomato	48.3	34.4	-30	41.9	-13
Cucumber	15.6	9.9	-37	24.8	60
Melons	75.2	23.1	-69	19.6	-74
Citrus	30.9	47.1	52	81.8	165
Olives	39.8	35.3	-11	43.2	9
Sheep and goats (000)	651.3	434.2	-33	398.2	-39
Cows (000)	34.6	28.6	-17	15.0	-57
Broilers	2902	3442	19	3351	15

- Sources: 1. Administered Territories Statistics Quarterly, 1980 op cit pp 88-89.  
 2. West Bank Agriculture 1974, op cit, pp 10-11.  
 3. Barhan Abu Howayj, Agricultural Atlas of Jordan (Amman: Ministry of Agriculture, 1974).

Although the data in the Table (VI-3) may conceal wide margins of error, yet they still reveal significant changes in production patterns between pre and post occupation eras. These changes are summarized below:

1. Wheat output decreased by about one third due to a sharp decline in its acreage following closure of extensive areas for "security" purposes.
2. Another significant drop and for similar reasons, occurred early after occupation with tomato and cucumber, but output later picked up until it markedly exceeded pre-occupation levels. This is due to a rapidly rising productivity following the extensive dissemination of protected farming techniques.
3. Melon output dropped sharply to one fourth of the pre-occupation level. This was similarly influenced by constraints on acreage, but also by competition with mechanized intensive production in the Negev.
4. Citrus production showed a sharp rise. This is attributed primarily to the coming into production age of many young citrus groves and, to a smaller extent, to a modest rise in productivity.
5. No stable changes are detected in olive output other than cyclical changes relating to alternate bearing and climatic factors. Output was depressed by factors relating to poorer husbandry, but this effect is probably more than offset by the maturity of young orchards coming into full production.
6. The population of sheep and goat flocks dropped by over one third of its pre-occupation size. Typically this was due to the drastic drop in the area of natural grazing pastures on the eastern slopes, which constituted a major target for Israel's land encroachment policies.
7. Likewise, the population of cows dropped by over 50% but for different reasons. Palestinian cow-owners find it impossible to compete with Israeli dairy producers, who receive extensive subsidies and other forms of support through their nationwide cooperative, "Tnuva".