

8. Broiler production showed an increase in the early years of occupation, but then it started to feel the effects of competition with heavily subsidized Israeli broilers. Output may even have dropped over the last two years (1979-81) to well below its pre-occupation level.

#### Changes in acreage

Changes in areas under major cropping patterns were even more pronounced than those of output. This is illustrated in Table (VI-4) which again monitors the magnitude of change on the basis of pre-occupation averages.

Table (VI - 4)

Trends in acreage

(thousands of dunams)

	Average for base period, 63-66	Average area 1968-70	Percent change	Average area 1977-79	Percent change
Field crops	1015.4	962.8	-5	716	-29
Vegetables	257.2	79.6	-69	105	-59
Melons	75.0	22.3	-70	4	-95
Fruit trees	789.5	702.2	-11	832	5

- Sources: 1. Statistical Abstract of Israel 1972, *op cit*, p 665.  
 2. Abu Hwayj, *op cit*, scattered pages.  
 3. Moshe Levi, *op cit*, p 4.

The above figures indicate a substantial drop in the acreage of field crops (30%) which has taken place mainly in the north-eastern hill slopes (Toubas area) mainly for coercive security and settlement purposes. But in addition there was a sharp contraction in areas under grains on marginal lands for obvious economic reasons. The decline in area under vegetables, on the other

hand, was most visible in the Jordan Valley, where security and settlement activities are most pronounced, whereas the decline in the area under melons was due largely to competition problems with Israeli produce.

The aggregate area under fruit trees does not reflect severe variations because of the usually slow response to factors bearing on tree culture. More recently there have been marked expansions in olives, almonds and grapes.

The dynamics of change in acreage and output of various patterns of farming reflect a variety of economic and non-economic factors which should be taken into careful consideration when planning agricultural development. These factors will be later reconsidered in the light of profitability analyses conducted for major patterns of rainfed farming.

#### Composition of agricultural product

Despite pronounced variations in the West Bank's physical geography, its agriculture is dominated by relatively few patterns of farming. Olive production is by far the most important branch, with a share ranging widely from 8-35% of agricultural income (see Table VI-5). Citrus follows next in importance with an average share of 10%. When lumped together, fruit trees contribute around 45% of all income originating in agriculture.

Income from vegetable crops vary less violently because of lesser dependence on rainfall. Their share of agricultural income averages at about 17%, contributed mainly by tomato (3.5%) and cucumber (3%). Field crops are least significant in terms of their contribution to agricultural income, with an average share of 6%.