

end of this section. Land development practices prior to growing almonds are minimal, because farmers believe that this tree can grow reasonably well irrespective of land quality. The cost of bringing the orchard into bearing age has been amortized over 14 years, which is the average life span of Farek trees.

Discussion of results:

1. Almonds are fairly profitable, despite the low level of husbandry they are accorded at present. Counting on the prevailing incidence of one good year in a series of three, net profit is estimated at about JD 10 per donum. Given the quality of land put under almonds, mostly class IV, it is doubtful if available substitutes (olives or almonds) would provide a higher income.
2. Comparative analysis of profitability for Farek, hard-shelled and bitter varieties have revealed interesting facts, notably the following:
 - a. Yield is much higher for bitter almonds, followed by hard-shelled Farek (ratio 3:2.5:1).
 - b. Bitter almonds are more consistent in their productivity. They are also much more resistant to almond wasp - the chief enemy of almonds. Consequently, the life span of bitter almonds is much higher than that of Farek, with hard-shelled varieties falling in between.
 - c. The price of Farek is the highest, followed by hard-shelled and bitter varieties (ratio: 4.8:1.4:1).
3. On the whole, Farek almonds can be thought of as a kind of a cash crop which nets fairly high profits over a short period

Table (VII - 11)
Profitability of almonds

	Unit	JD/unit	Good year		Bad year	
			Quantity	Value JD	Quantity	Value JD
Cost outlay						
a. Amortized foundation costs	donum	1.3	1	1.3	1	1.3
b. Labour - total				10.9		6.6
Animal ploughing	donum	4.5	1	4.5	1	4.5
Pruning	man/day	-	-	-	-	-
Fertilization	"	-	-	-	-	-
Spraying	"	-	-	-	-	-
Picking	woman/day	1.6	3	4.8	1	1.6
Preliminary shelling	"	1.6	1	1.6		0.5
c. Materials - total				-		-
Fertilizer, manure				-		-
Pesticides				-		-
d. Interest	%	10	1/3 year	0.4	1/3	0.2
e. Hauling of produce				0.9		0.3
TOTAL COSTS				13.5		8.4
RETURNS - total	Kg	(N.B.)	60	37.8	15	10.5
NET RETURNS						
- family labour included				24.3		2.1
- family labour excluded				28.3		4.2
N.B. In a good year: JD 0.63 per kilogram. In a bad year: JD 0.70 per kilogram.						