

Table (IX - 13)

Production, consumption, and trade of poultry

Poultry meat*	Production (tons)	Exports (tons)	Imports (tons)	Domestic Total-tons	Consumption kg/capita/year
West Bank	3,569	-	8,431	12,000	17
Israel	188,500	22,225	2,300	166,830	44
Jordan					12
<u>Eggs (in million)**</u>					
West Bank	30.2	-	26.6	56.8	80
Israel	1772.3	150.6	15.2	1487.6	393
Jordan					110

* Converted to carcass weight at the dressing percentage of 71 percent.

** Converted from weight data at the rate of 55 grams per egg.

- Source: 1. Administered Territories Statistics Quarterly, 1980, No 1-2, op cit, p 103.
2. Statistical Abstract of Israel 1980, op cit, p 278.
3. Poultry International, Vol 20, No 8, August 1981, pp 34-36.

The data in Table (IX-13) indicates clearly that the size of the poultry industry and per capita consumption of eggs and broiler meat are still much smaller than those of Israel and Jordan. Furthermore, it is clear that the West Bank has become heavily dependent on imports from Israel for meeting its domestic demand. Consequently, it derives from Israel around 70 percent of its meat supply and 47 percent of its table eggs. This means that the West Bank's poultry industry has a long way to go before it can meet local demand for poultry products. But in order to do so, it is first necessary to explore the dynamics underlying the erratic

development of poultry over the past fourteen years.

Besides being potentially a lucrative type of dry farming, poultry production is perceived by local experts as the most feasible course of action for alleviating the chronic shortage in the West Bank's animal protein supply. This is more true in the light of the poor prospects for achieving a tangible rise in the supply of red meat, fish, and milk products.

Husbandry practices

As is the case in most forms of arid agriculture, poultry farming is undertaken mostly as a side business-line in which owners provide the bulk of labour, capital, and management. Quite frequently, even the sheds used by poultrymen are mobilized for this purpose from old buildings which have a low opportunity cost. Consequently, it is noticed that poultry producers have acquired a marked degree of flexibility with respect to their scale of operations, which hence enables them to adapt quickly to unforeseen market fluctuations.

Broiler production is far more prevalent than egg production. An important reason for this is avoiding deeper and more stable involvement in poultry, so that it is possible for producers to scale down their operations in response to emerging crises. Layer farms offer very little flexibility in this regard, due to the much longer time in which the poultry are tied to the farm.

Day-old baby chicks are procured entirely from Israeli hatcheries which breed hybrid strains of good quality. Until the summer of 1981 the West Bank had no local hatcheries, and earlier efforts to establish some failed. Feed, on the other hand, is available