

presented by authors in this respect vary widely. Depending on the source of information on which the data are based, figures on the total cultivable land of Palestine have ranged between 6,544,000d. and 12,233,000d. (Himadeh, 1937; Gozansky, 1986; Saed, 1985; Grannot, 1937) The contradiction here is partly due to the lack of original data but is mostly because of the fact that the issue of Palestine's cultivable area during British colonialism was, and still is, a highly controversial issue. Because of the significance of this issue, both in terms of its role in determining the status of the fallaheen as well as its relevance to foreign settlement, special attention must be paid to this question.

The size of a fallah farm will be examined on two levels: One is the size of the actual average holding of the fallah during this period, and second, in accordance with the definition of the fallah adopted earlier, the size it should theoretically have been.

Agricultural experts from the Zionist Organization of Palestine have put the average size of "an ordinary fallah" at 90 dunams. (2) The 1930 "Enquiry into the Economic Conditions of the Agriculturists" estimated the average size of a fallah farm at 100 dunams. Yet, after the publication of the report of the Survey of Palestine in 1930 new evidence was presented suggesting that the actual average of a fallah farm was about 74 dunams. (3)

The presence of more than one opinion regarding the size of the fallah's farm is the result of the wider controversy which surrounded the total size of agricultural land during that period.

The Controversy Surrounding the Size of Agricultural Land

It is generally accepted that the total land of Palestine is approximately 10,000 s.q miles or about 25,000,000 metric dunams. The