

1930s were never able to stand on their own without heavy dependence on external sources for funding.

As was mentioned earlier, most fertile land appropriated by European Jewish settlers was already occupied by the private settlements leaving only less fertile land for later settlement. Low fertility within the Kibbutzim, as further discussion reveals, was also enhanced by the fact that most Kibbutzim were established for other than socio-economic reasons.

In addition, the capital needed for irrigation, mechanization and other equipment was not always available. Kibbutzim during the 1920s were reportedly underequipped and serious complaints and dissatisfaction was widespread among their members.

Even earlier Kibbutzim which were erected on Palestine's most fertile land, the Marj, were suffering from serious problems. Commenting on this situation one Jewish agricultural expert said:

No expenditures for planting new colonies should be made unless the development of existing colonies has been completed, or the money for their full development has been provided. The amount required for this will absorb the probable normal income of the Colonization Department for several years to come. Delay in providing settlers with needed equipment and improvements is now causing losses and disappointments. It is lowering the efficiency of the settlers, it is the cause of large deficits.
(32)

In the late 1920s and early 1930s the whole Kibbutz movement appeared to be in danger of collapsing. For a period of three years, 1929- 1931, only three Kibbutzim were established. (33) Economic difficulties were not the sole, or even the most important, factor in the slow growth of the Kibbutzim. Internal political factors were equally crucial.

The Palestinian peasant uprising of 1929 and the consequent