

which is the focus of this study, were key sources of information in compiling these agricultural statistics.<sup>198</sup> The Asian provinces of the empire, including Palestine, were first surveyed in 1909.

The introduction to the 1909 survey clarifies that production levels as reported in the statistical compendium were derived from statistics on the amount of *uŝr* (tax on harvests) collected.<sup>199</sup> The tables of information show that landholdings of grains were reported in three divisions: those 10 dunams or less, those between 10 and 50 dunams, and those larger than 50 dunams.<sup>200</sup> It is very important to note, these figures do not reflect the total amount of agricultural properties held by farming families but, rather, the size of their *tarla*, fields for growing grains. This appears not to have been understood by two foundational researchers who have used these statistics, Arthur Ruppın and Avraham Granott.<sup>201</sup> The under-calculations this led to have influenced not only generations of scholarly writing on Palestinian land-tenure in the Ottoman period but also political decisions.

---

<sup>198</sup> Tefvik Gran, ed. *Osmanlı Dnemi Tarım İstatistikleri 1909, 1913, ve 1914 / Agricultural Statistics of Turkey During the Ottoman Period*, vol. 3 (Ankara: Devlet İstatistik Enstits, 1997), xviii. Turkish.

<sup>199</sup> *Ibid.*, xviii, xxi.

<sup>200</sup> *Ibid.*, Table 3.2 (1909 statistics for areas today in Turkey); *1325 senesi Asya ve Afrika-i Osmanı ziraat istatistiđi* (1909 Asian and African (provinces') Ottoman agricultural statistics (Dersaadet (Istanbul): Matbaa-i Osmaniye, 1327 / 1911); Jerusalem is on page ٤. Ottoman Turkish. Accessed through HathiTrust.org on 6 Jan. 2016.

<sup>201</sup> Avraham Granott, *The Land System in Palestine, History and Structure* (London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1952), (trans. by M. Simon of *Ha-Mishtar Ha-Qarqa'l b-Aretz Israel* (The Land Regime in the Land of Israel) (Dvir: Tel Aviv, תש"ט (1948/49)), 38-39. Arthur Ruppın, *Syrien als Wirtschaftsgebiet* (Syria as an Economic Region), 1917 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Berlin and Wien: Benjamin Harz, 1920), 84-87. German.