

4. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

This chapter includes a detailed investigation of the growth in agricultural production with special attention to cash crops. It illustrates the increased integration of Palestinian agriculture with the world market by way of figures on imports and exports. Distinction is made between Jewish European and Arab cultivation but at the same time it examines the nature of their interaction. It also examines, when appropriate, different government policies including trade policies as they affected agricultural production as a whole and their various impact on Arab and Jewish European agriculture.

There was substantial growth in the agricultural crop production during the Mandate. This can be clearly seen whether measured in tonnage or value of output: The volume of output, excluding citrus, increased from 217,023 tons to 637,263 tons from 1921 to 1944, respectively,¹ an almost 200 percent increase; as for value, there are no figures available for the earlier period of the Mandate, but the value of output, excluding citrus, increased from £P 4,046,219 to £P 18,388,505 in current pounds between 1937 and 1944, respectively.² Yet, within this aggregate picture lies significant variation at different levels: (a) the variation in growth between crops, (b) the variation between European and Arab agriculture in

¹*Abstract 1936*, 32; and *Abstract 1944/45*, 226.

²*Abstract 1939*, 41; and *Abstract 1944/45*, 226.