

by the 1941-1942 season, foreign nationals owned 30 percent of Jewish groves, which tended to be larger than the groves owned by European Jews living in Palestine.²⁹

The export of citrus has continuously increased throughout the 1930s, except for the 1935-1936 season, so that by 1938-1939 it reached more than 15 million boxes. This gave Palestine a 24 percent share of world exports of oranges, approximately 48 percent of grapefruit, and 2 percent of lemons.³⁰ Thus, Palestine became the largest exporter of citrus, superseding Spain and the United States.³¹ At the same time, the European Jewish share in citrus exports increased from 37 percent in 1930-1931 to 65 percent in 1938-1939, due mainly to well-developed marketing cooperatives, which were lacking among Arab citrus growers,³² and better foreign contracts.

However, more important than Palestine's share of the world's citrus exports was the share of its citrus exports in its agricultural and total exports. Even in the preceding 1937-1938 season, its exports of 11.5 million boxes constituted

²⁹Gurevich, *Handbook*, 127, 182; Nathan et al., 209; David Horowitz and Rita Hinden, *Economic Survey of Palestine, With Special Reference to the Years 1936 and 1937* (Tel Aviv: Jewish Agency for Palestine, Economic Research Unit, 1938), 11.

³⁰Nathan et al., 436.

³¹*Ibid.*, 433. Although the Spanish Civil War had a serious impact on exports, the decline in Spain's exports started before the war and was due to a large extent to Palestinian competition due to the higher quality of its citrus; as for the United States, the bulk of its output, which was much larger than Palestine's, was locally consumed.

³²Brown, "Agriculture," 142; Nathan et al., 209.