

For most of the Arab peasants, unlike the Jewish European farmers, the main obstacles to fodder cultivation included the lack of sufficient land to set aside for that purpose and the lack of water or the capital resources for irrigation. Available land was needed for the subsistence-necessary cereal growing. There was also the necessity of keeping the land fallow during the summer months and the fact that fodder was a soil-exhausting crop that would result in lower grain yield in winter.<sup>80</sup> All this perhaps explains the failure of government efforts to foster the cultivation of green fodder, without providing the necessary resources.<sup>81</sup>

Thus, the cattle, sheep, goats, and other animals of Arab peasants were fed on natural grazing and stubble. In years of good rainfall, this was, more or less, adequate. In drought years, and especially during the summer months, the animals faced starvation.<sup>82</sup> However, Arab peasants did cultivate nonirrigated fodder such as barley, *kersemeh*, and so on predominantly in the southern region where rainfall is the lowest in the country and yields are relatively poor. Given this situation, it was only the plow animals that were fed this cultivated fodder.<sup>83</sup> This was a good example of the rationale behind the setting of priorities by the peasants. Still, the production of nonirrigated fodder did increase by more than twofold in the late thirties and early forties as compared to earlier years, which reflected and

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<sup>80</sup>Kamen, 223.

<sup>81</sup>See *Ibid.*, 219-31, for a fuller treatment of the government's efforts and the peasants' attitude towards it.

<sup>82</sup>Brown, "Agriculture," 173, 177.

<sup>83</sup>*Ibid.*, 190.