

accompanied the growth in the number of animals for those years. This will be discussed in a separate section below.

4.1.6 Sesame

As for sesame, besides its value as a summer cash crop by providing additional income to the grower, its cultivation, because of the requirements of constant hoeing and weeding, and being nonsoil-depleting, results in a greater wheat or barley crop in the next winter.⁸⁴

The cultivation of sesame was also a traditional practice in Palestine. The area devoted to its cultivation varied every year because of the variation in the amount of rainfall. More specifically, it is the amount of rainfall in March and April that mainly determined the area cultivated with sesame.⁸⁵ The deficiency in rainfall for the seasons 1931-1932, 1932-1933, and 1933-1934⁸⁶ being about half the average for the preceding seasons explains the substantial drop in output for the 1930-1934 period. Thus, given the higher level of output for the two preceding periods, the 48 percent increase in area between 1931-1934 and 1940-1944 shown in Table 4.1.A belies the fact that a greater area was cultivated with sesame for the two periods preceding 1931-1934, but for which no figures are available. The decline in area for 1945 was also because of “unfavorable planting weather.”⁸⁷

⁸⁴Ibid., 133.

⁸⁵Ibid., 46, 133.

⁸⁶*Abstracts 1939*, 9.

⁸⁷Johnson-Crosbie Report, 40.