

involved in the same line of production as Jewish European ones, and the fact that the largest tobacco factory was Arab owned (Karaman, Deck, and Salti, Ltd.), with a capital of £P 150,000,¹¹⁰ were perhaps unique features in this regard.

4.2 Staple Food Crops

Finally, there was wheat and *durra*, which represented the main staple food crops. Like in other predominantly agricultural societies, Palestinian Arab peasants, relying primarily on extensive dry farming, have historically devoted a major part of their crop land to the cultivation of high energy-yielding crops.

The area devoted to the cultivation of wheat and *durra* remained basically the same, but its share of the total cultivated area declined. The 6 percent increase in area between 1931-1934 and 1940-1944 is insignificant and somewhat meaningless. It does not reflect a continuous increase in area since the period 1935-1939 actually had a larger area devoted to the cultivation of wheat and *durra* than the period 1940-1944. This had to do with the annual variation in area devoted to each of the different cereal crops, including barley, other grains, and summer crops. This variation, in turn, was determined by the amount of rainfall and the system of crop rotation.

However, more important than the lack of increase in the area culminated with wheat and *durra* is that this same area had to support a much larger population during the Mandate period. More specifically, the density of the Arab

¹¹⁰Himadeh, "Industry," 262.