

third of his output to meet cash needs and pay off debts.¹²⁹ This canceling out of most potential benefits to peasants did not only pertain to wheat and flour, but to other agricultural products as well.¹³⁰

In addition, the poor peasants most in need of those benefits were, in many cases, the ones least helped, while the moneylenders and merchants reaped much of the advantages. In this regard, it has been noted that

full benefits . . . are not enjoyed entirely by the poorer and smaller growers because they are compelled through poverty to sell their crops at or soon after harvest to moneylenders and merchants. It is the latter who can hold on to the crop and release it, as it is required, on a rising market.¹³¹

Even worse for the peasant, he was forced, later on, to buy back, at a higher price, some wheat from the moneylender in cases where the peasant was left with less than the family's needs when he sold part of his yield to pay off debts or to meet other cash needs.¹³² In many cases, this "buying back" from the moneylender was on credit, thus increasing the peasant's debt. The peasant's lack of resources, debt, meager government support, and the government's policies of taxation and trade are made more evident by the fact that the area devoted to wheat and *durra* more or less remained the same.

¹²⁹Brown, "Agriculture," 129, *Survey I*, 450.

¹³⁰Brown, "Agriculture," 129. Brown specifically lists barley, olive oil, poultry and eggs, and vegetables.

¹³¹*Ibid.*, 130.

¹³²*Survey I*, 450.