

5. TECHNIQUES OF PRODUCTION

This chapter surveys the extent of changes in the techniques of production and whether they accompanied the increase in cash cropping, the impact it had on agricultural production as a whole, and the various developments in Arab and European production. The areas surveyed include mechanization, irrigation, fertilizers, crop rotation and the cultivation of green fodder, seed improvement, and the development of skills.

5.1 Mechanization

There are no detailed or specific data or much written about the mechanization of agriculture in Palestine during the Mandate period. What are available are primarily general statements juxtaposing the highly mechanized European farmers, in relative terms, to the mainly traditional Arab agricultural practices. However, there is enough information direct and deduced that puts this general picture into more focus. The machinery investigated includes heavy machinery such as tractors and combines, but also irrigation pumps and incubators and brooders used in poultry farming.

In the case of tractors, government figures show that tractors increased from 40 in 1921 to 500 in 1940 of which 50 were Arab owned, the rest owned by