

There are, again, no detailed data on irrigated areas, but estimates are available that show the progress over time, although somewhat inconsistent. The first figure we have was for 1931 with an estimate of a little over 260,000 irrigated *dunums*,¹⁸ of which 120,000 *dunums* were citrus. For 1936, the estimate of the Royal Commission was 350,000 *dunums*, of which 300,000 *dunums* were citrus, the latter figure being accurate according to many sources. What these figures say is that between 1931 and 1936 the noncitrus irrigated areas declined from 140,000 to 50,000 *dunums*, which does not make sense in such a short time period. Thus, either the 1931 estimate of 260,000 irrigated *dunums* was too high or the 1936 estimate of 350,000 irrigated *dunums* was too low. However, given our general information about the relatively limited state of intensive agriculture in the 1920s and early 1930s, and the estimates of irrigated areas for 1945, it can be safely assumed that the 1931 estimate was probably too high.

In 1945, the estimate of irrigated areas was 500,000 *dunums*¹⁹ of which about half was citrus. This figure makes sense given the substantial increase in the irrigation of vegetables, fodder, and other crops starting in the mid-1930s and continuing through the war years.

Most of the irrigated areas were in the plains. It amounted to 405,000 *dunums* or 81 percent of the total irrigated land. Next was the Jordan Valley with 85,000 *dunums* or 17 percent, thus leaving the hills area with only 10,000 irrigated

¹⁸*Census of Palestine, 1931*, vol. 1, pt. 1, 23-4.

¹⁹*Survey I*, 422.