

*dunums* or 2 percent of the total. Obviously, this was the case because the topography of the plains made them the easiest source of obtainable irrigation water. This, combined with the fact that most of the large landholdings were in the plains, is yet another indicator that most of the benefits of increased demand and high prices during WWII accrued to the European settlers and the Arab big landowners/merchants, who, unlike the small landholder, could afford the expenses of irrigation and, at the same time, did not have to worry about securing his subsistence crops first.

As in the case of mechanization, there was a wide gap in irrigated areas between the European settler and Arab agriculture. The total area of cultivated land by the European settlers amounted to 748,000 *dunums* or about 9 percent of the total cultivated area in the country. Of the European cultivated area, about 249,000 *dunums* or 33 percent were irrigated.<sup>20</sup> The percentage of irrigated crop area was 54 percent if we exclude the 286,000 *dunums* of unirrigated cereals, which gives us a better picture of the extent of intensification on European farms, since most of the cereals were grown as part of mixed farming. The cultivation of cereals was never essential for the livelihood of settler farmers, and by 1945 its output represented only 7 percent<sup>21</sup> of European settler consumption of cereals, while the rest was either imported or purchased from Arab cultivators.

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<sup>20</sup>Gurevich, *Handbook*, 156.

<sup>21</sup>Calculated from *ibid.*, 176-7.