

three-year rotation did occur, then “this would be evidence for the decline in the amount of land available to the average household and the consequences of that decline for peasant aquiculture practices.”³⁷ In other words, peasants who still cultivated land were forced into the practice of a three-year crop rotation with a shorter fallow because a two-year rotation with a longer fallow time on a smaller piece of land did not yield a sufficient output of wheat and barley.

As already mentioned, the growing of green fodder was an almost exclusive European Jewish agricultural practice. Arab cultivators made little progress in the growing of green fodder, which is essential for dairy cattle. As in the case of crop rotation, insufficient lands, in addition to the lack of resources for irrigation, were the main factors for this.

However, Arab peasants dedicated almost half of their cereal cultivation area to traditional fodder crops such as barley, *kersenneh*, oats, and maize. In bad rain years, the yield was insufficient to maintain their animals. Insufficient rain also seriously affected the following summer when most animals fed on natural grazing.³⁸ In good rain years, the yield was sufficient but not nutritious enough for dairy cattle.³⁹ This perhaps partially explains the lack of development of a dairy industry among Arab cultivators. Accordingly, the processing and marketing of dairy products remained primarily a traditional domestic-based activity to the

³⁷Kamen, 200.

³⁸Brown, “Agriculture,” 173.

³⁹Kamen, 219.