

cultivated area of Bethlehem district is tilled by owner-cultivators, as opposed to 79.3% in the Jenin district - Kahan, ibid.). The highest incidence of both sharetenancy and large (absentee) landholdings occurs in the southern and northern Ghors.

To conclude this brief introduction, we can establish that the first 15 years of Israeli rule over the West Bank produced little change in land tenure relations, but had a considerable impact on other variables in the agricultural sector. This impact can be summarized in the following trends: a drastic decline in the volume of the labour force involved in agriculture, and shifts to other sectors of the economy, most notably in Israeli construction; decline in the production of traditional crops, most notably olives, in favour of other cash and export crops in response to closer integration with Israeli market demands, and the contraction of the transJordanian and Arab markets; a substantial increase of neglected farmland in the highlands associated with the higher remuneration from wage-labour outside the village; and finally, widespread introduction of new agricultural techniques in irrigated farming, and capitalization of agricultural inputs.