Of the many forms of sharecropping contracts that prevailed in Palestine during the Mandatory period and subsequent Jordanian rule, two broad arrangements continue to operate today: (1) crop-leasing against a share of the yield; and (2) joint-farming partnerships. The first compact is known as daman mahsul (leasing the crop) and is referred to by most peasants as 'ala hissa ("on a share basis"), in the case of olives, and 'ala qism ("on a part basis") for most fruits and vegetables (rarely in grains).

In both cases, the sharetenant actually leases crops, but not the land, during harvest time, and only after the fruits are ripe. In the case if vineyards and fruit trees, the leasee estimates the potential yield after the blossoming of the fruits and negotiates a cash deal with the peasant owner. The leasee (tenant) is bound by the terms of the contract and is responsible for all losses due to bad harvests and high yield estimates that he may have mistakingly made. In some areas, as in the Hebron mountains, the sharecropper is usually a rural-based merchant who hires his own croppers (or occasionally uses his family labour) and pays the peasant owners in advance (Jaradat, 1980).

In olive 'ala hissa compacts, the sharetenant and his hired cropper (in case they are not members of his household) pick and press the harvest into oil after the orchard has been ploughed by the owner, the latter getting 50% of the net yield. Olive-cropping is unique in that it is the only crop where the share is still paid in kind, in terms of a portion of the fruit pressed into oil -- although cash transactions are not rare. (This practice is probably due to the nature of olive oil which has an enduring consistency, thus constituting an excellent safeguard against high inflation of currency).