

next to their holdings), have been major advantages to those landless peasants in acquiring tenancy contracts and raising their standards of living.

By contrast, no such visible differentiation is obtained in the mountain regions. The status of both small peasants and big landlords has been substantially transformed by large-scale internal migration from the village to Israeli industries and construction sites. Muhasasa cropping is widely practiced in the harvesting of olives (Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem districts) and grapes (Hebron district), but not in cereals and vegetables, which are predominantly cultivated for subsistence in those areas.

In the hilly areas, large-scale migration had a different impact on cropping arrangements. The landlord no longer leases the land to a ploughman-tiller (harrath), but has to hire one himself, at a substantial expense due to the rise in wages of agricultural workers. Those farmers whose family members are unable to help them with the harvest, farm-out the trees during the picking seasons, receiving only one-half the yield. Until the early seventies, i.e. before the major movement towards employment in Israel, the landlord used to receive the same half of the yield (in olive oil) by farming-out the orchard to the ploughman-tiller, or to another farmer, who undertook the whole operation himself, all expenses being born by the leasee (Aranki, 1980). Because of the current scarcity of labour and the unprofitability of such arrangements, we witness today widespread negligence of olive orchards among small farmers (Farhat-Nasir, 1980:13-17), who prefer to release the labour of the household members for wage work outside the village.

A final distinction should be made between the situation of share-tenants in the mountain villages and those in the Jordan Valley. The latter, by virtue of their refugee (and therefore landless) status, work