

Source: Government of Palestine, Report of a Committee on the Economic Conditions of Agriculturalists in Palestine and the Fiscal Measures of Government in Relation thereto (Johnson-Crosbie), Jerusalem (1930); p. 21. *A faddan, on the average, equals 120 dunums (30 acres).

Of the total holdings referred to in Table 1 above, 68% (about 797,529 dunums) were owned directly by the villagers, 21% were leased or share cropped from absentee landlords, and 11% were leased from other (presumably neighbouring) villagers (Johnson-Crosbie, 1930:20). Thus although a majority of the villagers were owner-occupiers, to use the current term, less than a quarter of the households (categories 1a and 1b) gained exclusive subsistence from the land, including tenant farmers and share croppers, while almost half the households (45.3%) fell into what we might call today peasant workers; a considerable third (29.4%) constituted full time workers.

Since the tabulation system used by Johnson and Crosbie divides households into exclusive categories, based on farm, non-farm, and "mixed" (the latter amounting to 76.3% of total households) income sources, the process of work outside the village cannot be captured to the extent that it relates to the breakdown of household membership. That is, as it related to the demographic composition of the peasant household. A more sophisticated survey conducted in five "representative" villages fifteen years later (in 1944) does provide an enumeration of peasant households by categories of earners, but unfortunately fails to relate earning categories to occupations or to employment on the land. (Government of Palestine 1945: table 14-15, see also tables 50 and 54). Nor is the incidence of wage labour isolated for purposes of comparison. A basic assumption in most of those official studies, has been the research for a self-sustaining peasantry ("an eternal peasantry" as expressed by