

Conversely, dependence on agricultural income is probably overrated. According to a respected land expert from the village, only two families actually have enough land to generate sufficient income from their crops. Both have slightly over 100 dunums of prime olive groves each, producing 150 and 120 jarrahs of olive oil respectively in good years (Aranki, 1980: inter.) -- but even they have sons in the U.S. who send back money every year. In total, there are nine indigenous families (non-refugees) who work exclusively on their land, three Christian and six Muslim (ibid.). During the Mandate period, only 40 years ago by comparison, 50 percent of the households (vs. 9 percent today) owned their work animals, and over one-third (65 out of 118) had the means of surviving as well-off peasants (NHS, 1974:30; Aranki, 1980:ibid.; Hope-Simpson, 1930:63). What is the explanation for this change?

Basically, the same process of fragmentation and land alienation that operated in Ras el-Tin applies here, but with important modifications.

Natufa differs from Ras el-Tin, despite their adjacent location, in that its land was surveyed, parcelled, and registered in the Land Registry (Tapu) during the years 1952-1956 (see Map 9:1). It thus falls into those categories of West Bank lands where title deeds are recorded into the names of individual owners. Until then, Natufa had patterns of cropping and plot distribution similar to its sister village. A comparison of two estimates undertaken by the Palestine Land Survey Department prior to the actual settlement show the distribution seen in Table 9:5.

Land categories appearing in Table 9:5, are classified for tax purposes. The highest category, unit one -- which does not exist in Natufa, is irrigated land planted with citrus trees and pays 400 filis (c. 60 pence) per dunum. Cultivable land categorized 5 - 8 (50 percent of Natufa's