land seized for Jewish settlements during Labour rule under these various categories.

Perhaps even more crucial than land transfers to the future of Palestinian farming in the Valley is the diversion of scarce water resources for use by Israeli settlements. Nominally, the military government has estimated the availability of 98 million cubic meters per annum (mempa) for total Valley exploitation; 56 million for the Arab sector and 42 million for the Jewish sector (Harris, 1980:119). However, these estimates were soon found to be exaggerated, partly because of the increased salinity in underground water tables. In any case, all further Arab drilling was halted and few wells were forced shut. New ceilings were imposed for usage of existing wells. Nevertheless, pumping of water of Jewish settlements continued at an alarming rate. In the agricultural season 1977-1978, for example, seventeen Israeli wells in the Valley produced 14.1 million cubic meters of water, compared to 33.0 mempa for all West Bank Arab use (Awartani, 1980:17). That is 30 percent of all West Bank artesian water resources.

The consequences of these drillings have been disastrous for Palestinian agriculture in the Valley. In two cases, widely reported by the international press, local springs used by Arab villages were completely dried up as a result of diversion to neighbouring Jewish settlements. The first case involved the village of Bardala in the Upper Valley. When Moshav Mahola increased its water pumping in 1974 the local springs at Tel el Baida completely dried up ruining two agricultural seasons for Bardala after which fruit trees had to be uprooted and drinking water had to be imported from outside (Harris, 1980:120). In the second case the waters of al-Auja -- the largest Arab village in the Jordan Valley (2,000 inhabitants) lost 90 percent of its 375 acres of banana trees and all of 100 acres of citrus groves as a result of water pumping at nearby Israeli