

Secondly, wage labour in the Eastern Valley is increasingly being conquered by imported foreign (mostly Egyptian and Southeast Asian) workers, as resident peasant households sub-farm from leaseholders. Female household members tend to take over male tasks as male members of the peasant farm seek work outside the land. In the Western Valley full-time wage work is concentrated in citrus plantations in the lower Valley, while seasonal wage workers (especially females) are recruited from the highlands during the harvest. In contrast, these workers are indigenous Palestinians.

Finally, shortage of agricultural labour prevails on both sides of the Valley and has tended to favour the tenant, especially tenants with access to credit. However, while government land reforms have secured the tenure of small farmers and tenants in the Eastern Ghors, continued land confiscation and land transfers in the Western Valley has made it increasingly difficult for both landlords and tenants to invest in the permanent improvement of their farms.

Notes

1. For an excellent survey of this recent history, from which this section is derived, see The East Jordan Valley: A Social and Economic Survey (Jordan Department of Statistics, Amman, 1961). See also Frederick G. Peake, The History and Tribes of Jordan, (Miami, 1954).
2. The 7% commission is calculated in Israeli shekels, while interest on delinquent payments in Jordanian dinars, since the latter currency does not depreciate to the same extent as the Israeli shekel.
3. In the latter case, less than 40 dunums, since only increments of 20 dunums are provided in the data for 1975 and 1978 Agricultural Census (Dajani et al., 1980:50).
4. This overview is based, largely, on Wm. Harris' comprehensive study of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories: Taking Roots, especially pp. 105-123, (Chichester, 1980).