

1977/78 season a scandal ensued after which the Argaman farmers were severely reprimanded (Litani, 1980:Inter.).

While leasing moshav lands to Arabs is prohibited, the hiring of Arab workers, while officially discouraged, is widely practiced in the Jordan Valley. Argaman farmers prefer women workers since they are cheaper to hire (IL.200-220, or \$5 - \$5½ per day), and recruit most of their labourers from the Far'a Valley and Tammoun village (Levi, 1980:Inter.). A member of the moshav secretariat claimed that they prefer not to hire Zbeidati women because neighbourly relations with the village prevent them from imposing discipline on their work (ibid.). During harvest, however, an average of 12-15 women from Zbeidat work daily in Argaman. Children (12-16 years) are also employed seasonally in the flower hothouses for IL. 60-75 per day's work (\$1.5 - \$1.8).

Argaman and Zbeidat farmers also exchange produce surpluses, mainly in subsistence crops, and occasionally the moshav sells Zbeidat farmers drip pipes which they (i.e. the moshav) receive at subsidized rates from the Israeli company Netafim. In return Zbeidatis are allowed to use the Argaman garage to fix their electric generators when they fail to get a mechanic's help from Nablus or Jericho, and often buy frozen chicken and milk products from the Argaman general store, products that are not available in the two village shops.

Relations between Argaman and Zbeidat are restrained and "correct" but have their moments of strain. The villagers differentiate between the Israeli army - which has a permanent presence in this border area - and the Jewish farmers. They recall with bitterness, however, that the establishment of Argaman robbed them of 60 dunums of 80 of their unfenced land (20% of the total) - which was taken as compensation for landholders on whose property Argaman was built. The presence of the settlement also