

- b. With the exception of hormones and insecticides, which are sprayed by men using portable sprayers, with women following them with the liquid fillers, fertilization now is a completely mechanized process.
- c. Increased productivity led to a higher demand for labour, including hired labour, during the harvest season. Picking of vegetables and harvesting is carried by all family members, but women bear the main brunt of work during the season. Packing vegetables, on the other hand, requires the participation of men, who grade the different qualities of the produce to be marketed, and the carrying of the wooden containers to the trucks.

This division of labour, and changes in the work process in general, are determined by the annual agricultural cycle in the peasant's farm, and the cropping arrangement for any particular year.

As can be seen from Table 12:1, the cropping arrangement occupies most household labour throughout the year, with a brief lull in activity towards the end of June and during July. By early August ground preparation for the autumn cycle begins.

Comparing the present cropping scheme with that prevailing before the introduction of drip and scientific farming (see the 1953 "crop-rotation scheme for 20 dunums farm", Diagram 10:1-Chapter 10, above) one can see a number of important changes: (a) with the substantial increase in cash crops, a much smaller area is devoted towards subsistence crops today than in 1953; (b) fallowing has decreased as an agricultural practice to the point of extinction. In 1953 25-30 percent of the plot was left as fallow over the two-year cycle. The impact of intensive use of chemicals on the soil is beyond the scope of this report, but should be paid attention in