

farmers is the periodic leaching of the land surface area to reduce salinity (every 4-5 years), and the sterilization of soil.

Two crucial factors still account, however, for differential yield per unit cultivated in Zbeidat. These are: the use or non-use of "drip", and the combination of crops planted for each agricultural cycle.

Since we are not dealing with subsistence agriculture, net productivity, it should be point out, is based on the calculation of marketed yield, and not on the actual productivity of the holding.¹ Marketed yield is itself subject to fluctuations in market prices (demand) and -- in the case of Zbeidat -- on the export permits they can acquire to send their produce to Jordan.

The following figures indicate crop yield for the main vegetable in Zbeidat, tomato, compared with yields under different forms of irrigation in the region:

Table 12:4

Crop Yield in Zbeidat & Selected Neighbouring Regions
By Method of Irrigation (Tomatoes): (1979/1980)

Yield: Tons/Dunum

Cultivated Area	Furrow	Drip**	Hot Houses**
Zbeidat 1977	1.5	8.1	-
Zbeidat 1980	0.5	6.0	-
Central East Ghor 1978	1.52	4.5	10
'Ateel (Tulkarem) 1980	-	1.5 -8*	10-11
Deir al-Ghusun 1980	0.75	7-8½	10-12

Sources: (1) Zbeidat, 1977: Y. Azzeh & I. Matar "Farm Budgets";
(2) Zbeidat 1980: Average of 3 farms surveyed by author;
(3) Central East Ghor: A. Steitieh et al., Dirasat (University of Jordan) May 1979, p. 126; (4) 'Ateel and Deir al-Ghusun: data collected from 5 farms by the author. (*) Low yield due to frost conditions in winter of 1979.
(**) First cycle only.