It will be noted that yield fluctuations observed in Table 12:4 for drip irrigation does not appear in cultivation under hot houses (hammamot), which so far has not been introduced to Zbeidat because of the high capital expenses involved. These fluctuations are primarily due to the relative susceptability of crops planted under plastics and drip to frost attacks, which were particularly severe in the winter of 1979/1980, even then the increase in productivity under drip irrigation has been six to 10 times what it was under open furrow.

One of the main benefits resulting from the introduction of drip irrigation has been the ability of the Zbeidat farmers to market their produce to West Bank and Jordanian markets three weeks to a month before the winter vegetables in areas outside the Jordan Valley reach the market. In periods where frost damage to vegetables is extensive (such as 1979/1980) shortages hike the wholesale and retail prices considerably, again to the benefit of Zbeidat farmers, even when their own crops are affected by frost.

The net income of Zbeidat farmers, though considerably higher than what it was before 1977, is affected today by (1) capital investment for the installation of drip irrigation and its accessories, (2) the increased costs of fertilizers and insecticides and other farm inputs, and (3) the increased dependence on hybrid seeds and saline-resistant seedlings.

A farm budget prepared in 1978 for a 20 dunums area cultivated under drip irrigation estimated a total net income of $36,244 for owner and cultivators together (Matar and al-Azzeh, 1978). On the assumption that the land has three tenants (sharecroppers), each tenant's share would have been $6,040. Productivity per dunum of tomatoes was 8.1 tons with a productive value of $1,812 per dunum. This should be contrasted with productivity in a 39-dunum farm utilizing open furrow irrigation (1977) which neted $198 per dunum, producing an estimated 1.5 tons/dunum of tomatoes (Matar and