

al-Azzeh, 1980:ibid.). Under the two alternative systems of irrigation, furrow in 1977 and drip in 1978, the landholder farmed out to three sharecroppers in each case. The return on their investment, assuming a 50% share with the landowner in expenses and returns, was as follows:

Table 12:5
Sharecropper & Landowner Shares, According
to the System of Irrigation, 1977-1978

	Furrow Irrigation (1977)	Drip Irrigation (1978)
Farm Size	35 Dunums	20 Dunums
Number of Sharecroppers	3 (11.7 d. each)	3 (6.7 d. each)
Owner's Share of Income	\$3,750	\$18,122
Sharecropper's Income	\$1,250	\$ 6,040

Source: Matar & al-Azzeh "Farm Budgets" (1978) (adapted)

Although one should approach these figures with caution, (since 1978 was an exceptionally good year for Jordan Valley vegetables, and Jordan had followed a liberal policy towards importing West Bank crops) it nevertheless gives us a clear indicator of the substantial increase in income brought about by the introduction of drip. Matar and al-Azzeh report a ten-fold increase in cash productivity of drip-irrigated areas over furrow. This figure (\$1,812 vs. \$198) does not seem to take into account the capital investments necessary for the installation of drip. It merely assumes a 10 percent depreciation costs after installation.

Since 1978 was the first year of "drip" yields (after the pilot projects of Salameh Abu Dabbus and Abdallah Hassan proved successful) such dramatic results were crucial for the Zbeidat community to gain confidence