

economy and social structure. This involves a critical evaluation of various transformations that have evolved since occupation in regard to production trends, land use, water resources and technological change.

2. Evaluation of infrastructure and institutional services bearing on agricultural development. Notable examples include agricultural extension, cooperatives, credit and marketing, and also voluntary agencies involved in rural development.

3. Diagnosis of problems which impede a more vigorous growth of agricultural production. This will include problems precipitated by natural constraints as well as those which have their roots in the more unusual setting of the West Bank as an area under occupation.

4. A profitability analysis of major patterns of rainfed farming. Such analysis will help to ascertain the relative profitability of selected farming patterns, identify the major cost components, and diagnose those production and marketing problems which hinder a more viable exploitation of available land and labour resources.

5. Formulation of an agricultural development strategy which takes into consideration the accumulated background information. The suggested strategy must be carefully coordinated to be consistent with the broader aspirations of the Palestinian people in establishing a viable and independent homeland in those parts of Palestine which might be evacuated by Israel in the context of a possible settlement.

6. Identification of those projects and measures which will be helpful in achieving strategic objectives of agricultural

development. The proposed projects will only be presented and substantiated at a pre-feasibility level. More comprehensive feasibility studies would have to be conducted for individual projects prior to their implementation.

Much of the discussion along the points outlined above under objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5 will deal with the broader perspective of agriculture and rural development, whereas profitability analyses and development proposals will be confined only to rainfed patterns of agriculture. It is felt that irrigated farming sectors, though modest in acreage, are important and complex enough to deserve an independent study.

For the purpose of this study, rainfed farming includes all types of non-irrigated agriculture. As such it covers a wide range of fruit trees and field crops, as well as livestock and poultry, but does not deal much with citrus, banana and irrigated vegetables.

Methodology

In October 1979 the researcher temporarily left his post at An-Najah National University (Acting Chairman, Department of Economics) and joined the School of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford. He was registered there as a research student working for a Ph.D in rural development under the supervision of Dr Paul Rogers. A few months later, Mr Andrew Coulson of the Project Planning Centre at Bradford University was requested to help as a second supervisor.

During his first year of stay in Britain the researcher made a thorough review of pertinent literature and attended a number of courses. Besides making full use of the facilities available at Bradford University, the researcher visited several British universities and centres of oriental studies. During the course of the first year