

Abu Kishek<sup>1</sup>, Awartani<sup>2</sup>, Tayeh<sup>3</sup>, and Abu Arafah<sup>4</sup>.

Although not of a particularly high quality, these papers provide a useful addition to a very limited library. The common theme in all of them is to describe the various forms of damage inflicted on West Bank agriculture as a result of Israeli occupation. Although they offer broad recommendations on ways and means which could help reactivate respective sectors, none of these papers provides an adequate basis for the purpose of initiating or accelerating growth in the West Bank agriculture. The danger is, in fact, that local researchers display an excessive desire to compile charges against Israel for its "wrong-doings" in the area, and thereby promote apathy. The present researcher believes that local researchers have a distinctive advantage in being present in the West Bank. As such they should undertake the more critical assignment of conducting problem-oriented research addressed to meet felt needs instead of diverting their scanty resources to rhetoric.

#### Arab Literature

Literature on the West Bank's socio-economic life during the Jordanian rule is extremely limited. This appears due largely to Jordan's opposition to any activity which would help nourish

1. Bakr Abu Kishek, West Bank Land Problems and Development Prospects (Jerusalem: Arab Thought Forum, 1981).
2. Hisham Awartani, Water Resources and Politics (Jerusalem: Arab Thought Forum, 1981).
3. A H Tayeh, West Bank Horticulture - Present and Future (Jerusalem: Arab Thought Forum, 1981).
4. A R Arafah, Livestock Sector of the West Bank (Jerusalem: Arab Thought Forum, 1981).

a resurgence of Palestinian identity in the West Bank. With the exception of some purely technical work done in agricultural research stations (mainly on irrigated vegetables), most developmental research was confined to the East Bank itself.

Jordan developed a new interest in West Bank's economy and resources after it was taken over by Israel in 1967. This responsibility was delegated to the Economic Department of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), which has produced five papers during the past six years.<sup>1</sup>

With the exception of their publications on West Bank economic resources (see list in the footnote), all RSS publications on the occupied territories are merely interpretations of data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). In this respect, they prove no less deficient than foreign researchers, in fact maybe more so, since they refrained from sending researchers to the territories and they made inadequate use of resident sources of information. Nevertheless, RSS interest in the economics of the occupied territories meets a felt need for politicians on the Arab side of the conflict, by providing them with a large volume of background information.

1. a. M A'mireh, M, et al, The Impact of Israel's Economic Policies on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, (Amman: Royal Scientific Society, 1978).
- b. Anonymous, The Economics of the Occupied Territories, (Amman Royal Scientific Society, 1975).
- c. Anonymous, Economic Resources of the West Bank and their Impact on the Israeli Economy, (Amman: Royal Scientific Society, 1979).
- d. Anonymous, The Hostage Economy, (Amman: Royal Scientific Society, 1981).
- e. J Salem, Agriculture, Land and Water Resources of the West Bank, (Amman Royal Scientific Society, 1981).