

A J Smith: The Integration of Livestock into Rainfed Agricultural Systems.

H M Sawaf: Attempts to Improve the Supplementary Irrigation Systems in Orchards in Some Arid Zones.

M C Simpson: Socio-economic Aspects of Rainfed Farming.

S Shamout: Jordan's Experience in Rainfed Agriculture.

Many other technical papers were procured from Israeli sources.

Among the most useful were the papers obtained from the Centre for Horticultural Research at the Volcani Institute in Israel.<sup>1</sup>

Literature specific to olives is not scarce, though it rarely embodies tangible breakthroughs anywhere similar to those in, for example, irrigated agriculture or livestock husbandry. The West Bank Department of Agriculture published two extension papers on recommended cultural practices, which were translated from old Hebrew pamphlets. This is evident, for example, in their unwarranted recommendation for repeated ploughing of olive orchards, with total disregard to costs. Birzeit University has published a study which deals with socio-economic implications of olive culture in Palestine.<sup>2</sup> This report is rather journalistic and avoids discussion of technical details.

The most authoritative review on Palestine olives is certainly the book by Nasouhi Taher on The Olive Tree.<sup>3</sup> This book of over 300 pages was written in the forties by one of the most reputable

1. Noted examples (all published by Volcani Institute, Bet Dagan, Israel):
  - a. A Blumfeld et al, Ethylene Treatment and Abscission of Olive Fruits.
  - b. S Lavee et al, Studies with Ethephron for Facilitating Olive Harvest.
  - c. I Klein et al, The Effect of Nitrogen and Potassium Fertilizers on Olive Production.
2. Somaya Nasser, Palestine Olives (West Bank: Birzeit University, 1979).
3. Nasouhi Taher, The Olive Tree (Jaffa: Taher Library Press, 1945).

experts on olives. It contains an extensive volume of information on areas and production, varieties, cultural practices, common pests, pressing techniques and marketing problems. A large section of pages is devoted to describe its literary and religious values to Arabs, Moslems and Christians.

Despite its outstanding reputation which has lasted for many years since it was first published, Taher's Olive Tree has not been updated or revised since it appeared in 1945. In view of the massive technological advances in agriculture during the last three decades and drastic changes in the input/output price relationships, it has lost much of its real value as a reference on the technology and economics of olive culture, though, it certainly remains a respected landmark in the economic and cultural history of Palestine.

A particularly useful reference on the actual planning of rainfed agriculture is a series of district reports on the socio-economic feasibility of developing rainfed agriculture in Jordan. This set of studies was conducted by a team of highly qualified technicians under the auspices of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.<sup>1</sup> Evaluation tools were largely drawn from Gittinger's book on Economic Analysis of Agricultural Projects.<sup>2</sup> Many of the ideas envisaged by the AOAD team proved useful to the researcher in formulating specific schemes for developing the West Bank's rainfed agriculture.

1. An example on this set is the following:

A Technical and Feasibility Study of Rainfed Agriculture in Balqa and Irbid Districts, (Khartoum: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, 1978).

2. J P Gittinger, Economic Analysis of Agricultural Projects, (London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977).