

commodities contracted by Israeli firms. Notable examples are onion seeds, cantaloupes, and medicinal crops. The Department of Agriculture acts as an active liaison between farmers and Israeli exporters.<sup>1</sup>

6. Restraining growth in the territories of capital and technology-intensive sectors, since these are conceived by policy makers as Israeli specialities. This includes such sectors as poultry, livestock, and high-value crops.<sup>2</sup>
7. Circumventing Arab boycott regulations by facilitating exportation of local produce and thereafter meeting local consumption needs from Israel. Most important examples are citrus, banana, and vegetables.<sup>3</sup> This practice helps to avoid sending across the frontier bridges goods of Israeli origin.

#### Structural Organization

The translation of the above-mentioned policies into practice is entrusted to a committee representing the Coordinator of the Occupied Territories, the economic adviser of the General Governor, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Officer-in-Charge of Agriculture at the Military Headquarters. No Palestinian is involved in the initial planning process, despite the existence of what is officially described as the Planning Unit, staffed by two senior Arab technicians.

1. This is so much emphasized by the Department of Agriculture that the Officer-in-Charge of Agriculture declared the coming agricultural year as the "Export Year" and mobilized the entire official machinery to bring about stronger connections between farmers and Agresco (Ref: The Agricultural Journal, No 2, Sept 1981, p 7).
2. According to Annual Plans for 1980-81, extension agents are instructed to restrict their services to farmers in these sectors to verbal advice, and only when approached by farmers themselves. (Ref: Annual Plans for 1980-81, Department of Agriculture, pp 3-4.
3. The Military Administration paid (until 1978) generous subsidies on exports to Jordan in a way which spurred infiltration of Israeli produce, disguised by a West Bank label.

The implementation of the agricultural policy formulated at the top by the afore-said planning committee is delegated to a small unit of Israeli officers in the Military Headquarters. The director of this unit, described as the Officer-in-Charge of Agriculture, is entrusted with the status of Minister of Agriculture, supposedly as defined in Jordanian laws. Actual contacts with farmers, on the other hand, are performed through six district offices of agriculture staffed by Arabs. Each district office includes 6 - 10 extension agents and a minimal number of supporting staff. The total number of college-educated extension agents is 46 serving 400 villages and seven agricultural stations. Table (IV-1) shows the distribution of all technical staff in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Research, as it was in March 1981. Each district office is supervised by an Israeli adviser who acts as their liaison with the head-office at Beit Eil\* and, more importantly, makes sure that work proceeds according to policy. In 1980, Israeli district advisers even asked for counter-signing of all official mail in their respective districts, but their request was met with unanimous objection from local Arab officials.

\* The location of the headquarters of the Military Administration, 2 kilometers to the north of Ramallah.