

necessarily reflect corresponding changes in output. Furthermore, the accuracy of income and output estimates is shadowed by serious doubts arising from unreliable collection tools and probable political motives. Nevertheless, the reported data may be reliable enough to indicate major trends.

Income from agriculture during 1969 - 79 rose in five years, at an annual average of 46% and dropped in five at an average of 17%. Measuring the rate of growth on the basis of the average income for 1969 and 1970, as compared with the average of 1978 and 1979, we notice that income from agriculture (at 1968 prices) rose by 100% during a period of nine years, i.e. at the rate of 11% per annum.

A growth rate of that magnitude is undoubtedly high in international standards, and it compares favourably with most other developing countries. Jordan, for instance, achieved a growth rate of 8.3% during 1960-66<sup>1</sup> which is also high in international standards (see Table V - 17).

Table (V - 17)

Annual growth rate in agriculture (1970-1978)

Country	% growth rate	Country	% growth rate
India	2.6	Israel	6.6
Tanzania	4.5	Libya	12.7
Egypt	3.1	United Kingdom	0.8
Syria	7.2	United States	0.9

Source: World Development Report 1980, *op. cit.*, pp. 112-113.

However, the growth rate of agriculture post-occupation should be

<sup>1</sup> Yousef Abdul Haq, *op. cit.*, p. 243.

scrutinized and interpreted more carefully than what is otherwise indicated by official data. Again, there are serious doubts regarding the reliability of official data. Many well informed sources, some of them Israeli, cast serious doubts on their validity. Among those who do is the man in charge of West Bank economy studies at the Bank of Israel.<sup>1</sup> Available data on physical output, as we shall see later, raises many questions on the reliability of income data. Most important there is a margin of upward bias resulting from taking the interval immediately following occupation as a base-line for measuring subsequent growth, since agriculture then was still handicapped by the aftermath of the war.

In evaluating the growth rate of agricultural income, one has to remember that West Bank agriculture was more prosperous prior to occupation than that of the East Bank, and it is reasonable to assume that its growth might have accelerated after 1967 had it not fallen under occupation. With Jordan's agriculture achieving a growth rate of over 8% during the seventies, the West Bank could well have been even higher than under Israel.

To conclude, income originating in agriculture has shown a high rate of growth. But this was induced largely by a rapid rise in the productivity of certain high-price products and not by a general rise in aggregate output. The latter point will be discussed in a later section. Indeed, the rate of growth in West Bank agriculture indicated in the official statistics discussed here must be treated with caution. The next chapter discusses the major agricultural sectors and gives, in some detail, a different perspective, one which has been confirmed by the researcher's field work. The differences cannot easily be fully explained in terms of differential inflation rates in different sectors of the West Bank economy.

<sup>1</sup> See footnote (1) on page (11).