

at 419,358 donums producing 29,733 tons.¹ The drop in cultivated area, however, has been accompanied by a noticeable increase in productivity rising from 72 to 162 kilograms per donum.

Wheat production is far more significant in Israel and Jordan; the former is estimated to have produced 169,000 tons (in 1978) and the latter 53,300 tons.²

Table (VII - 3)

Area, yield, and total output of wheat

(1980)

District	Area (don)	Yield (kg/don)	Output (,000 tons)
Total	230,516	168	38,733
Jenin	47,220	200	9,444
Tulkarm	36,355	170	6,180
Nablus	35,380	170	6,015
Ramallah	33,415	180	6,015
Jerusalem	1,500	95	142
Jericho	8,230	330	2,716
Bethlehem	13,255	150	1,988
Hebron	55,161	113	6,233

Source: Files of the Department of Agriculture.

Economic and nutritional significance

According to data available from official sources, the share of wheat in gross agricultural income is estimated at 3.1 percent (1980)³. This shows that the relative weight of this crop in West Bank agriculture is quite modest, particularly in comparison

1. Agricultural Atlas of Jordan, *op cit*, p 138.
2. Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1979, p 9, and Agricultural Statistical Yearbook of Jordan, 1979, p 57.
3. Administered Territories Statistics Quarterly 1980, Vol 1-2, p 102.

with other types of rainfed agriculture, such as major types of fruit trees. But due to the pronounced concentration of wheat farming in certain parts of Hebron and Jenin (24% and 20% of output, respectively), it is in fact very important at the local level in those areas.

Wheat is consumed mainly in the form of bread. According to the food balance sheet of 1979, wheat products contribute 47 percent of all caloric per capita intake, 52 percent of proteins, and 8 percent of fats.¹ The corresponding ratios in Israel are 34 and 4 percent.² This is a clear indication of the critical importance of wheat in the local diet. In fact bread is by far the most important single food item in the West Bank, and it may be so as well in other parts of the Middle East. It should be emphasized, however, that increased consumption of bread is due more to the much higher prices of other complimentary or alternative food items (eg. meat and rice) rather than to the choice of consumers. Improvements in the standard of living, especially in urban areas, have been accompanied by a sharp decline in per capita consumption of bread.

Consumption and exports

The annual consumption of wheat flour is estimated (for 1980) at 85,100 tons, i.e. 123.7 kilograms per capita, as compared to 100.4 in Israel.³ This means that the West Bank produces less than half of its wheat supply, and the rest is imported, currently from

1. Ibid, p 102.
2. Statistical Abstract of Israel 1980, *op cit*, p 280.
3. Ibid, p 102 in the Quarterly and p 279 in the Abstract.