

B. Vegetable Crops

The rainfed production of vegetables is, relatively, the least important of all patterns of West Bank agriculture. This is well illustrated in Table (VIII-10), which shows that the total area under vegetables (1980) is estimated at 110,000 donums, ie. about one fifth of the area under field crops and only 13 percent of the area under fruit trees. About 57 percent of all vegetable areas are rainfed, and the rest is irrigated. But the relative share of the former in produce is much lower than that of irrigated vegetables, often around one fourth of total vegetable produce.

Table (VIII - 10)

Area and total production of vegetables (1966, 1980)

(Area in thousand donums and output in thousand tons)

	Irrigated		Rainfed		Total	
	dons	tons	dons	tons	dons	tons
Total - 1966	93.1*	112.7	142.6	57.4	235.7	170.1
Total - 1980	47.1	143.0	62.5	49.7	109.6	192.72
Major crops (1980):						
Tomato	8.9	35.7	13.0	10.1	21.9	45.8
Cucumber	9.0	18.7	-	-	9.0	18.7
Potato	4.2	5.9	0.8	0.6	5.0	6.5
Melons**	1.4	3.0	13.8	14.6	15.2	17.6
Squash	5.2	10.1	5.5	3.3	10.7	13.4
Snakecucumber	-	-	5.9	3.6	5.9	3.6
Okra	0.4	0.03	5.1	2.3	5.1	2.3
Onions (dry)	0.2	0.5	8.7	8.4	8.9	8.9
Onions (seeds)	0.017	0.017	3.7	0.087	3.9	0.104

* Includes irrigated and non-irrigated winter crops.

** Includes cantaloupes and watermelons.

Sources: Files of the Department of Agriculture.
Agricultural Atlas of Jordan, op cit.

Table (VIII-10) reveals also that there has been a substantial drop in the area and output of vegetable crops in the post-occupation era.

This can be explained in the light of the following changes:

1. The sharply reduced availability of non-marketable family labour.
2. Abundant supply of vegetables at reasonable prices, throughout most of the year.
3. Closure of extensive land areas, some of which were used prior to occupation for growing vegetables and field crops.

Production of vegetables under dry farming conditions is necessarily restricted to those areas which receive adequate rainfall in the rainy season. Consequently, no such crops are grown on the eastern slopes, the Jordan Valley, or the south eastern hills of Hebron district. According to the data for 1980 (see Table VIII-11), it is noticed that about half of all rainfed vegetable crops are grown in Jenin district, which combines the advantages of mild topography and above-average rainfall. Hebron district comes next, producing tomatoes and squash.

Table (VIII - 11)

Regional distribution of rainfed vegetable crops (1980)

	Area	
	,000 don	% of total
Total	62,577	100.0
Jenin	27,893	44.6
Tulkarm	5,932	9.5
Nablus	4,832	7.7
Ramallah	7,126	11.4
Jerusalem	-	-
Jericho	-	-
Bethlehem	3,699	5.9
Hebron	13,905	20.9