

for farmers in the northern parts of Jenin district.

About one half of the melon produce is consumed in local markets, mostly substituting imports from Israel, and the rest is exported to Jordan several weeks before melon plantations commence commercial production there. West Bank melons thus enjoy an important comparative advantage and could reap the benefits of a sizeable export market. This provides an attractive opportunity for local farmers, provided that more attention is given to regulating the flow of melons to Jordan (see problems below).

#### Cultural practices

Melon culture in Jenin district is one of the most capital and technology intensive forms of agriculture in the West Bank. Seedbed preparation is very thorough and is carried out by modern machinery. Seeds are of a high quality and of a certified origin. After planting the soil is covered with polyethylene sheets in order to preserve soil moisture during later hot months. Fertilization and pest control measures are practiced regularly and with a great care. The extensive availability of custom machine service units in the area has facilitated the acquisition of modern technology on a wide scale, even on small farms.

#### Profitability

Table (VIII-13) summarizes the results of the profitability study conducted on cantaloupe growing in Jenin district. The results are based on data collected from a sample of ten producers, and they were further checked with extension specialists in the Department of Agriculture.

It was not possible to conduct a profitability study for melons

Table (VIII - 13)

#### Profitability of cantaloupes

Details	Unit	JD per	Quant.	Value	
				JD	Fils
Cost outlay:					
a. Land rent	Donum	10.1	1	10	-
b. Production inputs - total				37	400
Seeds	Grams	0.1	60	6	-
Fertilizer-phosphate	kg	0.065	30	1	950
- ammonium sulfate	kg	0.050	30	1	500
Plastic sheets	kg	0.030	15	-	450
Pesticides (miscellaneous)				2	500
Wood boxes	Number	0.25	100	25	-
c. Labour and machine service - total				30	600
Ploughing	Donum	1.0	1	1	-
Discing	-	0.5	4	2	-
Seed drilling	-	0.8	1	-	800
Fertilization	-	0.8	1	-	800
Spraying	-	1.3	1	1	300
Spreading of nylon	-	1.8	1	1	700
Post-emergence discing	-	1.0	2	1	700
Labour - male	Men/days	3.0	2	9	-
- female	Women/days	1.5	8	12	-
d. Interest on investment	%	10	4 mths	1	-
TOTAL COST				79	-
RETURNS - total	kg	0.070	1500	105	-
NET RETURNS				26	-