

The livestock sector includes poultry (broiler and egg production), sheep, goats, cows, pigs, honey bees, and fish production. Pigs and honey bees are raised on a very small scale, while no fish at all is produced on the West Bank. Table (IX-2), presents a sectoral breakdown of income from livestock as it was during the four years 1976-79.

Table (IX - 2)

Livestock income, 1976-80

	1976	1977	1978	1979	Average
Gross agr. income (IL mill)	1,535.1	1,734.0	3,756.6	5,674.7	3175.1
Livestock & poultry:					
- Total income (IL mill)	469.1	572.4	914.4	2,104.0	1015.2
- % of agr. income	30.6	33.0	24.3	37.1	32.0
Sectoral distribution:					
Poultry	72.2	80.7	127.7	389.6	167.6
Cows	111.4	149.9	242.4	420.2	321.0
Sheep	173.7	209.3	336.0	804.9	381.0
Goats	103.9	122.6	192.4	463.5	220.6
Others	8.7	9.9	15.9	25.8	15.1

Source: Administered Territories Statistics Quarterly 1980, op cit, p 89.

The data in Table (IX-2) reveals some important features of the West Bank's livestock sector, notably the following:

1. The share of livestock in gross agricultural income varies widely from year to year, partly because of severe variations in gross income, induced mainly by fluctuations in rainfed farming. Furthermore, the said ratio is also influenced by marked variations in the output of individual livestock

sectors. However, it is noted that the annual variation in gross farm output is much more pronounced than that of livestock. This suggests that livestock, in fact, plays a stabilizing role in agricultural income by partly absorbing violent fluctuations in other sectors such as olives. Nevertheless, irrigated agriculture plays a more significant stabilizing role for those farmers engaged in irrigated patterns of farming.

2. On a three years average, sheep account for more than one third of all livestock income (37 percent), followed by cows (32 percent) goats (22 percent) and poultry (17 percent).
3. However, comparing various livestock subsectors on the basis of variations in annual income, it is noted that income from sheep fluctuates most, followed respectively by goats, cows and poultry. This reflects the excessive dependence of sheep and goats on natural pastures, the quality of which varies considerably from year to year, depending on the amount of rainfall.

We shall explore further in this section the economic setting of individual livestock sub-sectors along the same lines as we did for other types of agriculture.

Sheep and goats

Sheep and goats are kept usually by the same farmers and mostly in the same flocks and for the same purposes. Therefore they will be treated together in this section.

Production and income

Sheep and goats are the most important livestock animals on the West Bank. Table (IX-3) shows their geographic distribution in 1980.