

In the future, and whenever a Palestinian state is formed, the whole process of economic development will have to be re-oriented on more institutional grounds. In that event, there will be no shortage of information and expertise. Until then, however, West Bank economists (and the researcher is no exception) are wise to concentrate on improving the economic predicament of the occupied territories as long as they are still under occupation.

#### Frame of reference

Economic transformation in the occupied territories during the past 15 years, as might have been inferred from previous chapters, is so profound and comprehensive that it deserves a number of indepth sectoral studies. Consequently, development guidelines and blueprints are needed for all sectors. This, as spelled out early in the section on objectives, is well beyond the scope of this study. Therefore, the forthcoming strategies and the subsequent proposals (metaphorically described as a plan) are limited by the following restrictions:

- a. For reasons argued earlier, the plan will be confined to a scenario of continued Israeli occupation.
- b. The introductory part of the plan will deal with infrastructural transformations which are of a pervasive nature relating to agriculture as a whole. The second part of the plan, however, deals only with rainfed patterns of agriculture, including livestock and poultry.
- c. Infrastructural developments which are suggested in the introductory part of the plan relate to both West Bank and Gaza Strip. But the second part is specific to the West Bank, although it is fully realized that both territories constitute one political entity. Evaluation of Gaza's agriculture and economy should be

undertaken in specialized studies.

- d. The plan will not deal with those institutional transformations which require official endorsement. As such, this section will not propose changes in legislature governing such institutions as inheritance laws, tenancy, zoning, and market structure. Notwithstanding the tremendous importance for such transformations in accelerating agricultural development, their promulgation is not desirable as long as the West Bank is governed by Israel, for fear of re-aligning them to serve Israel's interests.

#### Suggested development strategies

The development of rainfed agriculture should be viewed within the broader context of a national agricultural strategy embracing all agricultural sectors and resources. Based on previous economic, political and social parameters, the researcher proposes the following objectives as the basis for a national agricultural policy, which is to be valid as long as the occupied territories remain under Israeli occupation. Obviously, each of these objectives will have to be translated into practice through a number of detailed projects and measures. Those of them dealing with rainfed patterns of agriculture will be summarized in this chapter, whereas other agricultural sectors require independent studies. No effort is made here to substantiate each of the objectives listed below, since this has been argued at greater length in earlier chapters.

1. Extensive horizontal expansion in land use. Notwithstanding conventional arguments of zoning and increasingly selective land use in agriculture, Palestinian farmers should embark on a policy of maximal horizontal exploitation. This stems from the basic premise that land use in Palestine is governed more by political strategies than by purely economical considerations which are commonly advocated in the context modernized agriculture. The