

- Zionist movement for example has certainly not been mindful only of economics in its policies of land acquisition and use.
2. Maximizing the efficiency of water use in agriculture. As Israel is not likely to forego its tight control on water resources, West Bankers should try their best to improve their efficiency of using available resources, in an effort to maximize the area under irrigation. Also, more should be done towards exploiting more rain water in raising productivity of rainfed patterns of agriculture.
 3. Raising the labour-absorptive capacity of agriculture. This is necessitated by the dislocation hazards arising from having more than one third of the labour force employed in Israel. Furthermore, it is felt that labour mobility out of agriculture weakens the labourers' attachment to their homes and renders them more vulnerable to emigration. Admittedly, the proposed policy is opposed to modern economic thinking and may entail considerable costs, but policy makers believe that political returns do warrant the economic cost.
 4. Reducing dependence on Israel for food. The West Bank's excessive dependence on Israel for food entails economic and political hazards which could pre-empt the Palestinians' demand for independence. It is partly true that residents of the occupied territories take advantage of buying subsidized Israeli produce, but the long-term cost is certainly exorbitant. It makes little sense not to subsidize the production of those commodities on the West Bank itself, and thereby generate a badly needed economic activity. A more familiar version of import substitution policies is adopted by less developed countries in regard to industrial products.

5. Vigorous expansion of fruit tree orchards. Visible attachment of Palestinians to their land has helped impede Israel's aggressive encroachment policies. Besides the construction of houses and urban facilities, this policy is best served by the dissemination of fruit tree plantations and by the rehabilitation of neglected orchards. The implementation of this policy is facilitated by the presence of wide areas of marginal land which are not fit for other forms of commercial farming. Not surprisingly, the Military Administration displays a cautious attitude to rainfed trees, and in contrast, it offers active support to field crops, particularly those contracted for export through AGRESOD.
6. Providing active support to peasant forms of farming. This should come in the form of side projects undertaken by farmers who are employed in other professions or types of agriculture. In this way it becomes possible to mobilize large inputs of land and family labour at acceptable levels of efficiency. In fact this kind of quasi-peasant farming is probably more able to survive the strong competition with Israeli produce than most patterns of capital-intensive and market-oriented agricultural production. Evidently, this policy should be reconsidered in the post-occupation era.

Policy guidelines

The development of West Bank agriculture under the present setting of Israeli occupation has many ramifications which bear heavily on the process of agricultural development. This gives rise to a number of policy guidelines which constitute useful yardsticks for directing resources and measuring growth, sometimes in ways which are contradictory to conventional economic theories. As a result of the researcher's involvement in West Bank agriculture during the past decade, and in view of intensive contacts carried for the purpose of this research,