

Bank resources. This includes restrictive policies on all institutions bearing on agricultural and economic development, such as extension, education, research, cooperatives, finance, and trade relations. It has further stretched its control to cover voluntary agencies and Arab sources of aid funds.

Annexationary policies within the occupied territories were met with little more than verbal opposition until the late seventies. But from 1978 the situation changed following the establishment of the Palestinian-Jordanian Joint Committee and the increasing involvement of voluntary and UN agencies. But all those concerned with the future of West Bank Arabs were confronted with the unusual dilemma of having to evade Israel's policies which are openly hostile to any change which may jeopardize its own interests. Furthermore, these agencies have suffered marked shortages of the data and information necessary in ascertaining the development needs of the occupied territories.

The critical place of rainfed farming

West Bank agriculture is characterized by pronounced dominance of rainfed patterns of farming. The area under irrigation amounts to no more than 5 percent of all cultivated land, and as this is due mainly to such rigid factors as rough topography and tight Israeli control of water resources, there seems little prospect for a substantial increase in the foreseeable future. Consequently, rainfed farming will remain for a long time the backbone of the West Bank's agriculture and offers the largest potential for growth. Besides, this sector is the one most closely linked with the fundamental elements of resource conflict, namely, land and labour.

vigorous growth in rainfed patterns of farming is hampered by their declining relative profitability. Although this study has demonstrated a fairly positive profitability for almost all major dryland enterprises, most of them (especially olives) suffer from important disadvantages arising largely from the ruling economic structure. This is reflected clearly in the widening gap between purchase price of production inputs and sale price of rainfed produce. Consequently, profitability is noticeably low when compared with other investment options open for labour and capital.

In fact, if farmers in dryland areas were to evaluate their enterprises on purely economic criteria, they would be much better off selling their land and leaving for Jordan and the Gulf states, where labour and capital are much more remunerative. Fortunately, this has not been the case, partly due to an intrinsic attachment to land, and partly due to the notably efficient mobilization of labour and capital inputs which have low alternative investment possibilities.

Development of rainfed agriculture

The basic objective of this study has been to show how to assist farmers in dry areas raise their profit margins and expand their production base. Chapter X laid down the objectives of a development strategy which places emphasis on extensive land and labour use rather on capital and labour intensive projects. In this connection, the researcher has proposed the concept of "national" viability as an important supplement to arguments of economic viability.

Rainfed patterns of farming vary widely in their profitability situation, and their economic returns are not always commensurate