

starchy diet. Diagram 10:1 shows, however, the significant introduction of cash crops which reflect the influence of coastal farmers and the increased demand for vegetables in the burgeoning cities of Amman and Irbid. Industrial crops such as sugarbeets and sesame began to replace acreage previously devoted to cereals (UNRWA, 1954:20-21).

The ecology of the Jordan Valley with its water potential and warm winters allowed for extensive use of double-cropping schemes. Diagram 10:1 shows that 50 percent of the 20-dunum farms were thus cropped, over the 36 month crop-rotation period. Perennial crops included potatoes, wheat, barley and sugarbeets, while the main summer crops were durra (sorghum), maize and sesame. The diagram shows considerable portions of the plot, in areas allocated for field crops and vegetables (but not fruits and fodder crop), left to fallow in every cycle.

Despite considerable fallowing, double-, and later triple-cropping schemes in the Jordan Valley required basic adjustments for the peasant refugees in the allocation of their household labour. The high diversity of crops introduced meant that both men and women (as well as children) were more intensively involved in the new agricultural tasks. Since mechanization in the fifties was still incipient men spent a substantial part of their time clearing and digging water canals (furrows) and flushing saline soil. Women's and children's labour was much more in demand now during the perennial harvest periods. During July and August, when the Valley summer heat becomes unbearable for humans and plants, sharetenants and agricultural workers moved to the slopes of eastern and western hills where they worked on summer grain crops.