

Conclusions

The following is a summary of the conclusions which can be drawn in the light of the foregoing discussion on supportive institutions.

Education

1. Pre-college and higher education systems are academically oriented and they have proved of little relevance to the development needs of the West Bank itself. In contrast, the educational system has been more sensitive to the needs of neighbouring countries, and has initiated a sustained exodus of intellectuals during the past three decades.
2. The role of the Khadourie and A'rroub Agricultural Institutes in facilitating agricultural development in the West Bank is limited, and it has become even more so under Israeli occupation.
3. Likewise, the role of agricultural college graduates in developing West Bank agriculture has been also insignificant. This is due mainly to their excessively academic background and the lack of pre-service training opportunities.

Agricultural extension and research

1. Extension services have been severely reduced, whether through cuts in staff or working budget. By 1981, extension offices were concerned very largely with sectors serving Israeli exporters.
2. Planning of agriculture is effected by the Military Command and priority is given to protect and enhance the economic and political interests of Israel itself.
3. Research activities on local stations have been limited and assignments delegated instead to Israeli research stations.

Cooperatives

1. Agricultural cooperatives failed to play an active role prior to occupation, mainly due to inefficiency and ineffective government policies. But in addition to that there seems an intrinsic reticence among rural communities in the West Bank to engage in group work.
 2. Cooperatives during the post-occupation era were confronted with complex problems which resulted in a minimizing of their role in accelerating agricultural development. These included strict and comprehensive control measures enforced by the Military Administration. More recently, Israeli authorities have begun to conceive of cooperatives as a potential power, which might eventually play a political role substituting that of the PLO. At the same time Israel displays little interest in seeing cooperatives help member farmers actually expand their production base.
 3. Despite their externally-imposed political image and their inefficient record, cooperatives can and should play a more vigorous role in developing West Bank agriculture. This stems from the fact that cooperatives are among the few options open to channel financial aid and technical assistance to farmers under Israeli occupation.
- Voluntary agencies
1. Most voluntary agencies operating on the West Bank are affiliated in various ways to sectors of the US Government. It appears though that they are entrusted with the assignment of trying to balance the pro-Israel policies practiced by the US Administration as a whole.