

long-term political goals the Zionist movement aimed at accomplishing in Palestine.

The Zionist policy of boycotting indigenous Palestinian products has been investigated by various authors (Zureik, 1979; Gozansky, 1986; Saed, 1985). However, what this literature fails to explain is the means through which this boycott was achieved and the immediate implications of this policy on the indigenous cultivators involved in these sectors. The following examples of sesame and wheat production provide valuable insights to this phenomenon.

Sesame seed was produced as a commercial crop and used in the manufacturing of vegetable oil. This crop was considered as the principal summer crop for the fallaheen and played an important role in the rotation system. Because of the great deal of careful weeding and cultivation sesame required, it left the land in very good condition for the succeeding winter crop of wheat or barley. (34)

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, sesame was almost exclusively produced by the Arab fallaheen. Because of the extensive labour force the crop required and the long production time it needed, sesame did not attract the Jewish capitalist farmers. Moreover, machinery and capital which were available to the Jewish capitalist class were incapable of replacing the characteristically agrarian nature of this produce.

Sesame is a crop that demands much labour both for preparation of the soil, and when picked at harvest. It is not possible to wait until all the sesame crop ripens, because, the pods, when they ripen, split, and the seeds fall out onto the ground; and as the crop does not ripen all at the same time, the harvester goes into the field daily and pulls, by hand, each stalk whose pods are ripe. It is a crop demanding the labour both of women and children at harvest time, and is therefore little grown by the Jewish farmers.. (Brown, 1937: 133).