



Palestine's economy has traditionally been based on agriculture. For many centuries, the richness of Palestinian soil made possible the production of rich crops, some of which were exported to and cherished in countries less blessed with nature's wealth. Thus, the areas along the Mediterranean coast

produced citrus fruits and watermelons; in Gaza, citrus, grains, legumes, and vegetables were cultivated; the suhul al-wusta (coastal plains) produced grains, vegetables, legumes, etc.; the mountains near Khalil (Hebron) were famous for their grapes; the ghor (Jordan Valley) grew bananas, dates, vegetables, among other products; Marj Ibn Amer (northern plains) was rich in grains, legumes, vegetables; the Jalil (the area around and north of Nazareth) produced grains and vegetables and was famous for many varieties of fruit trees; whereas olives and almonds were carefully tended to in the mountainous areas all over the country. Many more types of crops were produced than could be listed here. Palestine indeed was a land of milk, honey, and much more. And in many ways, it still is.

Although the contribution of agriculture to national income and wealth has declined worldwide due to industrialization and automatization, in Palestine there are other factors that contribute further to the ongoing decline in agricultural productivity. This month's issue explores and illuminates some of these factors, but it also highlights the successes and advancement that are sweeping through the Palestinian agricultural sector. Palestinian farmers are entering new markets with new types of products and applying modern production and processing methods; they are engaged in preserving, distributing, and marketing their high-quality products; and they give their best to provide for their fellow citizens and the world - despite the considerable obstacles they face due to the geo-political situation under occupation.

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As Palestine is finally receiving some of the much-needed water for the coming growing season, we at TWiP hope that you are able to stay warm and dry.



Sincerely, **Tina Basem**

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April 2018: **Preservation versus Appropriation**

May 2018: **Al-Nakba, Seventy Years On**

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