

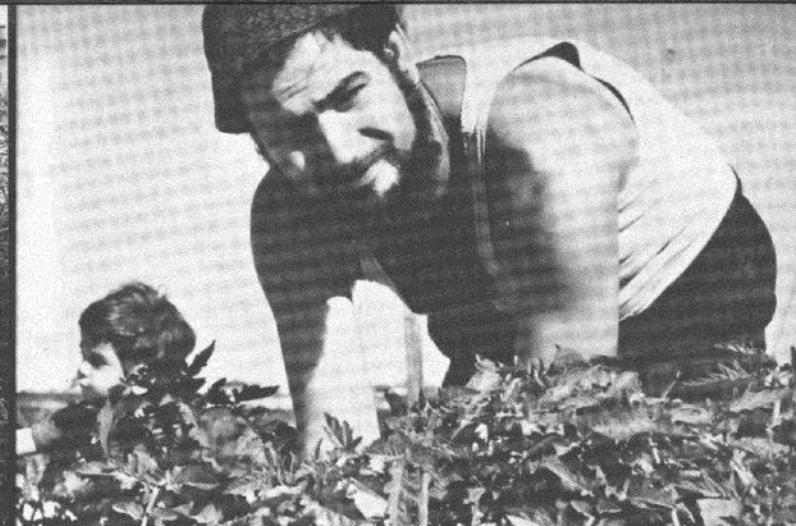
THE

MOSHAV IN ISRAEL





Offices of the Regional Council



The Jewish Agency - Settlement Department

THE MOSHAV IN ISRAEL

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Settlers' homes in a Moshav in the Sharon region

PREFACE

The new immigrant to Israel who wants to establish himself in the country's rural society and economy can choose among several forms of rural settlement, in accordance with their suitability to his needs and those of his family. Israel's rural settlements vary in their social organization and economic structure, encompassing a broad range, both in form and degree, of cooperative patterns.

The Kibbutz : Perhaps the most widely known form of rural settlement is the kibbutz. This is a uniquely Israeli creation, embodying the highest degree of cooperation and collectivism in production as well as consumption.

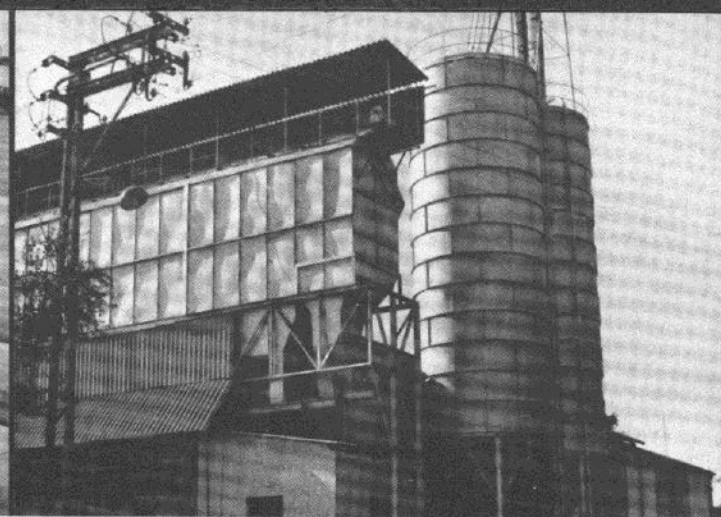
All the resources and means of production — e.g. land, water, equipment — are owned jointly by all the members of the kibbutz. The daily work schedule of every kibbutz member is determined by a special committee.

Just as all the members meet all the work needs of the kibbutz, the kibbutz meets all the consumer needs of its members. Every kibbutz member receives housing, food, clothing, and the various services he requires. There is a communal dining hall, central cultural facilities, infants' and children's houses, central supply stores.

The kibbutz itself is run on a completely cooperative basis by democratically elected committees and assemblies. All major decisions on management



Cultivation of vegetables in accordance with modern techniques

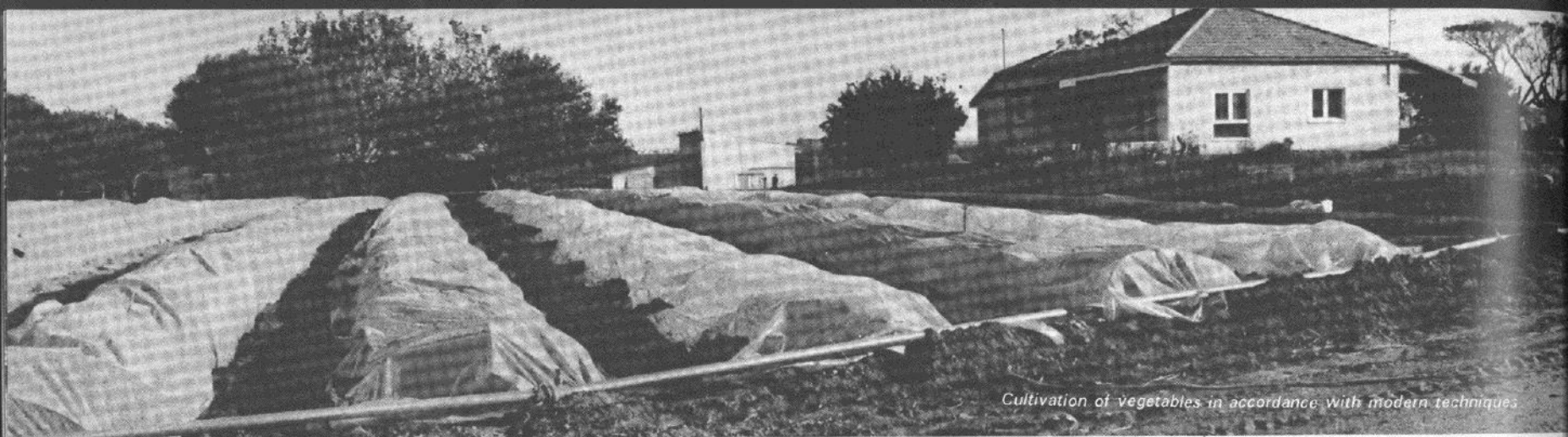


and the direction of the kibbutz' development are made by the general assembly. Day to day operations are in the hands of the secretariat and of special committees for the various branches of kibbutz operations and daily living.

Unquestionably, the kibbutz was — and is — suitable for persons whose ideological background and social philosophy are compatible with this high degree of collective organization.

The Moshav : The first moshavim were established by people from the kibbutzim who preferred a way of life which would combine cooperative living with greater opportunities for expression of individuality. The moshav is a cooperative village. Every family maintains its own household, every farmer works his own plot of land. At the same time, the moshav is an agricultural association through which marketing and supply are handled cooperatively.

The development of the moshav was especially rapid after the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 and the beginning of mass immigration. Many of the new immigrants who wished to settle on the land were not suited by background and experience for kibbutz living. The moshav therefore became the most prevalent form of agricultural settlement, both in number of settlements and in the number of settlers.



Cultivation of vegetables in accordance with modern techniques

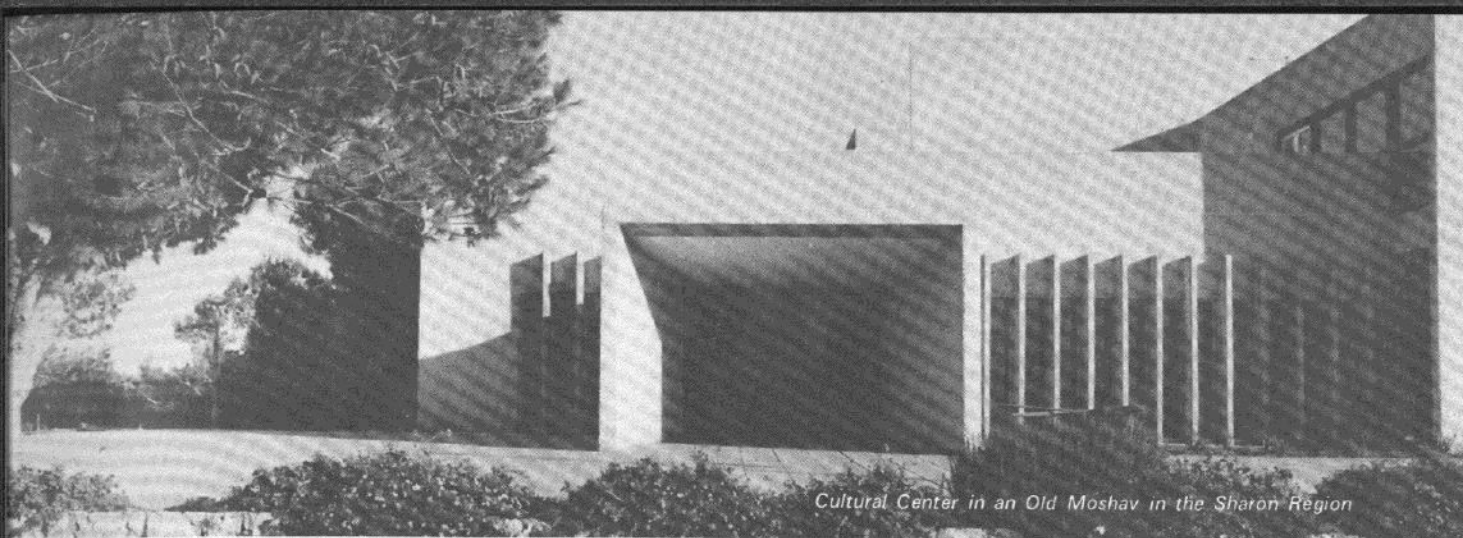
Moshav Shitufi: Another form of rural settlement is the moshav shitufi, literally "partnership" moshav. This form embodies many principles of both the moshav and the kibbutz.

From the kibbutz the moshav shitufi takes the concept of collective ownership of the means of production and economic services, including land, water, equipment and other production resources. Members work in the collective in accordance with a work schedule formulated by a committee. Income from farming and other enterprises (such as manufacturing, vacation facilities) owned by moshav shitufi are divided equally among the members. A certain percentage of the total income is retained by the association in order to finance services and investments.

While the production aspects of the moshav shitufi are operated collectively, each family runs its own household and is free to organize its own budget as it sees fit.

Moshava: The fourth — and actually the oldest — form of rural settlement in Israel is the moshava or village. This was the pattern followed by the very first settlements established before the end of the last century.

The moshava is a private agricultural village. Each family works its own farm and is free to market its produce on its own. In some villages, however,



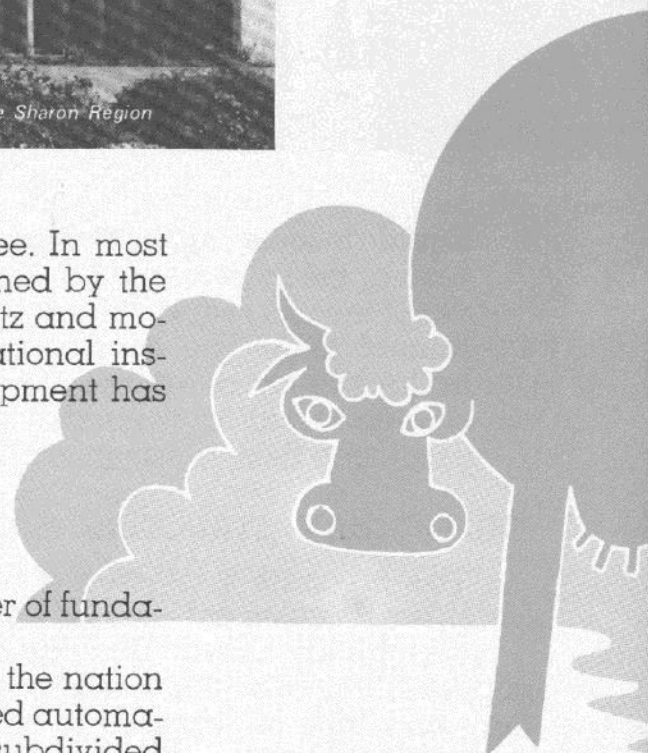
Cultural Center in an Old Moshav in the Sharon Region

marketing is carried out cooperatively through a Village Committee. In most villages, the settler owns his land. In a few villages, the land is owned by the Jewish National Fund and leased to the settlers. While in the kibbutz and moshav settlements most of the investment funds were provided by national institutions (usually the Jewish Agency), most of the moshava development has been financed by the villagers themselves.

SOME COMMON PRINCIPLES

The kibbutz, the moshav, and the moshav shitufi have a number of fundamental principles in common:

1. **Nationally owned land:** the settlements are on land owned by the nation and leased to the settlers for a period of 49 years, to be extended automatically and passed on to the settlers' heirs; a holding cannot be subdivided among heirs, and therefore passes into the hands of only one of them.
2. **Self-labor:** the means of production are allocated among the settlers in such manner that they can work their land by themselves without having to hire laborers.





Peppers: an export product

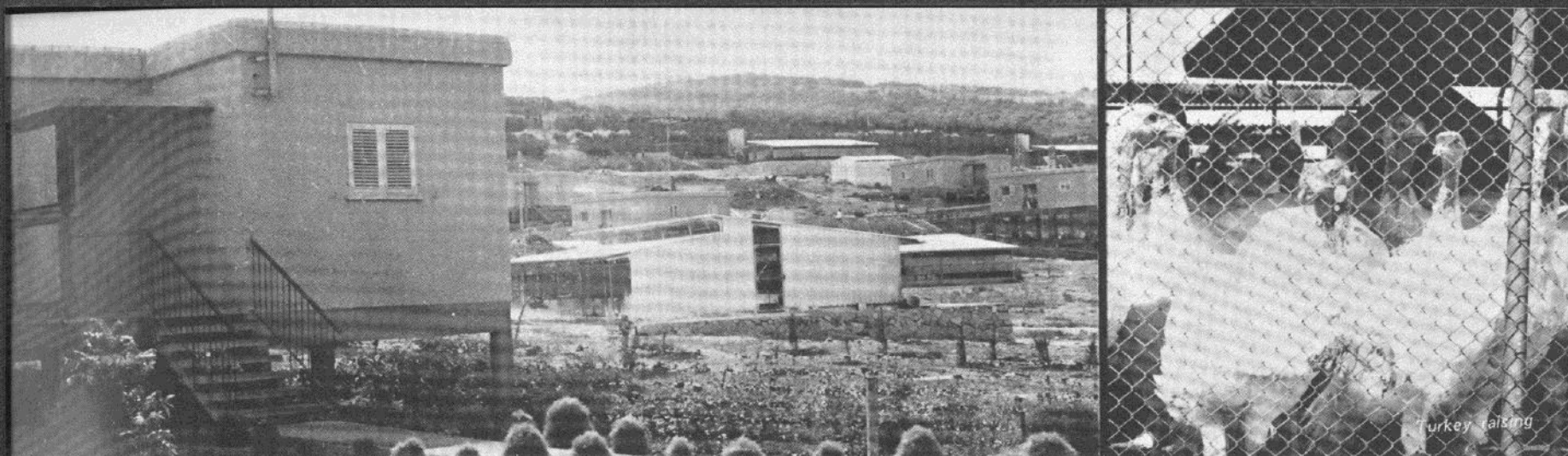
3. **Equal income opportunities** — The means of production are allocated among the settlers in such a way as to allow each settler to attain the level of income required for a decent standard of living.
4. **Mutual help:** The cooperative framework within which the settler lives in the kibbutz as well as the moshav — assumes responsibility for the basic needs and for the social security of the settler and his family, thereby protecting them against accident and diseases.

THE MOSHAV: STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

This brochure is devoted primarily to describing the **moshav**, its place in Israel rural settlement and its possibilities for the absorption of immigrants.

As already stated, the moshav is an agricultural village, usually with a population of 60 to 100 families. The amount of land allocated to each family may vary from one moshav to another, but is usually uniform within any one moshav.

Every moshav family works its own land. During periods when the family cannot provide labor to work its own holding, hired labor is used on a temporary basis. Certain agricultural activities may be operated jointly by the moshav association.



The nature and extent of cooperative activity varies from one moshav to another. However, marketing and supply are the tasks of the cooperative association in every moshav.

The local cooperative society usually belongs to a large marketing association through which the member moshav does its own marketing. The local society or association maintains installations for the collection, storage and processing of the moshav's produce — warehouses, cold storage facilities, a dairy. In some instances these installations are operated on a regional basis for a number of settlements.

The central supply function involves both consumer goods and production inputs. In each moshav there is a cooperative store where members buy food, household supplies and other day-to-day needs. From the moshav's central warehouse the farmer can obtain what he needs for production — fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, tools and the like.

For each settler engaged in farming an account is kept in the moshav's bookkeeping department. In this account is recorded every item bought and every item marketed through the association. At the end of each month, or at other fixed periods, detailed statements are given to each settler. Amounts to his credit can be paid out, or the settler can obtain credit against



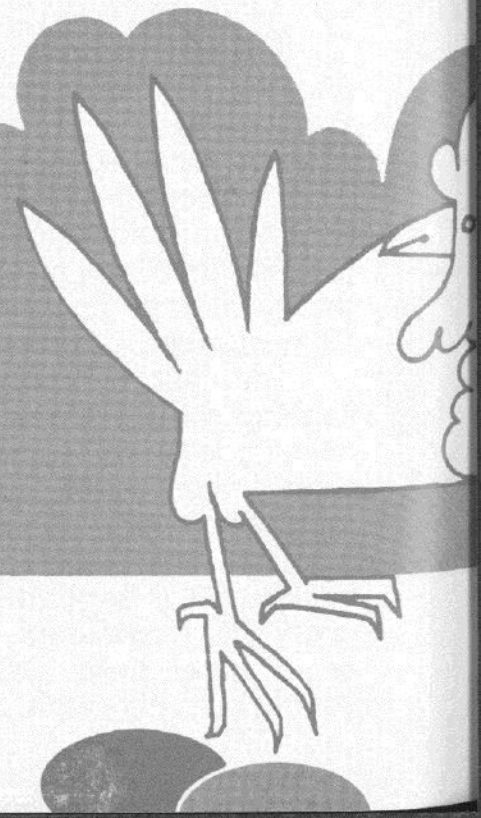
A moshav house next to a hothouse raising flowers for export

produce he has turned in to the association for sale. Frequently settlers invest money with the association and are paid interest on these investments. Such funds enable the association to maintain and improve the cooperative services, both economic and social.

The moshav association functions as a municipality in supplying public services for its members. These include cultural activity, entertainment, religious services, public health services through Kupat Holim (Workers' Sick Fund), and education through the governmental educational institutions.

The supreme body of the moshav in regard to agricultural, economic, social and civil issues is the General Assembly. This body meets at regular intervals and elects a council (usually 15 to 20 members) which is responsible for ongoing municipal and economic activities. From among its members, the council appoints a moshav committee (in general, five to seven members) which deals with day-to-day operations. The committee includes a chairman, treasurer and secretary. The moshav committee conducts much of its work through special sub-committees functioning in specific areas such as agriculture, cultural activities, education.

In every moshav there is also a committee which performs the functions of Comptroller, supervising all the associations activities and pointing out shortcomings.





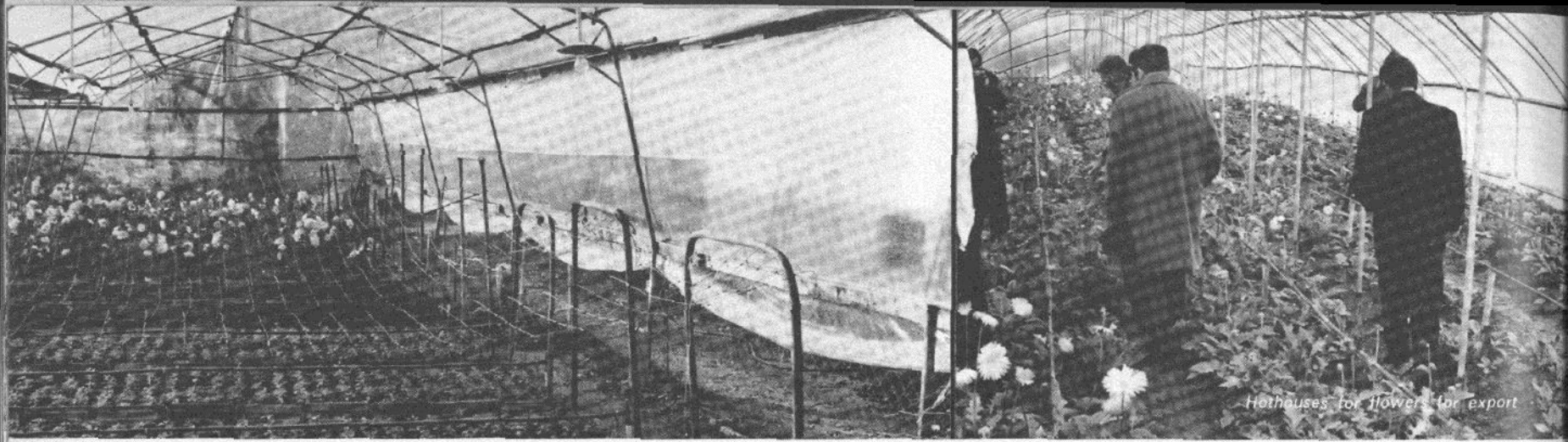
raising turkeys for export in accordance with the newest

In addition to settlers engaged in farming, the moshav usually includes several non-farming families. This group of settlers perform the public services required by the moshav community. In this group are the accountant, the secretary, the craftsmen such as locksmith, electrician, mechanic, shoemaker. As a rule they have auxiliary farms which enable them to produce farm products for their own consumption and occasionally even small quantities for the market. These members share all the rights and responsibilities of the settlers who operate farms, except that they cannot vote on questions involving agriculture.

All moshavim in Israel belong to one of the several moshav settlement movements. These movements are organized according to their respective political outlooks. The various movements are in turn members of an inter-moshav movement committee which represents the moshav movement as a whole as well as providing communication among the member movements.

ISRAEL AGRICULTURE AND THE MOSHAV'S ROLE IN IT

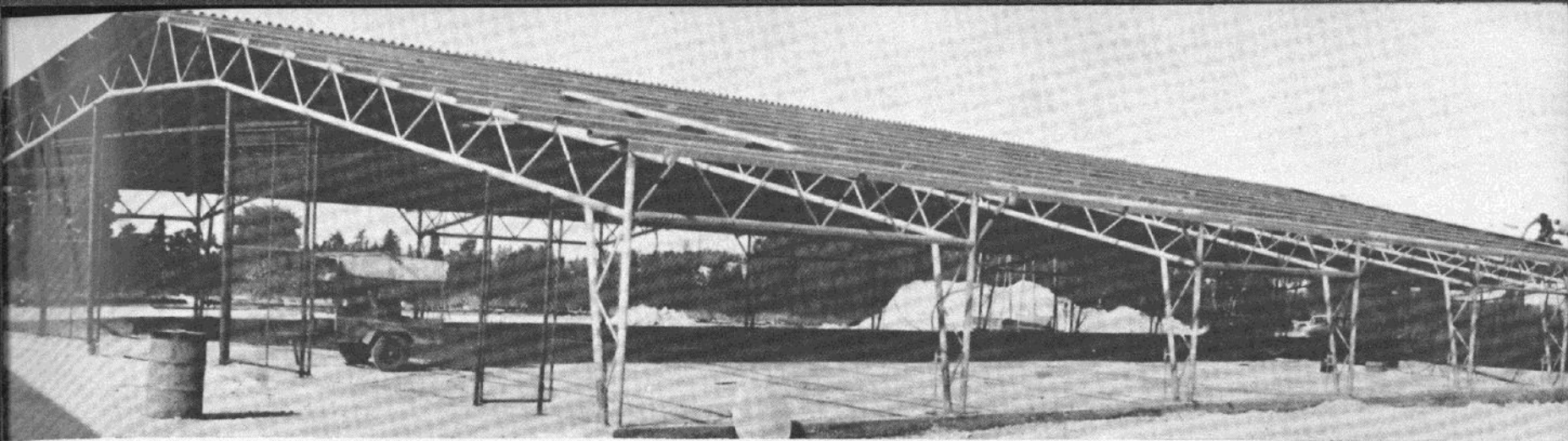
In terms of knowhow, standards of mechanization and organization, agriculture is one of the most progressive sectors of Israel's economy. There is no doubt that a major contributing factor has been the very history of Israel's de-



velopment. At the very beginning of Zionist endeavors, farming was the priority of immigrants. From these early days farming continued to benefit from a greater share of allocation of resources than did other sectors of the economy.

Israel agriculture produces both for local needs and for export. From its own agricultural production, Israel is able to cover 85% of its population's food requirements. The needs of the local market are completely met in vegetables, fruit, milk, eggs, poultry and cotton. Israel's agricultural production also covers a considerable part of the local demand for grains, beef, sugar and vegetable oils.

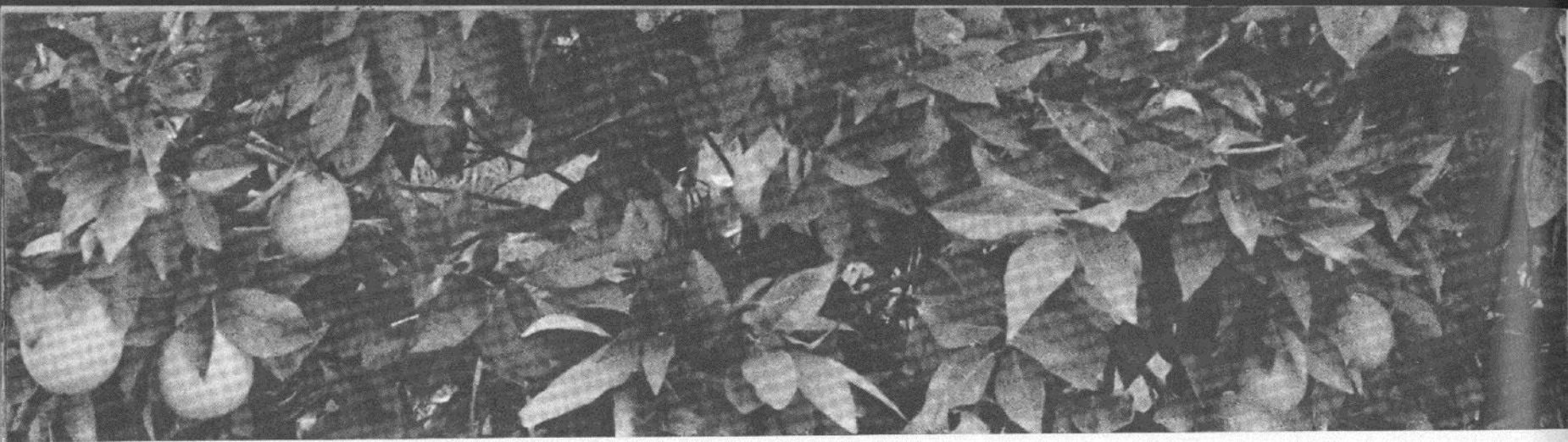
In agricultural exports, the most important branch has always been citrus fruit. Indeed, citrus has been the largest single export item in the entire Israel economy. In recent years there has been considerable diversification and expansion of Israel's farm exports. Of particular importance in this growth have been flowers, fresh vegetables, subtropical fruits and cotton. There is growing emphasis in fruits and vegetables on off-season crops, taking advantage of the country's large areas of below-sea level terrain with its warm off-season temperatures.



The moshavim contribute a significant part of Israel's farm production, both for the local and export markets; about 43% of total output is produced in moshavim. The moshavim produce a major share — 61% — of the poultry industry's output (eggs and meat), 58% of milk output, and 57% of vegetables.

Planning has become an indispensable element in Israel agriculture in order to avoid great fluctuations in production with their accompanying crises of surpluses or shortages. This entails control of the overall volume of production in certain branches of farming. Within this framework, the agricultural settlements receive specific allocations of the means of production — land and water, and are assigned quotas in those branches where unbalanced supply constitutes a danger.

In order to assure maximum efficiency, agricultural planning in Israel devotes special attention to the organization and management both of supplies to the farm settlement and to the marketing of its produce. As already stated, supply and marketing are conducted on a cooperative basis, and farm settlements — moshavim and kibbutzim — are members of national and regional supply and marketing cooperatives.



THE MOSHAV FARM

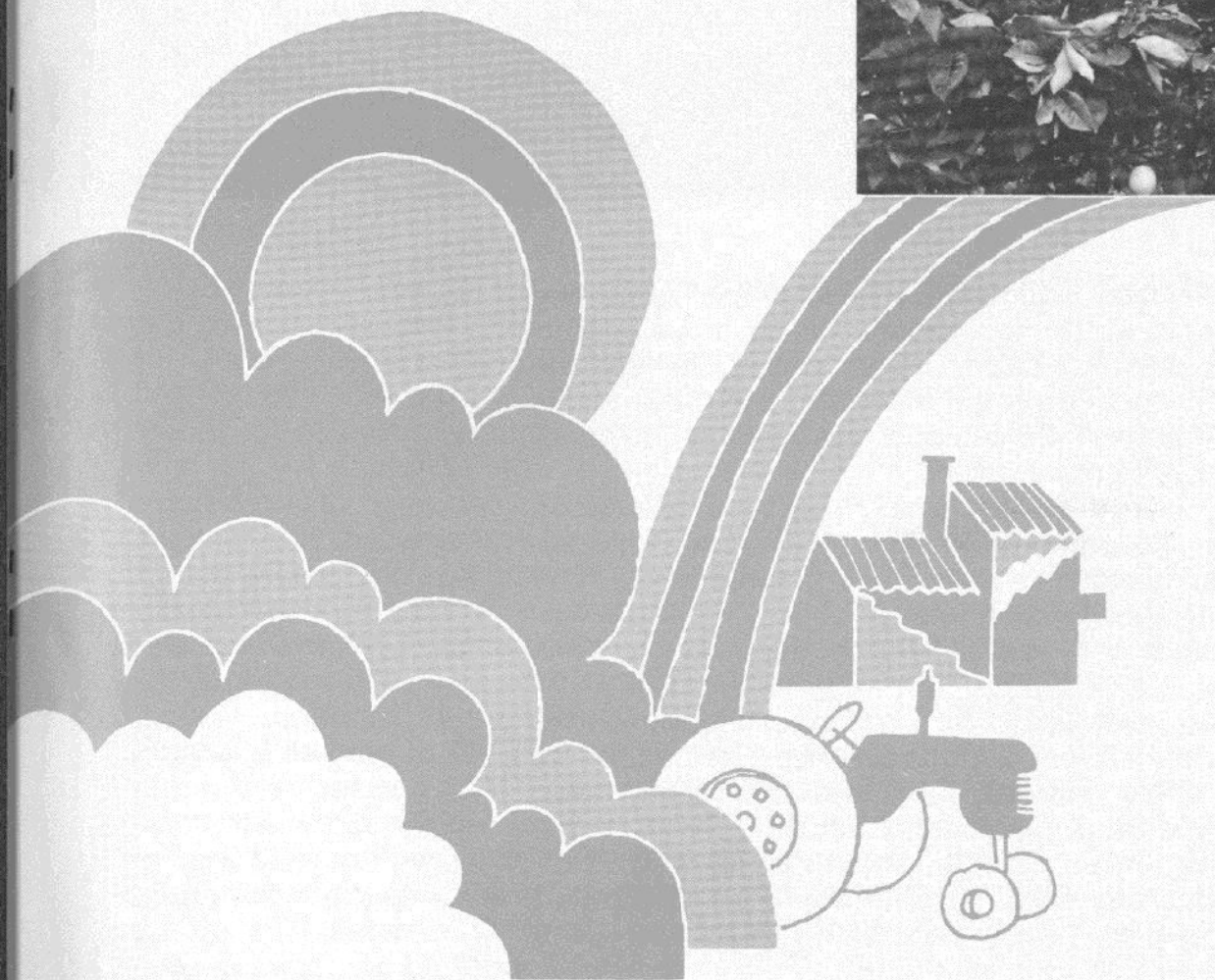
There are several types of moshav farms, the differences influencing the allocation of production resources and quotas. These types are defined and approved for each moshav in accordance with specific criteria: the suitability of crops and other farm products to regional climatic and soil conditions, marketing potential of the produce, and the personal adaptation of the settlers to certain branches of farming.

In general, the type of farm is uniform in each moshav. In some instances, several farm types exist within the same moshav. Within this diversity, however, there must be a viable number of farms of the same type within the moshav to avoid difficulties in marketing the produce.

Moshavim in Israel include farms of the following types:

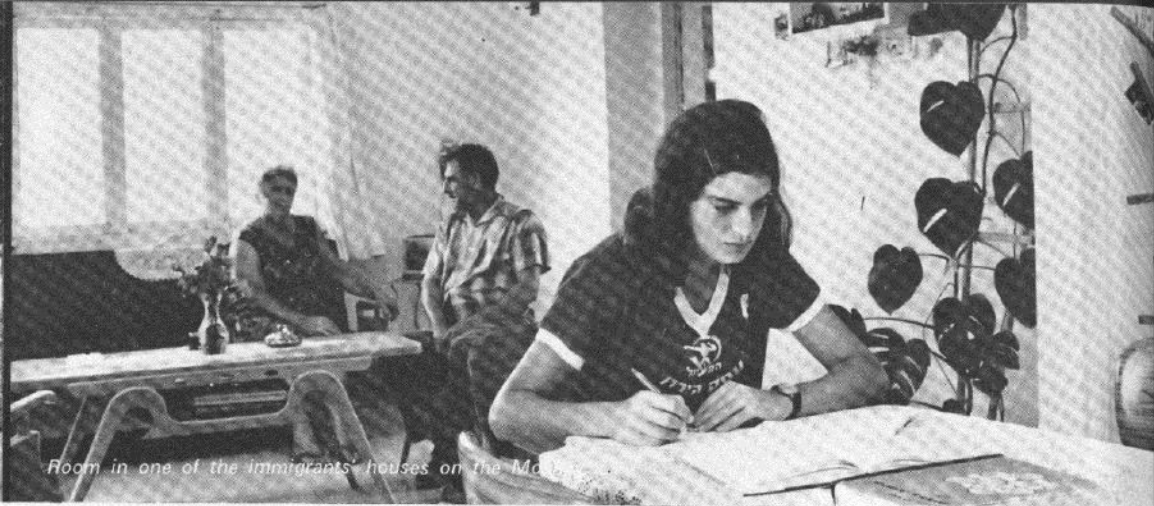
- (1) **Dairy farms** — These usually have 30 dunams (about 7½ acres) of land each; they are farmed mostly to raise fodder for the cattle, and partly for such other purposes as citrus orchards — perhaps five dunams — or a similar area of vegetable garden.

The number of milch cows in each dairy farm varies according to the farm's level of development. Most moshav dairy farms have at least ten or more milch cows.





Dwelling in a kibbutz in the Negev



Room in one of the immigrants' houses on the Moshav

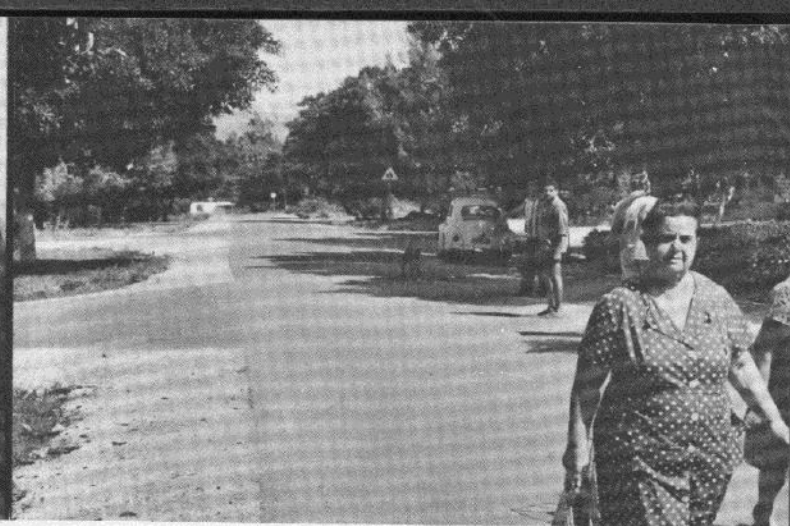
- (2) **Field-crop farms** — These are based primarily on field crops. There are several subtypes of field-crop farm. Some concentrate on crops requiring less intensive production such as sugar beets, vegetables for the canning industry, peanuts. On such farms the cultivated area may reach 40 dunams or more. Approximately two-thirds of this area is irrigated, and the rest is worked primarily to raise grains.

Some field-crop farms specialize in crops requiring intensive cultivation such as vegetables for export (in green-houses or in the open space), vegetables for the local market, flowers for export (in green-houses). The cultivated area in such farms tends to be smaller.

Many field crop farms also include a livestock branch, such as chickens (for eggs or meat) or sheep.

In most field farms a small area is set aside for orchards, usually citrus.

- (3) **Citrus farms** — These have approximately 30 dunams each, one half or one third of which is devoted to a citrus orchard, the remainder being used for various crops, such as vegetables, potatoes, peanuts.
- (4) **Hill settlements** — The nature of terrain usually dictates a small land allocation, between 15 and 20 dunams each. Most of this area is planted with deciduous fruits (plums, apples, pears, peaches) and to vineyards (table or wine grapes).



Because of the limited available land, poultry production plays an important role in hill farms.

As a rule, the settlers in these various types of farms work their holdings individually. Certain farm branches, however, are best worked cooperatively, mostly citrus and other fruit orchards and grain crops. In these instances, the work may be carried out by the members of the moshav, or it may be contracted out to companies specialized in this work. In some cases, several moshavim may cooperate to carry out such joint operations.

In recent years, a number of moshavim have been experimenting with non-agricultural enterprises such as arts and crafts shops, industry, and vacation facilities. These enterprises are planned as an integral part of the overall moshav operation. They are usually run jointly by the entire moshav, and the income is shared by the members.

Farmer's Income in the Moshav: A basic goal of agricultural development in Israel is to assure equality of income between the farmer and — say — a skilled urban worker or a middle-grade administrative employee. This goal also guides the planners in the determination of farm types and in allocating the means of production and fixing production quotas.

In 1970, net annual farm income averages between 10,000 and 12,000 Israeli pounds, or between IL 800 to IL 1,000 per month. To this income must



Central clinic for several moshavim



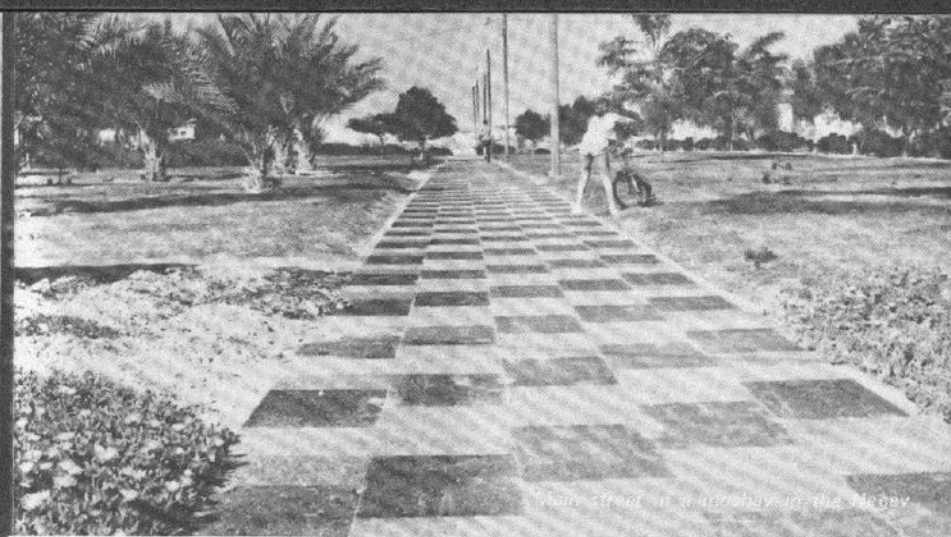
be added the rental equivalent of the free housing made available to the farmer within the framework of the settlement budget. On this basis, average farm income compares very favorably with urban incomes.

Obviously, farms do not attain the level of incomes cited above during the early stages of their development. On the other hand, farmers with experience and initiative, who have developed their holdings, have incomes considerably higher than these figures.

SERVICES TO THE MOSHAV

Moshav members receive all the national and local governmental services which are provided for all residents of Israel. In addition, they enjoy special services provided by the moshav itself, or by the regional organization of several villages — the regional council.

Some of these special services are provided for the moshav member in his own village; others are provided by a regional organization either in a neighboring moshav or in a rural center. The rural center is in itself a settlement which concentrates services for a group of surrounding settlements. These services include a school, dispensary, public meeting hall, and a variety of social and cultural programs. The rural center has its own residential area for the people employed in these various services.



Services within the Moshav

The services provided within the moshav itself are those that can be provided efficiently for a small population. These include :

Educational services: Each moshav has a kindergarten, with its year of free education as part of the compulsory education system. Elementary education is provided either within the moshav, usually depending on its size, or jointly for several settlements on a regional basis.

Health services: All members of the moshav are covered by medical insurance which pays for health services. Usually there is a dispensary in each moshav, with a registered nurse on duty every day and regular visits by a physician.

Cultural and religious activities — In moshavim there is a club house where members may spend their free time reading or socializing with other members. Guest lecturers and artists are invited from time to time, and some moshavim have a public hall for this purpose. In most moshavim there is a local synagogue and in some of them other religious facilities such as a mikveh.

Commercial and personal services — Every moshav has a cooperative store where members can shop for food, home supplies and utensils, dry goods.

In some moshavim there are shoemakers, plumbers, and other craftsmen, as previously described.

