

# FAMILY FARMS VERSUS LARGE-SCALE FARMS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT \*

(ISRAELI CASE-HISTORY)

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## *Introduction*

One of the main problems with which developing countries, as well as certain backward areas in developed countries are concerned today, is the structure, pattern and organization of farm units. Should the pattern be that of the large scale administered farm or that of the family farm? Can the family farm compete with the large administered farm, at an output which will give its operator a standard of living not less than the national average? How can rural systems be designed so as to provide social and economic services efficiently and with minimum cost? Israeli experience with a large mass of immigrants from various countries, especially of Afro-Asian extraction, has shown that the majority of immigrants preferred the family farm pattern, and so the solution was found in the "composite rural structure". This new concept of settlement framework has had a large impact on Israeli rural life and might also be successful in other regions of the world.

## *Settlement Patterns in Israel*

A prominent feature in Israel is the very diversity of settlement patterns and community structures — a result of the free choice of the individual in deciding his pattern of settlement. The settler follows his own preferences on the type of village he wants to live in, be it a small-holder co-operative (moshav), collective settlement (kibbutz), or a collective village (moshav shitufi). Whatever his choice, the Land Settlement Authority undertakes to settle him following the broad principles of :

(a) Nationally owned land — the land belongs in perpetuity to its people and cannot be bought. It is leased on a long term, automatically extendable by the farmers and their heirs. The settler therefore does not own his land, but the terms of his lease are such that he can with confidence build and invest in his farm.

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