The European Union programme in support of agriculture and livestock based livelihoods in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

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The European Union programme in support of agriculture and livestock based livelihoods in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

1. Livestock based livelihood support programme
   - OXFAM Italia / 304-524
   - FAO / 302-119
   - UAWC / 320-941

2. Olive oil value chain support programme
   - Oxfam / 278-326
   - PARC 1 / 275-185
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   - UAWC / 308-535

3. Enhance access to water and land programme
   - FAO / 266-270
   - GVC / 254-819
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For centuries, agriculture has been at the heart of Palestinian life both economically and culturally. Today agriculture still remains an important sector in Palestine accounting for approximately 5% of GDP and providing a significant source of employment for both men and women (representing respectively 10% and 20% of the Palestinian labour force). The EU has a long history of assisting the agricultural sector. Currently the EU is the largest donor supporting agriculture and livestock producers and has focused its efforts on improving productivity and competitiveness.

The EU has worked hand-in-hand with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) aligning its support to the MoA’s own strategic plan for the sector adopted in 2011 “Agriculture Sector Strategy: A Shared Vision”. In particular the EU has sought to bolster the coordination mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In the course of 2013, the EU actively supported the preparation of a new Agriculture Sector Strategy: “Resilience and Development”, covering the period 2014-2016. It has done so by promoting coordination of donors and non-state actors along the lines of this new strategic approach.

In 2013, the EU supported 12 projects representing a total investment of more than € 32 million; this includes co-financing from national and international NGOs and UN agencies which are involved in implementing these projects. The different EU supported projects are not conceived as stand-alone interventions but are designed to work together in a complementary manner.

There three EU areas of intervention are:

(i) THE LIVESTOCK SUB-SECTOR: The programme supporting the livestock sector was designed to bridge the gap between ECHO’s (the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Directorate) emergency-operations addressing herder and Bedouin communities and a longer-term developmental approach in the sub-sector.

(ii) THE OLIVE AND OLIVE-OIL VALUE CHAIN: The olive and olive oil value support programme is helping to improve agricultural practices and develop marketing strategies with the aim of increasing output to local and international markets.

(iii) LAND AND WATER DEVELOPMENT: This programme is designed to enhance access to land and water, through land reclamation, the rehabilitation or construction of rain-water harvesting facilities and rural-roads and the treatment of waste-water in order for it to be re-used as complementary irrigation.

At the same time the EU has sought to strengthen the capacity of governmental institutions, farmers’ cooperatives, commodity organizations and non-state actors operating in the sector.

Foreword from Mr. John Gatt Rutter
European Union Representative

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In 2014 the EU will build on its past support for the sector in Palestine through the new projects targeting land and water development and representing an investment of €3.6 million. In addition, thanks to a new programme worth €17.5 million, assistance will be provided to farmers and agro-businesses needing to repair or replace damaged capital equipment or strengthen their business needs.

The Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture will continue to play a key role in facilitating and guiding the successful implementation of all these projects as well as helping to coordinate EU programming of assistance in 2014.

Mr. John Gatt Rutter
European Union Representative
Foreword from H.E. Eng. Waleed Asaf  
Minister of Agriculture

Agriculture is considered as a symbol of steadfastness, resistance and attachment to land for all Palestinian people. The sector represents social, historical, and national intangibles that extend far beyond its economic importance. Agriculture and livestock play a significant role through their contribution to total export, GDP and employment, as well as national food security. Moreover, agriculture has a main contribution to food security, the income which is not calculated in the statistics, and the protection of land, water, trade environmental rights and entitlements. In fact, the agriculture is a tributary to other economic sectors.

Improving livelihoods in protracted crises, such as the one faced by Palestinians under occupation, environmental shocks and natural shocks with latest weather storm “Alexa” as a striking example; requires going beyond short-term responses in order to protect and promote livelihoods and resilience in the long term. The establishment of the first ever national Animal Recording and Identification System (ARIS) being done with FAO with generous support from the European Union is a very important sector monitoring tool and a prerequisite for the implementation of Trade Control and Export System (TRACES), which entails efficient inspection and control measures to fulfill the international standards of food safety. Further, the establishment of disaster mitigation fund and agricultural insurance is considered as another strategic tool in addressing agricultural crises as they arise.

Improving agricultural water management and upgrading the olive and olive oil value chain will positively contribute in developing the whole sector and increase the food security in the country. I would like to take this opportunity to extend the appreciation and gratitude to the European Union for their long history in supporting the Palestinian agricultural sector and FAO for the impressively successful partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture over the past 11 years. Investing in agricultural development – particularly land and water resources, olive and livestock marketing, and agricultural support services – for a better future involves more than simply accumulating physical capital in the sector, although this is part of the challenge.

It requires building the institutions and human capacity that will allow the agriculture sector to contribute to a sustainable future. I am confident that with the continued support of and real partnerships with all our friends in the World, we will be able to fulfill the legitimate objectives identified in the Agriculture Sector Strategy “Resilience and Development”, 2014-2016, which have the following strategic objectives:

- Ensure farmers’ resilience and attachment to their land, while fulfilling the contribution of the agriculture sector in providing requirements for development of the State of Palestine.
- Efficient and sustainable management of natural resources.
- Enhanced agricultural production, productivity and competitiveness; as well as enhanced contribution of agriculture to food security.
- The agriculture sector has effective and efficient capacities, institutional frameworks, legal environment, and agricultural services.

H.E. Eng. Waleed Asaf  
Minister of Agriculture
Foreword from Dr. Shaddad Attili  
Minister and Head of the Palestinian Water Authority

It is apparent that water availability is a cornerstone for further development aspects, not limited to enhancing the wellbeing of all Palestinians, but also development of all other sectors including industry, agriculture and tourism. Availability of fresh water resources is an absolute essential factor to enhancing the GDP and improving the standard of living for any community.

Rolling water shortages across the occupied West Bank pose the greatest challenge facing the Palestinian water sector. These shortages affect only Palestinians, and have grown more severe over time as a result of the inequitable allocation of the shared freshwater resources located here. In particular, Palestinians are denied their rightful share of water from the underground mountain aquifer – comprising the Eastern, North-eastern and Western Basins – and prevented from accessing a single drop of water from the Jordan River. While customary international water law calls for all such trans-boundary freshwater resources to be shared “equitably and reasonably”.

As a result, Palestinian water consumption in the West Bank is limited to an average to just 73 litres per capita per day, below the “absolute minimum” of 100 litres per capita per day recommended by the World Health Organization, and far below the Israeli average of 300 litres per capita per day. In the Gaza Strip, massive over-pumping has led to increased saline intrusion as seawater from the adjacent Mediterranean enters and contaminates the aquifer. Further, the infiltration of raw sewage from sceptic collection ponds on the surface adds to the aquifer’s rapid deterioration. At its present rate of decline, the United Nations estimates that the underlying portion of the coastal aquifer on which the Gaza Strip relies for all its water needs will be unusable by 2016, and irreversibly damaged by 2020.

With all of above political constrains, PWA recognized the need to take all necessary measures that will enable Palestinians to cope with water crisis and water shortage through developing an innovative water sector strategy. This approach illustrates all potential development aspects of such a vital sector, starting from developing a contemporary, responsive legal framework which will enable good governance and efficient management. This strategy will enhance water service provision and wastewater collection and treatment; while at the same time, allowing PWA to tackle all possible development scenarios.

Finally, PWA would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to FAO for their continued support of the Palestinian people through their well-planned programs and their commitment to align their interventions in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture’s strategic orientation.

Dr. Shaddad Attili  
Minister  
Head of PWA
I. The Livestock Sub-Sector

The livestock sector in Palestine is an important one, contributing up to 46 percent of total agricultural income. The backbone of this sector is sheep and goats (small ruminants), dairy cattle and poultry. For 25.3 percent of breeders; agriculture is their main livelihood. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGS) there are 972.5 thousands heads of sheep and goats, and 39.6 thousands heads of cattle. The livestock sector’s total value-added was USD 332.6 million in 2011. In various locations of the country livestock is raised as a secondary activity to provide supplementary income to rural households. In this manner, the small ruminants sector is an important source of income for many Palestinian families, as they produce important products for local consumers, provide employment, and it is a sector where women can contribute greatly.

The following four EU-funded projects target main aspects of the sector:
1- Livestock based livelihoods support programme – institutional component (302-119)

**Implementation:** 01/02/2013–31/01/2016

**Budget:** EUR 3 450 000 (100% European Union contribution)

**Target areas:** West Bank and Gaza Strip (13 and 5 Governorates, respectively)

**Beneficiaries targeted:** MoA including its local branches and departments, and other public bodies active in the livestock sector

**Implementing partner:** FAO

**Project partners:** MoA

**Coordination mechanisms:** The programme has several coordination mechanisms such as the Project Management Unit, the Project Steering Committee (PSC), and the Joint Technical Team (JTT). In addition, the programme under a ‘coordination framework’ will look for synergies and complementarities with other projects working on livestock issues; mainly the two field level projects stemming from the ‘Livestock based livelihood’ programme (implemented by UWAC and Care Austria) and the regional Bedouin governance project implemented by Oxfam Italia (RBG project)

**Specific objective:**
To enhance public and private capacities and service delivery to encourage the economic development and improve resilience of female and male livestock holders – including the Bedouin communities

**Results:**
- Result 1: Enhanced institutional capacities of the MoA to improve the management of, and access to, animal feed, water and pasture
- Result 2: Livestock herders received improved public and private services related to livestock development
- Result 3: Effective linkage between humanitarian and development actions and coordination of donors’ actions in the sector are created and utilized

**Main activities implemented:**
- Coordination support to the relevant Ministry of Agriculture directorates and projects working on livestock issues
- Support the MoA in developing a National Strategy for the Agriculture Sector from 2014 to 2016, and associated national programming
- Review of the MoA’s capacities in regard to water management, feed management and information management systems; and the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approach
- Explore the feasibility of an agricultural insurance scheme to be introduced to the livestock sector
- Establishment of an animal identification system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip
- Formation of technical committees within the MoA, including: animal diversity and gene bank committee, and the animal improvement committee; the DRR team; and an animal identification system committee
2- Food security governance of Bedouin pastoralist groups in the Mashreq Region (304-524)

Implementation: 01/02/2013–30/08/2016

Budget: EUR 1 874 660 (European Union contribution 80%)

Target areas: West Bank (Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, Jericho, Jerusalem, Nablus, and Tubas Governorates) and Gaza Strip. Jordan (Mafraq and Ma’an Governorates), Egypt (Alexandria, Fayoum Governorates)

Beneficiaries targeted: Approximately 20 000

Implementing partner: Oxfam Italia

Project partners: PLDC, PACU, UAWC, ILEIA, IUCN Oxfam Nov.

Coordination mechanisms: The project – for its West Bank and Gaza Strip result – is coordinated by the MoA through the institutional component of the ‘Livestock-based livelihood’ programme. For the Jordan and Egypt results the EUREP is in charge of the coordination together with the EU Delegation to Jordan and Egypt

Specific objective:
To improve participation of Bedouin pastoralist groups in Jordan, Egypt and the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as recognized stakeholders in the policy decision-making processes that affects their livelihoods, food security and nutrition

Main results:
Result 1: Strengthened organizational and advocacy capacities of Bedouin groups in selected areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jordan and Egypt
Result 2: National livestock practitioners’ platforms initiated for policy dialogue
Result 3: A regional Bedouin livestock platform initiated

Main activities:
• Community profiling and representatives identification
• Stakeholder analysis
• Baseline survey
• Communities representatives capacity building trainings
• Document technological innovation and policy processes
• Implementation of pilot projects defined by community dialogue and participatory approach. This activity in the West Bank and Gaza will be implemented in close cooperation with the ‘Livestock based livelihood’ programme
• Initiate and develop national and regional practitioners platforms
• Conduct regional exchange and learning workshops
• Arrange policy-influencing activities with regional relevance
• Develop special publication on linking practice and policy in Bedouin and livestock development

Meeting with beneficiaries in the Bedouin community of ‘Arab Maslakh in the northern Gaza Strip (© Mustafa Arafat).

Meeting with Bedouin beneficiaries in the community of Furush Beit Dajan, Nablus Governorate (©Amanee Abu Rezeq).
3- Moving herders from aid dependence to self-sustaining growth through livestock husbandry development and market expansion (320-941)

**Implementation period:** 01/10/2013–31/09/2015

**Budget:** EUR 4 100 000 (European Union contribution 85%)

**Target areas:** West Bank (Hebron, East Jerusalem and Bethlehem Governorates)

**Beneficiaries targeted:** Approximately 780 herders families, dairy producers and roughly 55 public and private veterinary service providers

**Implementing partner:** Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UWAC)

**Project partners:** Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC), PHG, Qatar Charity, Laore Sardegna, Jericho, Za’tara and Altamerh Cooperatives

**Coordination mechanisms:** The project is part of the ‘livestock based livelihoods support programme (LbL)’ which include two other interventions. Coordination mechanisms have been created to assure complementarities. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), assisted by FAO, is in charge of the overall coordination between all projects. The project is in line with the ‘Agriculture Sector Strategy’

**Specific objective:** Improving resilience and promoting development of vulnerable herders living in the West Bank through improving production capacities, access to assets and expanding income opportunities from livestock

**Main results:**

Result 1: Access to safe water is improved through construction of new water facilities and enhanced water demand management

Result 2: Access to inputs for and the management of animal production is increased through introduction of innovative practices

Result 3: Access to local markets for herders is made more effective and efficient by improving marketing and production services and governance instruments

Result 4: Women’s empowerment is fostered through specific knowledge transfer and through increased participation in the livestock sector

**Main activities:**

- Construction of water facilities
- Water demand management
- Introducing alternative fodder
- Establishment of new grazing areas and improve management of grazing areas
- Construction of shade for animals
- Developing existing capacity
- Providing instruments of marketing to herders
- Introduction of new variety of dairy products
- Strengthen herders relations will local producers of dairy products
- Establishment of outlets for animal products
- Linking territorial marketing and livestock production
- Conduction of awareness campaigns
4- Strengthening livestock holders’ livelihoods in Area C – Rawasi
(321-192)

Implementation period: 01/11/2013 - 30/10/2015
Budget: EUR 3 330 960 (European Union contribution 80 %)
Target areas: In the West Bank: North East Jerusalem, East Ramallah, Jericho, East Nablus & Tubas
Beneficiaries: targeted: Approximately 2 000 herders families, 20 CBOs/ SMEs
Implementing partner: CARE International
Project partners: Agricultural Development Association (PARC)
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
Coordination mechanisms: The project was designed in coordination with MoA and is aligned with its ‘Agriculture Sector Strategy’.
Complementarity and coordination with other projects under ‘livestock based livelihoods support programme (LbL)’ and is ensured through several agreed upon coordination mechanisms with MoA, UAWC and FAO
Specific objective:
To strengthen the resilience and increase income of sheep and goat holders, with a specific focus on women and Bedouins
Main results:
Result 1: Male and female livestock holders and CBOs have improved access to and management of water, grazing land, and fodder
Result 2: Male and female livestock holders have enhanced health, quality and productivity of their livestock and improved links to extension services
Result 3: Male and female livestock holders have better returns from increasing the value-added of their products
Main activities:
• Improve water harvesting, reservation, storage, resources rehabilitation, and water management
• Strengthen CBO governance and capacities for managing collective initiatives
• Raise awareness on animal husbandry
• Introducing and applying new high productivity techniques
• Improve women’s participation in mixed CBOs
• Conduct marketing assessments of livestock products, and, provide innovative techniques and inputs based on the assessment to CBOs/ SMEs/ households/ and women groups to implement sustainable income-generating and demand-driven initiatives
• Document and advocate on the impact of access restrictions on livestock holders’ livelihoods
II. The olive and olive oil value chain

Olive production in Palestine is characterized by the alternate bearing phenomenon, where olive yield alternates between low and high amounts each year.

The area planted with olives still constitutes 54 percent of total arable land, comprising 85 percent of the total fruit trees area in Palestine. There are around 8,895,000 olive trees, of which 7,798,000 (88 percent) are held in 8–10 dunum holdings per farmer. Olive plantations are concentrated in the Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Ramallah and Hebron governorates. Olive production composes as much as 25 percent of the total value of Palestinian agricultural output, while the value added of the associated olive oil industry reaches an average of USD 5.4 million per year. Hence, the olive-sector is considered a staple of the Palestinian economy and estimates suggest that about 100,000 farming families depend to some extent on the annual olive harvest for their livelihoods.

The following four EU-funded projects target main aspects of the olive oil sector:

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1. The Agricultural census considers horticulture trees holdings of 1 dunum and up. Estimates based on SEFSec data suggests that olive holdings of less than 1 dunum represent around 12 percent of total holdings.
2. Calculations made by FAO WBGS’s Food Security Unit based on PCBS agricultural statistics over various years.
1- Ensuring a better future for small-scale farmers & rural women in the olive sector (278-185)

Implementation period: 01/02/2012 - 30/01/2015

Budget: EUR 1,062,662 (European Union contribution 78.66%)

Target areas: In the West Bank: Ramallah, Salfeet, and Jenin, Governorates

Beneficiaries targeted: Approximately 100 low income vulnerable small-scale-olive producers within 5 farmers’ cooperatives and 50 rural women within 5 working groups in the olive sector

Implementing partner: Agricultural Development Association /PARC

Project partners: none

Coordination mechanisms: The project coordinates its activities with other three similar projects co-financed by the European Union supporting the olive-oil value chain. The Ministry of Agriculture is closely coordinating the interventions and a high level of coordination was achieved with the Swiss Development Cooperation. The project is in line with the ‘Agriculture Sector Strategy’

Specific objective:

To increase the income and raise awareness related to the implementation of good agricultural and friendly environmental practices for 5 olive oil producers’ cooperatives, and to support, activate and increase income of 50 rural women within 5 working groups

Main results:

Result 1: The institutional capacities of 5 olive-farmers’ cooperatives and 5 rural-women-working groups in targeted areas are enhanced

Result 2: The productivity and profitability of farmers (covering 100 hectares of olive groves) and women (producing 5 hectares of medicinal herbs) are increased

Result 3: Marketing of olive production in local and international markets is improved

Main activities:

• Provision of training and capacity building for cooperatives and women groups; provision of extension and technology transfer services to the farmers for high quality organic olive oil production; establishing 100 pilot farms; land rehabilitation, construction of rain water harvesting cisterns; establishing water networks; planting olive seedlings; pests and diseases control campaigns; providing physical support in the form of production inputs to farmers’ cooperatives; motivating, following up and supporting the cooperatives in renewing organic certificates; providing physical support in the form of special tools and equipments for olive and olive oil production
2- Palestine green gold from producers to consumers (307-668)

Implementation period: 01/2/2013 - 30/06/2015

Budget: EUR 3 150 000 (European Union contribution 79.25%)

Target areas: West Bank (Ramallah, Qalqiliya, Tulkarm, Jenin, Hebron, Bethlehem Governorates) and Gaza Strip (Gaza and North Gaza Governorates)

Beneficiaries: targeted: Small scale olive farmers (circa 550 households), women enterprises (12), farmer’s cooperatives (20), Palestinian olive oil companies (2), farmers representative bodies

Implementing partner: Agricultural Development Association - PARC

Project partners: Oxfam GB, PalTrade, LRC

Coordination mechanisms: The project coordinates its activities with three other similar projects co-financed by the European Union supporting the olive-oil value chain. The MoA is closely coordinating the interventions and a high level of coordination was achieved with the Swiss Development Cooperation. The project is in line with the ‘Agriculture Sector Strategy’

Specific objective:
Increase profitability of households’ subsistence and small scale olive farmers, especially women-run producer groups and enterprises, through value chain analysis of olive, introduction of natural resource management practices, and ensuring equitable access to markets within a conducive institutional and policy framework

Main results:
Result 1: Improved yields and quality of olive oil through introduction of better natural resource and post-harvest management practices, coupled with effective and innovative extension services to small scale farmers

Result 2: Pro-subsistence and small scale farmers’ policy and regulatory frameworks introduced through capacity development and sensitization of key stakeholders

Result 3: Increased capacity and confidence of women run farmers cooperatives

Main activities:
• Provision of comprehensive extension package to small and subsistence farmers
• Light land rehabilitation
• Opening and rehabilitation of agricultural roads
• Construction of rain water harvesting cisterns
• Pest and disease control campaigns
• Delivery of trainings
• Distribution of cultivation, harvesting, pressing and storage equipment and tools
• Support oil marketing companies to open new markets, advocating the sector and publication of policy papers
• Support women cooperatives establishing olive-related businesses
3- Making olive oil competitive through the introduction of local value chain approach (308-535)

**Implementation period:** 01/2/2013 - 31/07/2015

**Budget:** EUR 3 100 000 (European Union contribution 80%)

**Target areas:** West Bank (Salfit, Qalqiliya, and Tulkarm Governorates)

**Beneficiaries: targeted:** Approximately 600 olive oil producers, 8 olive mills owners/operators, 150 rural women

**Implementing partner:** Union of Agricultural Work Committees – UWAC

**Project partners:** GVC, PHG, MAAN, CIHEAM-MAIB, PSI, Qatar Charity

**Coordination mechanisms:** The project coordinates its activities with three other similar projects co-financed by the European Union supporting the olive-oil value chain. The MoA is closely coordinating the interventions and a high level of coordination was achieved with the Swiss Development Cooperation. The project is in line with the ‘Agriculture Sector Strategy’

**Specific objective:** Increasing income of small scale farmers and their competitiveness in local and global market through the development of a local value chain of olive oil

**Main results:**

Result 1: The governance institutional framework and tools for an effective use of the local value chain of olive oil are in place at local and national levels

Result 2: The productivity and quality are increased and stabilized, and the cost of production of extra-virgin olive oil decreased

Result 3: The access to local and foreign market for small-scale farmers is more effective and efficient

Result 4: Women’s empowerment is fostered through specific know-how transfer and through increased participation to the olive sector and to households’ revenues

**Main activities:**

- Mapping and analysis of the local value chain
- Establishing a local partnership agreement
- Establishing a multilevel governance contractual relationship
- Strengthening of farmers’ cooperatives
- Transfer of technical know-how on good practices and provision of tools
- Introduction of water resources management for complementary irrigation
- Provision of instruments for the organization of marketing services
- Build women’s skills and knowledge on the olive sector
- Set-up of olive oil-related income generating activities
4- From grove to market - developing the value chain for subsistence and small-scale farmers in the occupied Palestinian territory (278-326)

**Implementation period:** 01/2/2012 - 31/1/2015

**Budget:** EUR 1,792,618 (European Union contribution 61.36%)

**Target areas:** West Bank (Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Salfit, Tulkarm, Tubas, Qalqiliya and Hebron Governorates)

**Beneficiaries targeted:** Approximately 1,300 subsistence and small-scale farmers

**Implementing partner:** Oxfam GB

**Project partners:** Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem, Economic and Social Development Centre (ESDC), Business Women Forum, and fair-trade Development Centre

**Coordination mechanisms:** The project coordinates its activities with three other similar projects co-financed by the European Union supporting the olive-oil value chain. The MoA is closely coordinating the interventions and a high level of coordination was achieved with the Swiss Development Cooperation. The project is in line with the ‘Agriculture Sector Strategy’

**Specific objective:**
To develop the value chain of the olive and olive oil sector in the West Bank

**Results:**

Result 1: Increased agricultural productivity and improved quality of olive oil for subsistence and small-scale olive farmers through affordable, effective and innovative extension services

Result 2: Olive oil cooperatives/producer groups and new regional federations better support and represent farmers’ businesses

Result 3: Women have gained greater benefits from the olive market system and are able to influence decision making

Result 4: Subsistence and small-scale olive farmers have greater access to and better returns from high value markets through improved marketing and linkages across the value chain

Result 5: Increased capacity of relevant institutions to develop and enforce pro-poor policies and regulations which improve the functioning of the olive market system

**Main activities:**

- Delivery of training agricultural practices and water management
- Set up three new Regional Federations to provide community level agricultural services
- Facilitate Organic and fair-trade certification processes
- Gendered market assessments to identify niche olive-based products
- Develop and implement marketing and promotional plan including promotional activities, labelling and packaging, sampling and tasting events
III. Land and water development

Despite being a priority focus of external aid, the Palestinian water sector has not significantly developed. Palestinians suffer from restricted access to their entitled share – in accordance with international law – of their trans-boundary water resources. This is exacerbated by low water availability per capita, inadequate water service in terms of access, reliability and water quality, and major seasonal water shortages; especially in rural areas. The sewerage sector is not in better conditions with chronic underinvestment leading to partial coverage, a very low rate of wastewater treatment, and widespread environmental damage. The recent years have been characterized by climate change and reduced rainfall. Apart from the climatic dimension of the water supply there is also a political one as more than 80 percent of water sources in the West Bank remain under Israeli control.

The following four EU-funded projects target main aspects of land and water development:
1- Enhancement of food security in Taybeh and Ramoun through rural development and agricultural extension (237-071)

**Implementation:** 01/01/2011 - 30/03/2014

**Budget:** EUR 2,900,000 (European Union contribution 95%)

**Target areas:** West Bank (Ramallah Governorate)

**Beneficiaries reached:**
- **Sanitation component:** 4,123 people: villagers of At Tayba (women 760 men 692) and of Rammun (women 1,383 men 1,288);
- **Reuse component:** 200 farmers from At Tayba Agricultural Association and Rammun Agricultural Association

**Implementing partner:** PWEG – Palestinian Wastewater Engineers Group

**Project partners:** CESVI, UAWC – Union of Agricultural Work Committees

**Coordination mechanisms:** Bimonthly EU coordination meetings, local PSC, national PSC

**Specific objective:**
The specific objective of the action is to improve food production for impoverished and vulnerable farmers

**Results:**

Result 1: Construction of fully functional wastewater (WW) management; including 10 km WW network, one intensive wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) with a rotating biological contractors (RBC) system

Result 2: Provision of olive trees’ supplementary irrigation; reclamation, cultivation and irrigation of new land and construction of an irrigation system

Result 3: Establishment of a WW unit at the Joint Service Council (JSC) formed by At Tayba municipality and Rammun village council; trained and qualified operators of the WWTP; capacity building of the two agricultural associations

**Main activities implemented:**

- Design preparation of the sanitation schemes and of the reuse schemes
- Tender preparations, tendering, evaluation and contracting
- Construction of the sanitation schemes and of the reuse schemes
- Public awareness and environmental education
- Institutional strengthening and capacity building to local authorities and agricultural associations
2- Supporting the food security and sustainable livelihoods of poor rural families through improving rainwater harvesting and water demand management for agricultural purposes (268-270)

**Implementation period:** 01/11/2011 – 28/02/2013

**Budget:** EUR 1,500,000 (European Union contribution 100%)

**Target areas:** The West Bank (Jenin and Hebron Governorates)

**Beneficiaries targeted:** 500 vulnerable poor farming households and approximately 2,000 workers

**Implementing partner:** FAO

**Project partners:** none

**Coordination mechanisms:** The project coordinates its activities with the MoA. The project is in line with the ‘Agriculture Sector Strategy’

**Specific objective:**

To sustainably improve the availability and management of water for agricultural purposes in the target areas, and to create jobs and enhance income generation for poor families and rural workers

**Main results:**

Result 1: 500 new rainwater collection cisterns are constructed/rehabilitated to benefit 500 farming families

Result 2: Enhanced local technical capacities in good practices in water management and use in agriculture, including improved knowledge base and skills of female and male farmers

Result 3: Women’s participation and technical knowledge in water management and the agriculture sector are enhanced

Result 4: At least 27,000 working days are created for targeted families as well as skilled and un-skilled rural workers through the construction of cisterns and other related works

**Main activities:**

- Construction/rehabilitation of a total of rainwater collection cisterns
- Provision of tailored trainings and technical support for the targeted female and male farmers, agronomists and extension staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, on good agricultural practices including water management
- Creating a total of 27,000 working days for poor farmers and workers through the construction of the cisterns
3- Beit Dajan and Anzah villages produce more food through sustainable and safe use of reclaimed wastewater in agriculture (237-072)

**Implementation period:** 01/01/2011 – 31/12/2013

**Budget:** EUR 3 280 000 (European Union contribution 91.45%)

**Target areas:** The West Bank (Jenin, Hebron, and Nablus Governorates)

**Beneficiaries: targeted:** Approximately 1,100 rural families served by sewage collection system and two wastewater treatment plants, 160 farmers reusing treated wastewater for agricultural purposes

**Implementing partner:** Agricultural Development Association/PARC

**Project partners:** Birzeit University and EcoSan Club Austria

**Coordination mechanisms:** The project coordinates its activities with two other similar projects co-financed by the European Union supporting rural sanitation and access to and utilization of water. The MoA and the Palestinian Water Authority are coordinating the intervention which is fully in line with the ‘Agriculture Sector Strategy’

**Specific objective:**

Protect the environment by the provision of sewage collection systems and wastewater treatment plants to two villages, and improve the productivity by the provision of treated waste-water for complementary irrigation for agricultural purposes

**Main results:**

Result 1: Reclaimed wastewater from rural sanitation infrastructure is socially accepted and used for increasing agriculture production, approximately 6,100 inhabitants will be served by proper sanitation, and additional 15 tonnes of agricultural products are produced annually

Result 2: Irrigated agricultural area increased in the targeted locations. Circa 420m$^3$ per day of treated effluent will be used to irrigate 50 hectares

Result 3: Awareness and capacity of the targeted communities are enhanced in the field’s wastewater treatment and reuse, 15 technicians, villages inhabitants, students and farmers are trained in the targeted communities

**Main activities:**

- Construction of two wastewater treatment plants
- Construction of 62 onsite grey wastewater treatment plants
- Construction of around 21.853 km of sewer line networks
- Supply and install irrigation networks to serve 50 hectares
- Awareness and training activities
4- Making wastewater an asset: increasing agricultural production by introducing irrigation from non-conventional water sources (254-819)

**Implementation period:** 01/03/2011 – 28/02/2014

**Budget:** EUR 3,000,000 (European Union contribution 88 %)

**Target areas:** West Bank (Qalqiliya and Nablus Governorates)

**Beneficiaries: targeted:** Approximately 3,500 inhabitants from Sarra and Hajja villages with access to a sanitation system and roughly 70 farmers benefiting from agricultural activities

**Implementing partner:** GVC

**Project partners:** UAWC Union Agricultural Work Committees, PHG Palestinian Hydrology Group

**Coordination mechanisms:** The project coordinates its activities with two other similar projects co-financed by the European Union supporting rural sanitation and access to and utilization of water. The MoA and the Palestinian Water Authority are coordinating the intervention which is fully in line with the ‘Agriculture Sector Strategy’

**Specific objective:**
Protect the environment by the provision of sewage collection systems and wastewater treatment plants to two villages, and improve the productivity by the provision of treated wastewater for complementary irrigation for agricultural purposes

**Main results:**

Result 1: Reclaimed wastewater, complying with minimum standards for agricultural reuse, are made available to farmers through the construction and the rehabilitation of efficient and sustainable sanitation systems for the villages of Sarra and Hajja

Result 2: Village Councils are able to manage and maintain the sanitation systems and general public and farmers are aware of the main issues of sustainable and environmentally sound sanitation including reuse of treated wastewater, through capacity building and awareness-information programmes

Result 3: The irrigation with treated effluent and the application of efficient farming practices has increased

**Main activities:**

- Construction of a sewer collection system and a waste water treatment plant in Sarra, and rehabilitation of the existing constructed wetland in Hajja
- Capacity building of the village councils for the financial management of the sanitation system
- Public and farmers’ awareness activities
- Technical trainings on olive cultivation, orchard management and olive oil quality
- Provision of the irrigation network tools and equipment
- Improved marketing practices
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Farm land in Tubas Governorate, located in the northeastern region of the West Bank.