Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

Project Fact Sheet

Integrated Rural Development/ Hebron and Bethlehem

PROJECT AIM (OVERALL OBJECTIVE)
The Goal of this project is to generate employment, reduce poverty and improve the social and living conditions of the target rural population in the southern area of the West Bank.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Italian Government through the Italian Cooperation Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed on 28/2/2002 a trust fund agreement with UNDP/PAPP to contribute a grant of Euro 2,199,474.16 for financing the “Integrated Rural Development Project in the Hebron and Bethlehem Districts”. This project is in line with the Palestinian plan for Reform and Development (PRDP) and its general objective falls under the PRDP national priorities to increase the agricultural output by 15% on the national level and expand the capacity of the sector to absorb an additional 10% of unemployment. It is also consistent with the commitment pledged by the Government of Italy to support the Palestinian People. Furthermore, this project is in line with the MoA programme for land Development that is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, UNDP and Specialized Agricultural NGOs.

UNDP/PAPP is serving as Executing Agency for the project in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture. Palestinian NGOs and the local farmers and rural communities are actively involved in all the undertaken work. The Project is implemented in the Southern Districts of the West Bank (Hebron, Bethlehem, Dura) and it consists of a study on Land suitability for land development, land reclamation activities, training, and capacity development for MoA in the southern areas related to land Development.

OBJECTIVES
1. Promote local economic development.
2. Device a strategy for land development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
3. Reclamation of agricultural land to expand cultivation and increase the local food supply.
4. Protect soil and crops, and thus prevent deterioration of soil characteristics.
5. Make use of labour– intensive technologies to the maximum extent possible for the purpose of generating employment.
6. Start various activities of land reclamation of uncultivated areas, which have already been identified as a high priority need for agricultural development of the area;
7. Build the capacities of MOA and its directorates, and the local implementing organizations.

IMPACT STATEMENT
Livelihoods outcomes of more than 600 Palestinian poor households is improved and around 2000 dunum of uncultivable land are now in production.

THEMATIC AREA
Poverty Reduction

SECTOR / SUB SECTOR
Agriculture

PROJECT DETAILS
Project Number: 57665
Award Number: 47798
Duration: 2008-2011
Donor: Italian Cooperation
Partner: Ministry of Agriculture and local agricultural NGOs

BUDGET
Total Budget US$3,018,031.83
Disbursement up to date US$2,758,000

Geographic Location
Hebron and Bethlehem Districts

OUTPUTS
- 2,000 Dunums of land reclaimed and cultivated
- 120,000 of fruit trees planted
- At least 50 kms of agricultural roads rehabilitated and constructed
- At least 100 water harvesting cisterns constructed
- Approximately 70,000 working days generated for the benefit of 1,000 families.
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PROGRESS UP TO DATE

- Around 2,998 dunum of land area is reclaimed and planted with fruit trees
- More than 250 water cistern with a storage capacity of 20,693 cubic meter is constructed to harvest rainfall water to be used for supplementary irrigation of the new planted fruit tree seedlings
- Around 53.5 km of agricultural roads serve more than 12000 dunum of land are opened
- Around 114,000 fruit tree seedlings were planted
- Around 127,000 square meter constructed
- Around 81,478 workdays generated over the two years
- Around 1,499 families, 634 considered as direct beneficiaries from land development activities (reclamation, rehabilitation activities) and the other 865 families are considered as direct beneficiaries from agricultural roads activities.
- 11 employees from MoA and partner NGOs participated in advance training course hosted by ICARDA Syria (Sustainable Land Management in Dry Environments)
- The capacity of the Agricultural Departments of Dura, Hebron and Bethlehem are developed through furnishing and equipping these offices with the necessary requirements
- A study on Land Suitability for Land development is finished. The final results of the study will be published in 2011

CONSTRAINTS (if any)

- Israeli military and settlers actions against project beneficiaries.
- Seedlings availability with the required specifications due to high demands from other parties.

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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