



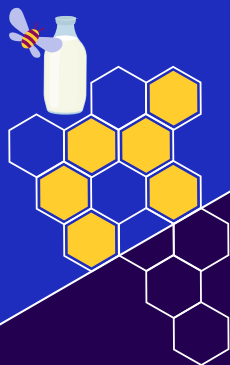
International
Labour
Organization



من الشعب الياباني
From the People of Japan

► Promotion of an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises and Decent Jobs for Women and Youth in the Agricultural Sector

Summary of the project in the
Occupied Palestinian Territory



Implementing partners



الاتحاد جمعيات المزارعين الفلسطينيين
The Palestinian Farmers Union (PFU)



اتحاد زعماء العمال الزراعيين
UAWC

► What we are doing? Project overview

This project is expanding access to information, skills, technology, technical expertise and markets for Palestinians (especially women and youth) in two key agricultural subsectors: **honey and dairy**.

► At a glance



Location

Jericho and the Jordan Valley,
Occupied Palestinian Territory



Duration

12 months (2023–2024)



Budget

US\$740,740



Donor

Government of Japan



Implementing partners

International Labour Organization (ILO) and NGO consortium:
Arab Center for Agricultural Development (ACAD), Land Research Center (LRC), Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), Palestinian Farmers Union (PFU), Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)

The project's interventions are being implemented among 8 cooperatives in Jericho and the Jordan Valley, selected through a comprehensive assessment process by the ILO and the expert NGO consortium formed by the project.

The interventions run the gamut from building technical skills and business development capacities through training, to providing equipment, raising awareness, and connecting beneficiaries with expertise, markets and supportive networks. The project's approach is embedding interventions into the cooperatives' operations and processes to ensure their ownership of the change achieved, and contribute to the interventions' long-term sustainability.

These interventions are enabling cooperatives and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to become more competitive and sustainable; to benefit from decent work; to help women reach more and higher types of work in value chains; to become stronger sources of family income and community development; and to contribute to agricultural development and food security in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.



Beneficiaries

► **5 beekeeping cooperatives: 129 farmers/members (37% women)**

Bardala Beekeepers Cooperative, Tubas: 15 members (families)
Al-Nuaimah Young Women's Cooperative: 21 members (families)
Al-Duyuk Agricultural Cooperative: 18 members (3 men, 15 women)
Rural Development Cooperative, Al-Auja: 16 members (3 men, 13 women)
Cooperative Beekeepers Association, Aqabat Jabr: 59 members (families)

► **3 livestock cooperatives: 140 farmers/families (50% women)**

Development of Animal Wealth Cooperative, Tubas: 27 members
Cooperative Animal Wealth for Bedouin Clusters, Jericho: 61 members
Bardala Cooperative for Animal Wealth Development, Tubas: 52 members

► Why we are doing it? Rationale

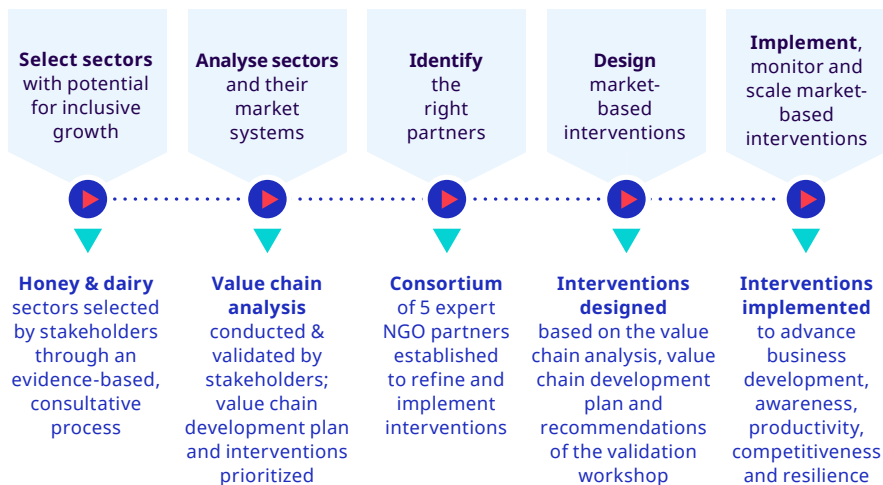
Agriculture in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is characterized by small farmers and fragmented holdings. This limits productivity and returns, prompting many Palestinians to seek work in other sectors. This decreases agricultural activity further, while obliging women to take up vacant agricultural jobs without the necessary experience or access to skills and information. Many MSMEs are informal, family businesses that rarely market their products beyond their local areas. Their operations, therefore, are sub-optimal and do not yield the socio-economic benefits they could.

Agricultural cooperatives are a good model for pooling resources and expertise, organizing workers, and moving towards formality. Yet, little information exists on cooperative principles in agriculture in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. There is considerable scope to increase the number of cooperatives and MSMEs in agriculture, and to improve the management and outputs of existing entities. This is where this project comes in, and why its interventions to bolster the capacities and resilience of Palestinian cooperatives matter more than ever.

► How we are doing it? Our approach

This project uses the ILO's Approach to Inclusive Market Systems (AIMS), which makes livelihood interventions more market-based and sustainable for vulnerable groups. AIMS uses a "push-pull approach".

It combines interventions to develop sectors with the potential to create more and better decent job opportunities (pull) with interventions to develop marginalized groups' capacities and skillsets to engage with the market (push).





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► What have we achieved? Highlights of our results



sheep and goats vaccinated by the project's vaccination campaign, benefitting 127 farmers



in expected annual production losses prevented by the campaign



local trainers are being certified to deliver training on the ILO's Start and Improve Your Business toolkit to women & youth



farmers trained & organized into a **network of community para-veterinarians**, expanding local access to veterinary services



tonnes per year of yellow corn waste will be used by communities for the first time, thanks to a community-based maize/corn silage production unit piloted in Bardala Cooperative



losses from manual processes prevented by providing equipment to 3 livestock cooperatives, maximizing the use of milk resources



Modern Honeybee Queens Production Centre set up at Bardala Beekeeping Cooperative, the first of its kind, is expected to double honey yields per hive (4–5 kg to 9–12 kg)



beekeeping cooperatives provided equipment enabling them to diversify product size offerings and expand their market reach to the service industry



farmers from beekeeping cooperatives trained and provided innovative tools to improve honey production practices

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