

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENTS

Leading on from previous data and analyses and in view of all constraints and guidelines discussed earlier in this study, the researcher proposes in this and the next two chapters, several projects and measures which are intended to initiate and sustain a high rate of growth in rainfed sectors of agriculture. Admittedly, this work still falls short of being a development plan in the real sense, since there are too many uncertainties to make planning possible before the termination of Israeli authority over the occupied territories.

The suggested projects are classified into two categories: the first is addressed towards building infrastructures capable of providing an efficient and well integrated package of services which are needed for accelerating the process of agricultural development; the second category includes projects of a specialized nature aimed at developing specific sectors of rainfed agriculture. Each proposal is described briefly in regard to its objectives, requirements and implementation mechanics. No effort is made to conduct detailed feasibility analyses of proposed projects, because this is beyond the scope of this research. However, the researcher has often drawn on analyses conducted for similar projects in Jordan and the West Bank.

1.0 Administration of agricultural development

1.1 Granting ministerial authority to the Joint Committee.

In order to expedite economic and agricultural development in the occupied territories while they are under occupation, the researcher proposes granting the Palestinian-Jordanian Joint Committee (PJJC) ministerial authority over development policies relative to those territories. Although this is not a particularly attractive option for the PLO leadership which is sensitive to Jordan's involvement in Palestinian affairs, this step, however, is practically unavoidable for breaking the deadlock resulting from Israel's embargo on aid channelled explicitly through the PLO. It should be emphasized, however, that the proposed measures should not entail any political connotation which contradicts with earlier decisions taken by successive Arab summit conferences endorsing the PLO as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinians.

1.2 Establishing a Central Agricultural Development Board.

The proposed board is conceived as the functional alternative to a national ministry of agriculture. For practical purposes it should be stationed in Amman. Members of the Board would be appointed by the Joint Committee, and they should include members from within and outside the occupied territories. The functions of the Board should be spelled out in its bye-laws, and they should bear on all institutional services which are necessary to implement a national agricultural policy.

1.3 Development of the Rural Research Centre (RRC).

This centre is intended to be the technical arm for the agricultural board mentioned above. It will be engaged in a