

validity of establishing a local college of agriculture, an idea which is being considered by An-Najah and Birzeit Universities. But for a number of political reasons, on the other hand, senior officials in both universities as well as leading politicians, seem to agree on the need for a carefully designed college of agriculture on the West Bank. Consequently, if a decision to establish such a school is taken, it is very important that the right type of school is established.

The curriculum of the proposed school would primarily meet the specific professional needs of agriculture on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Its curriculum would focus on qualifying graduates as competent farmers and agri-businessmen, rather than solely on theoretical academic instruction. In addition to its teaching programme, it would also initiate an active research program centred on the problems and constraints impeding agricultural growth. The proposed school would be expected to launch a program of adaptive research making adequate use of the abundant supply of primary research findings released by nearby Israeli and Jordanian institutions.

As a preliminary step, it is proposed to conduct a feasibility study for the appropriate type of school indicating location, curricula, and financial and technical allocations required for this project.

2.5 Establishing a Horticultural Research Unit

Introduction of modern production techniques and monitoring of the modernization process in olive and other fruit trees should be entrusted to a specialized unit affiliated to An-Najah

University in Nablus*. The project might start first as a section in the Rural Research Centre, especially as the Centre intends to recruit one or two trained horticulturists. In the future it may be possible to develop the said unit into a separate body under the name of the Horticultural Research Unit, and have it annexed to a college of agriculture, when one is established.

The suggested unit would be engaged mainly in the search for appropriate innovations and testing them locally. As such the unit's technicians will draw heavily on the experience and technology generated by research institutions in other countries.

The suggested Horticultural Research Unit would have to cater for several kinds of fruit trees, but priority should go to olives, citrus, and grapes. Its staff would consist in the beginning of a qualified horticulturist, an assistant, and a laboratory technician. 2 - 3 years later more horticulturists would be added, one specialized in citrus and subtropical fruits and others in vegetable crops.

3.0 Cooperatives

3.1 Establishing the Cooperative Institute (CI)

The proposed institute would be established through the technical and financial assistance of the FAO as a joint project with Bethlehem University. It would be entrusted with all kinds of educational and training activities for members of cooperatives and managerial staff. A proposal to this effect has been already submitted to the FAO which expressed a positive initial response.

* A recommendation to this effect has already been made by participants at the Agricultural Seminar sponsored by the Arab Thought Forum, held at An-Najah University on August 21, 1981.