

6.2 Development of cisterns in reclamation areas.

This project aims at assisting farmers to reconstruct deserted cisterns or dig new ones in areas where rainfed farming is to be developed in the context of subsequent projects. The reconstructed cisterns would be expected to have a tremendous impact on the pace of development, whether by supplying water needed for livestock, or for spraying purposes (mentioned frequently in subsequent projects), or for supplemental irrigation of fruit trees (see 8.4 below). This project would also help conserve more of the wasted runoff water and eventually reduce the dangers of top soil erosion.

It is estimated that the reconstruction of a deserted cistern would cost around JD 200 and the construction of a new one about JD 500. Interested farmers would cover half of the needed costs and receive the rest as a grant. Due to the limited nature of this project it is proposed to have it already engaged in a similar project in the east Bethlehem area. The ADC could play an important supervisory and funding role.

6.3 Developing agricultural roads.

Development of agricultural roads to a level where they become passable to tractors and vehicles would be another important step towards facilitating rapid growth in rainfed agriculture. Furthermore, this would help disseminate construction of houses in areas where farming was reactivated. The project should be restricted to cases where no land disputes are likely to emerge between farmers bordering anticipated roads, lest this be utilized by the occupation authorities in obstructing construction works. The opening of roads would be undertaken by land

reclamation units mentioned earlier (5.1).

The need for agricultural roads is extensive and should be phased in over many years, depending on the availability of funds and the attitudes of the Military Administration. Tentatively, it is felt necessary and reasonably possible to re-develop around 100 kilometers of roads annually during the next three years at an approximate cost of JD 2400/km. Benefitting farmers would cover half of the cost and the rest would be provided as a grant, whether from voluntary agencies or PACC (see 4.1). Field processing of applications would be entrusted to representatives of PACC in respective districts.

6.4 Distribution of tree seedlings.

Land reclaimed and developed in the context of previous projects would be utilized essentially for growing fruit trees, mainly olives and grapes. A part of the proposed package would be to promote distribution of seedlings at a scale wider than currently done by voluntary agencies. This project will be elaborated further under the section on fruit trees.

6.5 Dissemination of mechanized services fit for hilly slopes.

The objective of this project is to make available at reasonable charges a carefully selected range of mechanized services through specialized custom units. The services would include ploughing, seedbed preparation, pruning, and spraying (insecticides, weed killers, hormones etc.). The project obviously bears on land conservation as well as on other important prerequisites of development. It would help improve productivity, reduce operational costs and raise net family income from rainfed farming to a level sufficiently viable to justify recruiting hired labour