

that the area to be sprayed would be 50,100, 150 thousand donums respectively during the three years of the plan. Subsidy appropriations would be derived from the PACC or voluntary agencies.

#### 8.7 Localized treatment of diseases.

Despite widespread infection with several insects and diseases, it is not realistic at the present to envisage a comprehensive control scheme. It is recommended to launch a programme of localized treatment in orchards which suffer severe infections of Peacock eye spot and Lichens, both of which are effectively controlled at a reasonable cost by using copper sprays. The process would be totally sponsored at the demonstration level, but only partially subsidized on a commercial scale, and would be undertaken by the same institutions as mentioned earlier in similar projects.

#### 8.8 Gradual introduction of picking hormones.

The picking of olives by using special hormone sprays has not yet been a complete success. The cost of picking is too high, ranging from one half to two thirds of manual picking, which means that their use has to be evaluated individually in each orchard. Nevertheless, it is still possible that picking by hormones may result in substantial savings in good seasons, the incidence of which is about once every three years.

The proposed project calls for the gradual dissemination of picking hormones in good years by providing the spraying service at a subsidized cost. The service would be made available through the same infrastructures mentioned earlier

in 8.6 above. A number of demonstrations would have to be organized in strategic locations. The cost of spraying would also be subsidized by the PACC or voluntary agencies.

#### 8.9 Selective modernization of olive presses.

All olive presses in operation are of mechanical types, but they vary considerably in their labour requirements and oil extraction rates. Although a lot should be done to modernize old presses, the trend towards the ad hoc establishment of very modern automatic presses is highly questionable. Such presses require an exorbitant capital outlay (around JD 100,000 each) which is hardly justified on economic grounds. In good years, the olive pressing season extends for about two months, but in most years for a shorter period.

The suggested scheme regarding olive presses comprises the following measures:

- a. No credit facilities to be advanced for the construction of modern presses except after a positive feasibility study is conducted by the Rural Research Centre or the Agricultural Development Corporation, and in that case capital needs to be met mainly through equity subscriptions from owners, supplemented by loans from PACC.
- b. Owners of existing presses urged to modernize parts of their machines (examples: adding washing units and spreaders of crushed olives, raising engine compression, and improving efficiency of centrifugal equipment). It is