

buy almond seeds enough to plant two dunams.

This project could be easily sponsored by voluntary agencies and university student bodies. One possible formula is to have it administered by the Association of Agricultural Engineers (AAE) and the Central Committee for Voluntary Work.

10.2 Introduction of improved varieties

Despite substantial advances, there is only a small number of almond varieties in common use. It has been conclusively demonstrated that better varieties could be successfully introduced by grafting them on bitter seedlings. The Department of Agriculture started a successful campaign for that purpose early in the seventies, but this was later terminated as a result of budget cuts.

Again the financial obligations for this project are modest. It is proposed to delegate its administration and finance to the Association of Agricultural Engineers, who would have to carry out field contacts through extension agents in district offices of agriculture. The fact that most extension agents are members of the AAE is a prerequisite for their active collaboration, at least with regard to projects which are not vetoed by the Military Administration.

10.3 More effective control of almond pests.

Almond wasp and pear slug constitute a serious threat to West Bank almond culture. The former is best controlled by collecting and destroying dead mummies. The Department of Agriculture stopped an earlier program which encouraged school children and farmers to collect mummies by offering them a nominal remuneration on collected mummies. It is

strongly recommended to reactivate that program and solicit for that purpose the collaboration of Voluntary Work Committees.

The pear slug, on the other hand, can be effectively and relatively cheaply controlled using systemic insecticides sprayed by powerful equipment. This operation could be easily handled by the Mechanical Service Units mentioned earlier (project 6.5). The cost of spraying could be subsidized at about 50 percent. Both control programmes would be coordinated by the Association of Agricultural Engineers.

10.4 Negotiating better terms of trade with Jordan.

Expansion of production should be accompanied by a forceful lobby for better terms of almond trade with Jordan and other Arab importing countries. This should include increased restrictions on imports from abroad and easing of current restrictions on the flow of West Bank almonds to Jordan. The construction of a second shelling mill in Jenin or Nablus district (there is one in Anabta, Tulkarm district) would help cut down on transportation expenses.

11.0 Other trees.

There is much that could be done to stop the decline in other types of rainfed tree culture. The types of projects needed, as could be inferred from the list below, all fall within the categories or projects described earlier, such as propagation of seedlings, introduction of improved varieties, more effective pest control, wider use of weed killers in replacement of ploughing and more active interest