Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees
Mission Statement

PARC is a leading non profit organization working in the field of rural development, environment protection and enhancement of rural women's role and status. We offer extension, raise awareness and provide supporting activities and services for individuals, groups and organizations working in the same field. We rely upon the active and broad grassroots participation of our beneficiaries parallel to the promotion of the expertise and skills of our staff, aiming at developing a Palestinian civil democratic society.

Our Main Objective

The participation in achieving a sustained and an integrated development for the Palestinian society in order to provide better quality of life

Aims

- To protect and enlarge the agricultural land and its productivity.
- To achieve comprehensive environmental development.
- To develop and optimise the utilization of the available water resources.
- To promote and increase all aspects of production abilities of rural women and empower their role in the rural community.
- To assist in establishing, building and supporting institutions, committees and unions and to mobilize efforts in organizing individuals and groups in order to realize PARC's objectives on the ground in all the scopes related to the work.
  - To enhance and achieve the development of the complementary agricultural activities.
- To accomplish the aims and potentials of PARC's workers, expand their capabilities and raise their productivity skills.
- To develop and realize the dynamic financing of the organization.

Quality Policy

PARC's management and staff are committed to providing first rate development services distinguished by professional and technical excellence using innovative and effective methods.

These services are defined by the economic social and environmental needs and expectations of marginalised rural groups in a way that ensures the optimal use of available resources.

PARC offers its services through a sustainable administrative system that seeks constant improvement and through a committed team of highly skilled staff.
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PARC's Structure

Board Of Trustees

Ms. Rawyaa Al-Shawaa (Chairwoman)
Dr. Alfred Abed Raboo (Deputy)
Ms. Ghada Zeidan
Ms. Khawla Abu Ghazaleh
Ms. Maha Abu Dayyeh/ Shammas
Dr. Abed Al-Rahman Al-Tamimi
Mr. Faris Al-Jabi
Mr. Mohamed Hamdan
Mr. Khader Al-Aalem
Mr. Ommar Abu Ya'iesh
Mr. Dawoud Erikat
Dr. Oudeh Shehadeh

General Assembly
70 Members

Board of Trustees
13 Members

General Director

Deputy General Director

Assistant General Director for Regions Management Affairs

Jenin Branch
Tulkarm / Qalqilya Branch
Nablus / Salfeet Branch
Jerusalem / Ramallah Branch
Jericho Branch
Bethlehem Branch
Hebron Branch
North Gaza Strip Branch
Deir Al-Balah Branch
Khan Younis Branch

Assistant General Director for Supportive Services

Regional Cooperation Dept.
Administrative & Financial Dept.
Public Relations
Training & Consultancy

Assistant General Director for Technical Affairs
Periodical Coordinator
Every 6 Months

Environment & Irrigation Dept.
Extension & Land Development Dept.
Rural Woman Development Dept.
Institutional Building & Development Dept.
Marketing Dept.

Remark:
We started to work with this Structure since the beginning of the year 2000
Introduction

The year 1999 witnessed instability and lack of tangible progress of the political, economical and social situations for the Palestinians. Yet, it added through the drought more difficulties to Palestinian farmers, especially to Bedouins, in terms of the provision of water for drinking and for their cattle use as well as the sharp shortage of water for irrigation, which consequently caused the aggravation of farmers' problems.

The year 1999 witnessed a bright point and object of hope for PARC as we increased and consolidated our openness to the surroundings and coordination with local institutions, which increased in number, compared to previous years. The overall progress that PARC had witnessed in this context achieved a greater benefit to target groups. Further, it assisted in transferring PARC's experience in institutional and capacity building to different Palestinian institutions. During 1999 PARC focused on the development and persistent application of the systems and procedures pertaining to ISO 9002. Yet, we believe that our staff needs to be well trained in applying these systems.

Moreover, PARC expanded its dependence on the enormous reservoir of voluntary work, which is one of the resources of assistance and sustainability for PARC. The response and achievements in this domain were greater than the expectations. Thus, we disproved the allegation that the Palestinian non-governmental organizations had lost their voluntary work spirit.

Undoubtedly, the uniqueness and distinction of PARC's work across the years in protecting the Palestinian land against confiscation and assisting farmers in reclaiming their land had the precedence in the activities of the year 1999 whether the opening of agricultural roads or terracing and reclamation of the rocky land as well as cultivation of trees.

The provision of water resources and resisting the drought formed the forefront of the work priorities and projects agendas in the year 1999. PARC exerted serious efforts to help the livestock breeders particularly the Bedouins to collect and store the rainwater in cisterns or pools.

The year 1999 witnessed a unique activism and achievement by all of PARC's employees, volunteers and friends, who made remarkable efforts to realize PARC's goals and achieve a larger benefit in favor of the targeted groups. Further, our friends at the partner organizations put forth distinguished efforts in providing expertise, know how, and necessary funds to assist the needy Palestinian people. In this context, I would like to assure all of them that their assistance had been utilized in achieving the mutual goals that we are struggling for together.

In the name of PARC and all staff we would like to express our thanks and deep appreciation to each one of you particularly to our consortium members who continue to fund our core program.

"Together, hand in hand, for a mutual work and sustainable development."

Rawya Shawa
Chairwoman, Board of Trustees
The work of PARC was affected by the state of political instability prevailed in 1999. It was a year of uncertainty and a further waiting, full of predictions and presumptions about the transitional period and about the consequences of the Israeli presidency elections.

It was obvious that reaching solutions regarding the issues of the final status settlement negotiations: refugees, Jerusalem, water and settlements seemed quite impossible and remained the core of the dispute and disagreement between the Palestinians and Israel because of the different positions towards them by the two parties.

The agricultural sector was particularly affected by the unprecedented drought wave since the years 1959 and 1960, which then caused the occurrence of a vast emigration from the Palestinian Territories in seeking a living. The average rainfall in 1999 was nearly 30% of the annual average. As a result, the whole sectors of agriculture were badly harmed particularly the livestock sector, which almost lost the whole grazing season. Further, the costs of hay, fodders and water rose. In this context, there was no fair compensation policy to support the sustainability of these producers.

On the internal Palestinian level, the governmental performance was still below expectation particularly on the level of the jurisdiction apparatus, which kept deteriorating causing aggravation of many walks of life whereas it is supposed to open up the way for social stability. This worsening led to tribal and clannish disputes, which became more hazardous and dominant in the absence of a strong political movement and imposed double burdens on the Palestinian civil society.

The whole situations had tempted the organizations of the civil society to lead a political role. This had caused a wave of ongoing and unsettled argument about the political and civil limits of the NGOs' work especially when speaking about the directives of development, social policies, rule of law, and the final status settlement issues.

Perhaps, this was one of the sources of tension and conflict between the National Authority and the NGOs, which witnessed enormous escalation and a vast defaming campaign that exhausted and wasted a lot of the NGOs' energy, time and efforts including PARC. However, PARC was excluded from these defaming campaigns.

On the level of the Israeli occupation policy towards the agricultural sector, the land confiscation continued putting a big impediment in front of developmental projects. This policy was coordinated between the army and the settlement movement. It succeeded to largely dictate the de-facto situation on Barak's Government and legitimize all the settlements that were established by means of quarrelsomeness, land expropriation, uprooting trees, attacking farmers, poisoning beehives, obstructing the flow of the Palestinian products to Israel, and putting impediments on external export.
The year 1999 marked some positive trends that were reflected by the increasing interest to support the agricultural sector. This was clearly seen in the interest of the World Bank, the foreign consulates and ministries of agriculture in many countries and the EU to support the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture. As a matter of fact, they dedicated nearly 60 million dollars for supporting various projects such as building the capacities of the MOA, some activities pertaining to land reclamation, the cure of some of the livestock diseases, and the infrastructure reinforcement.

Further, the year 1999 witnessed a continuous migration of the Palestinian youths from working in agriculture towards working with the different apparatuses of the National Authority or towards working in Israel. Moreover, the contribution of the agricultural sector in the national income had decreased from 35% ten years ago to almost 17% in 1999.

In short, we can say that 1999 was a very tough year, economically speaking, to the Palestinian farmers due to the drought. A slight progress took place in the political situation compared to previous years however this progress was not reflected by tangible results on the ground.
The year 1999 witnessed a more stable relationship between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the non-governmental organizations. Yet, there was some tension at some points. Some circles of the PA mobilized their forces to wage a defaming campaign against the civil work in general and against human rights organizations in particular.

With the cooperation of the NGOs Network, PARC’s staff, volunteers and friends initiated a petition in support of the civil society organizations. Further, we conducted meetings with people and held a publicity and media campaign. The campaign succeeded to clarify the image of the non-governmental work on the one hand, and pushed many of the NGOs to rectify their situations.

Moreover, a ministerial committee was formed. The NGOs Network, of which PARC is a member, acted with this committee in a positive way. Later on the Ministry of the Non-Governmental Organizations was established to abridge the gap between the PA and its departments or apparatuses on one side and the NGOs on the other. Meanwhile, the NGO Law was endorsed.

On the level of the sectoral coordination with the different ministries there were some remarkable developments. The relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) witnessed somehow stability as well as development and expansion of the basis of the mutual work and the activation of the coordinating committee between MOA and the agriculture related organizations. Further, PARC called for the participation of the aforementioned organizations in the formulation of the national agricultural strategies and policies. In the meantime, PARC requested the implementation of projects in land reclamation, emergency campaigns to solve the problems of the drought, and signing working agreements for these purposes.

PARC succeeded to sustain distinguished relations with numerous ministries for example, Ministry of Sports & Youth, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Social Affairs, Water Authority, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, and Ministry of Local Government. Further, we maintained good relations with semi governmental institutions such as municipalities, village councils, and development committees.

PARC realized that maintaining positive and open relations with the National Authority would eventually serve the targeted groups and the interest of the Palestinian homeland.

PARC was initiator, adaptor, and critical at the same time toward the recent developments in terms of the relationship with the Palestinian Authority. Taking into consideration the critical and unstable political and social circumstances, which formed a threat to the interest of the Palestinian people and the regaining of our rights.

PARC established a balance between its adherence to the national interests on one side and a persistent defending of just developmental and social policies and the building of the civil society on the other side.
The Internal Work Environment

The internal work environment of PARC has been characterized by the existence of a strong unity and understanding among the employees and between the different hierarchical authorities as well as the adherence and commitment to the values and culture of the institution. Though the latter was a point of strength for PARC it has had some negative impacts on the internal environment in terms of the emergence of intimate informal relations that reflected themselves on the institution's work environment.

The most prominent landmarks in the internal work environment in the year 1999 can be pointed up as follows:

1) The prominence of the role of the districts' directors, and the outstanding improvement of the districts' performance though it remained beyond expectation.
2) More commitment to the application of work manuals and standards despite the fact there are still many issues that need to be resolved.
3) Improvement of equipping districts' headquarters, and trading to the new premises in Ramallah. The latter will have a major positive impact next year.
4) Occupational rotation between the directors of the departments and the smooth transfer of mandatory powers.
5) PARC's employees:
   The total number of PARC's staff reached (136) in 1999 distributed as follows:
   - Core Program Cadre (103)
   - Employees per Projects (27)
   - Employees with Temporary Contracts (5)
   - Part-time Employees (1)
   - Employees Working in Independent Projects Related to PARC (nearly 100)
   - The number of foreign volunteers working for PARC reached (3).
   - The number of women cadre was (42), which comprised 41% of the core program cadre and 37% of the whole institution's cadre.
   - The number of the new employees who joined the institution in 1999 reached (27), and (12) resignations occurred in the meantime.
   - The occupational rotation was (11%).

Reference Authorities:
The year 1999 witnessed a very active role of the reference authorities in performing their work and tasks assigned by the institution. The Board of Trustees held 5 meetings at which a number of proposals, systems and financial reports were discussed.

On the other hand the Board of Directors held 22 meetings at which different issues pertaining to the institution's life were discussed.
Generally speaking, we need to resolve the following issues that impede the work:

1. The re-amendment of the salary scale, structure, and occupational titles.
2. The increase of PARC's contribution in travel allowances.
3. The establishment of effective and inexpensive communications system.
4. Modernizing the systems, laws and regulations enacted by the institution particularly the allowances and motivation systems.

The relationship between the employees of the districts:

The year 1999 had witnessed significant development and improvement of the relationship between districts and central departments in terms of speedy communication and coordination. However, there is still shortcoming in coordinating activities between departments.

Promoting Gender Integration:

PARC has been a leading and pioneering institution in mainstreaming gender in all levels of management, life and overall activities and projects. Throughout the year 1999, PARC carried on its efforts to promote and consolidate gender integration through the persistent work of the Gender Focus Team and with the full support and recognition of the top management. Following are the most outstanding achievements:

- Networking with the local institutions in gender field (exchanging experience in Gender analysis and diagnosis).
- Publishing a newsletter on Gender quarterly.
- Establishing a specialized library for Gender literature.
- The institution has made a brave position and practice when the top management was willing to increase the participation of the women in the decision-making levels. In this context three women directors were appointed, two of them as directors of the technical departments whereas the third was appointed as a district director. The most important landmark in PARC's gender pursue was the election of a woman as a chairperson of the Board of Trustees and raising the percentage of the women members up to 30% of the Board. Further, 82% of PARC's staff attendants in university education were women.
- Training 20 women clubs in establishing working plans, stressing the gender dimension and identifying the strategic and short term needs.
- Reviewing PARC's policies, strategic plan and reports from a gender perspective.
- Establishing a parallel Gender Focus Team in Gaza to be responsible for the implementation of the plans and to supervise gender integration process.
- Raising the gender awareness and sensitivity of PARC's staff (men & women). More understanding and recognition of women's role in the life of the institution is evident.
Summary of the Overall Significant Achievements

1- The re-study and amendment of the strategic plan by simplifying and condensing it as well as connecting it to the annual plans, and establishing measurable indicators.

2- Enhancing the capabilities of the cadre and training 93 participants. In addition to developing the academic competence of 13 employees.

3- Increasing the number of institutions we cooperate with in implementing of activities to reach 486 institutions. This is the largest network of relations ever existed in Palestine. Further, completing the building of the Institutional Building & Grassroots Relations Department.

4- Expanding the number of locations where activities were implemented and services provided to reach 248 locations and villages. This comprises 50% of the whole population gatherings in Palestine.

5- Developing the relationship & coordination with the MOA through implementing joint projects. Besides close cooperation with 4 other ministries as well as establishing a constructive relationship with the Ministry of Non-Governmental Organizations.

6- PARC was a pioneering institution and almost the only one to help farmers and livestock breeders particularly the Bedouins to resist the drought. Altogether, PARC assisted 4995 families.

7- Recruiting 2050 volunteers, who achieved more than 24,000 workdays that, were parallel to the paid work provided by 88 full time employees.

8- Adopting the initiative of signing a memorandum of honor pertaining to the NGOs. Up till now all the agricultural related NGOs had signed the memorandum. Preparation for signing it by all NGOs is presently undergoing.

9- PARC played a significant role in the endorsement of the NGO Law and coordinated with the Legislative Council. PARC also stood up for the attack adopted by some of the PA circles against the NGOs. In addition, PARC had a very active role in the work of the NGOs’ Network.

10- PARC succeeded to establish 47 women clubs and provided services to them, as well as coordinating with other institutions to provide complementary services, of which 143 loans were distributed to needy women.

11- Training 24 newly graduated agronomists and convening tens of training courses in favor of the cadre of the other non-governmental organizations. PARC also held rehabilitation training for farmer leaders and assisting the Palestinian Farmers Union in formulating specialized societies. Moreover, PARC established different manuals.

12- PARC succeeded in marketing double the amounts of the women cooperatives’ products locally and abroad with an estimate of nearly $250,000. New production lines were opened in favor of new countries. PARC also began to introduce marketing as one of the activity components on the district levels.
13- Exerting significant efforts in water harvesting domain and collecting 1,350,000 cubic meters through constructing cisterns and pools, rehabilitating artisan wells and canals, implementing pioneering projects in the field of gray water usage and solar energy as well as other environmental projects, and joining the membership of regional and local committees and networks.

14- PARC began the preparation for a new organizational structure and initiated the policy of occupational rotation and replacement among the directors of the departments and the district administrators. Furthermore, PARC created a new department for international & regional cooperation, which is willing to transfer some of PARC's expertise on the regional level, and place the foundations for modernizing the new administrative and financial systems.

15- Providing competent services to nearly 60,333 beneficiaries along with more openness, transparency and increasing the trust of the target group with PARC.

16- Improving relations, openness and transparency toward 43 donor countries and organizations. PARC obtained funds for 21 projects out of 33 submitted projects. PARC and its projects gained increasing credibility of the funders. This was reflected in the growth of funding by 20%.

17- Completing the building of the Zababdeh Training Center in Jenin and set it operating. Further, PARC accomplished 50% of the construction works at the new headquarters in Ramallah and began using it. On the other hand, PARC began constructing the premises of the Training Center and furnishing the Women Business Center in Jericho.

18- Raising $1,126,350 of farmers' contributions in projects implemented by PARC and focusing on local resources being one of the sustainability elements. Further, PARC considers the contributions of farmers and women as a major basic component in services and activities offered by the institution.

19- Opening 334 kilometers of agricultural roads including 62 uniting roads, which connect 90 communities to a network of roads that extends along 150 kilometers. PARC also achieved extensive and far-reaching reclamation of 2866 dunums.
### Beneficiaries & Work Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts / Activities</th>
<th>No. of Work Locations</th>
<th>Beneficiary Case</th>
<th>Regular Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaza</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>13321</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebron</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10048</td>
<td>683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4042</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramallah / Jerusalem</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4887</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jericho</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6655</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nablus/ Salfeet</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>9119</td>
<td>779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulkarem/ Qalqilia</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5784</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenin</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6441</td>
<td>5134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>248</strong></td>
<td><strong>60333</strong></td>
<td><strong>5134</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Analysis of Beneficiaries & Locations

The aforementioned tables indicated that PARC has worked in 248 locations and population gatherings in the year 1999 in addition to 94 different Bedouin communities in the whole Palestinian districts. In comparison with 1998 a remarkable increase of 15 locations this year is clearly noticed. Further, the tables showed that PARC targeted a new vast group "the Bedouin community", which is the most real group among the most impoverished and suffering groups.

On the other hand, the total number of the regular beneficiaries of PARC's various services reached 5134 in the year 1999. Moreover, there were 60333 beneficiary cases.
Voluntary Work in PARC

PARC considers itself one of the fruits of the voluntary work in Palestine. PARC was launched in the framework of the Higher Committee for Voluntary Work and it commenced its activities on a voluntary work basis. PARC worked for 3 successive years without paying out salaries to its founding members. The nature of work and developments necessitated the employment of a staff, which began to expand gradually.

Despite the growth of its resources, PARC never gave up the voluntary work because we consider it one of the most important and secure resources in terms of sustainability. PARC reflects the voluntary work in its policies, procedures, work mechanisms, and evaluation and promotion of employees. Employees are motivated to activate their role in the voluntary work inside and outside the institution. Further, PARC places a great attention to the mobilization of voluntary efforts for the realization of a successful implementation of its projects and programs.

Perhaps, one of PARC's shortcomings was refraining from computing the volunteers' efforts within the institutions' resources or within the contributions of the community. In addition, PARC had not bestowed honor to the large army of volunteers spreading throughout the country. For all these reasons, the role of the voluntary work was not displayed in a significant way, which it deserves.

Even when we were speaking about volunteers we depended on estimations, which were very conservative and modest in comparison to the real figures. For example, we pointed out that the number of volunteers in 1998 was 700, however, this figure was far from the real number we discovered later on. Nonetheless, some people are accusing the non-governmental organizations of neglecting the voluntary work because of their tendency toward institutionalizing their organizations. However, this is not accurate although it is somehow true because some of these organizations do entirely lack the voluntary work by their employees or the community.

The current report is a combination of the reports, which we received from the different districts yet it is a revised and audited copy including unsettled figures due to the lack of information particularly from the center. The report points out the following:

1. 2050 volunteers cooperated with PARC during the year 1999 and performed unpaid effort that was significant in the success of the institution's programs and projects in different districts. Women comprised 42.5% of the total volunteers.
2. The voluntary work performed either by PARC's staff or by the community comprised 49.2% of the effort that was required for the success of the institution's programs and projects.
3. PARC's staff provided 1712.5 voluntary days during the year 1999. Their contribution comprised 6.5% of the paid work.
4. The community's contribution mounted up to 24201 voluntary workdays, which were equivalent to the performed work of 88 full time employees. By computing the average daily wages ($15) we found out that the value of this work was equal to $363,000.
I. Rural Women Development Department

The Rural Women Development Department implemented its program in 107 locations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in comparison with 112 locations in 1998. This is due to the closure of three locations in Nablus because of the change of the staff working in the district, and two locations in Jericho for special reasons pertaining to the lack of the women's commitment. With a quick look into the number of the women organized by the Department we find (3,741) women who are affiliated and linked together by means of membership, which is conditioned by paying out fees in the framework of the women clubs that spread throughout the West bank and Gaza strip. In addition to these members there are 3,065 unaffiliated women concentrated in the locations in which the Department works where no women clubs exist.

The Department implemented its activities and projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the capacity of 34 women agronomists and social workers. It has been focused on a number of workers for the purpose of developing work, and coordinators were distributed on different working fields such as credit, training, women clubs, as well as Gaza coordinator and administrative assistance.

The Activities & Achievements of the Department in 1999: (see Appendix 1)

Activities & Achievements Outside the General Plan of 1999:

1. Rehabilitation of the building of the Women Business Center in Jericho to properly accommodate and provide services to women beneficiaries through the staff of the Department that is working there.

2. The Department implemented 2 studies on the economical and social situations of the rural women in the West Bank. The first study helped us in recognizing the different circumstances under which rural women live and the possible intervention that PARC can employ to improve the women's situation economically and socially. Whereas the second one was about the marketing of the countryside produce. The study examined the local market channels for the women productive projects including the intermediary channel (merchants). This study enriched the cadre's knowledge of the certain matters pertaining to the market such as the products of high demand, good price, competition, and other issues, which contributed to the development of the management- training curriculum related to the market.

3. Evaluation of the Household Garden Project. PARC formed a special team of the Consultancy Unit, the Rural Women Development Department, and the Plant Production Unit for this purpose. The Team collected information, analyzed it, and came out with recommendations pertaining to the project.

4. Organizing 2 central celebrations for women leaders on the occasion of the 8th of March, the International Women Day. The first celebration was held in the West Bank and participated by 500 women leaders in the honor of the Department's current and ex-staff. The latter are presently
occupying leading positions in other institutions. 700 women participated in the second celebration that was held in Gaza in the honor of a large number of women graduated from different training courses.

On the other hand, the commemoration of the Rural Women Day was held in different districts. A number of activities were performed in this context such as women clubs opening ceremonies. It's worth mentioning that our institution was the only to carry such a celebration

5. The Department is a member of a national committee on violence against women, which consists of ten Palestinian women organizations. The 1999 campaign of the committee included many activities such as a press conference conducted at PARC's office in Ramallah, a peaceful demonstration and march toward the PLC, collecting hundreds of signatures of women from our Department's work locations in support of the campaign, in addition to numerous workshops were held on violence.

Appendix 1:
The Activities & Achievements of the Rural Women Development Department in 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>Implemented</th>
<th>Implementation Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Household Garden Demonstrations</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>130%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Holding Training Courses in Household Gardens</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Subsidy and Distribution of Seedlings</td>
<td>3800</td>
<td>1,928</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Subsidy and Cultivation of Medicinal Herbs</td>
<td>288395 seedling</td>
<td>57679 seedling</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Food Processing training courses</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>119%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Holding Agricultural Courses</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>108%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Vocational Courses</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>143%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Applied Demonstrations</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>125%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Holding Management Training Courses</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>126%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Distributing women loans (AIDOS Project)</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Goal: Developing the political and societal role of rural women and activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>Implemented</th>
<th>Implementation Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Holding Women Empowerment Courses</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Holding Lectures in Legal, Health, Psychological, and Social Awareness</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>201%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Conducting Exchange Visits</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>110%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Organizing Celebrations in Locations</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>197%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Developing existing Women Clubs and</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Establishing new women clubs</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women Clubs:
This year 20 new women clubs were established, and 28 existing clubs were developed, where elections for the administrative assemblies took place in 20 club with a wide societal participation. The clubs' participation in their expenses increased aiming at insuring its capability on sustainability, as well as independing financially from PARC. The women clubs played a significant societal role, especially in the field of opening studying classes after its endorsement from the Ministry of Education, such as in Beit Fajar and Za'tara. On the other hand, Habla women club got an approval from the Ministry of local government to build up classes and improve services in the village with a total amount of 10,000 NIS. A committee was formed to follow up the projects and gather the societal contribution to implement these services. Nevertheless, 25 members from different women clubs participated in the "Mothersand Fathers committees" at schools. Furthermore, Strengthening lessons courses were undertaken for secondary students. A Kindergarten was established for the sake of the children of Al-Duke Al-Fuka and Al-Nwei'ma Al-Fuka villages. This establishment came due to the cooperation of the women club with the office director of the Ministry of local government in Jericho.

Remarks on the Women credit program
The credit programs supported by the main programs are assisting us in providing the strategic requirements of the women. On the other hand, PARC is following up 381 credit (technically & financially), where as 143 new credits were distributed (8 in the West Bank and 135 in Gaza)

This year witnessed a significant new relationships with other credit institutions such as Women small project center / Oxfam, Credit program at the UN and the Palestinian development Bank, Faten institution, Holy land institution, in addition to our previous relationship with Caritas, Care, and Massar.

II. Extension & Land Development Department
The program of the Extension & Land Development Department focused through its three sections (Animal Production, Plant Production, and Land Development) on consolidating the contribution of the rural families in food security and the reclamation and utility of lands as well as the alleviation of the use of chemicals in agriculture. Further, the Department focused on assisting the livestock breeders and organizations throughout the year 1999.

37 of the Department's staff from different regions had implemented a number of diverse activities most of them were a continuation of the work that was conducted in the previous years except for the following activities:

• Powder milk replacement demonstrations
• The use of organic pesticides
• The improvement of the work mechanism and specifications pertaining to the opening of agricultural roads and land reclamation projects.

Plant Production Unit:
1. Due to the drought season prevailed in the year 1999 and the increasing fears of the farmers from its devastating impacts, the farmers' enthusiasm to agricultural work decreased. Farmers of irrigated farming in Jenin were extremely worried about the scarcity or stop of water for irrigation in July. Further, the farmers of Al-Oja also shared the same fears especially after the spring's flow decreased to a very low level and it consequently cut water off the banana crop, which as a result dried away.
Farmers of the rainfed agriculture had the same reaction and they refrained from planting saplings of fruit trees and rainfed vegetables. Consequently, this had affected the Local Seeds Improvement Project in terms of quantity and quality because of the low humidity percent in the soil. In this context, only 60 kg of seeds were produced. For sure, this will have a bad impact on the project during the next season.

2. The experience of marketing organic produce in the city of Tulkarem had collected a lot of success, which can become popular in the future through the advertisement campaign conducted on the local televisions or through the visits paid to prominent figures in the city. This success had been reflected by the issuance of a special label for PARC’s organic produce and by contracting one of the greengrocers to dedicate a corner for selling organic produce. It is worthwhile mentioning that still the size of the produce does not meet the large demand of the population in Tulkarem to organic produce.

3. In addition to the individual visits conducted by the Unit’s extension workers to prominent people providing them with the leaflets and publications of the Unit, they encouraged the establishment of special unofficial committees from Directors of Agriculture and farmers in Nablus in support of organic agriculture. Further, the extension workers led a campaign to convince the promoters of the agricultural medicines to sell organic pesticides. Despite of the intense effort, the Unit is still facing a pressing need to open channels with the Ministry of Agriculture and other related institutions in order to assist in developing the scopes of the organic program and opening export channels, and issuing official organic certificates.

4. The distinguished relationship and cooperation between IFOAM and PARC had supported the latter with technical assistance and empowerment of the Unit’s cadre through the participation of extension workers in 3 training courses and through publishing achievements and inquiries in the IFOAM’s periodical.

5. The Unit worked on 34 farms as demonstration stations for experimenting the integrated pests management system. The latter receives more acceptance and popularity than the organic agriculture, especially in the case of the irrigated farming. However, we still need to expand the spread of this system and to establish applied curriculum to be used in accordance to farmers' circumstances. In the mean time, the Unit succeeded to formulate a developable applied manual pertaining to integrated pest management, which is undergoing printing at the moment.

6. The evaluation of the Local Seeds Improvement Project throughout the past five years had revealed positive indicators such as the farmers’ increasing demand for improved seed varieties. The Unit had expanded the spread of the project in Nablus, Tulkarem, and Jenin, in addition to other regions of Hebron, Ramallah, Jericho, and Bethlehem by introducing all varieties of improved local seeds.

7. The preliminary sequences of the applied demonstrations at Jericho, Falamia, and Gaza on 15 agricultural produces produced by the use of natural means of pests fighting indicated the potential use of more than 8 biological pesticides. The Unit documented the experiments and results to be published later on during the year 2000 as an extension manual for the extension workers and farmers leaders.

**Land Development Unit:**

1. The Israeli occupation still posing grave impediments, which form the basic obstacle facing the land development project. This was clearly indicated by the halt of work in 19 locations in different regions especially as for the opening of agricultural roads in Nahalin, Artas, and al-Khader in Bethlehem area. As well as Halhoul, Tarqumia, Dora, and Sori’in Hebron Govern orate, and Beit Hanin road in Jerusalem. In addition to Sha'b Sowar in Sinjil, and Tana in Beit Fourik. Further, the Israeli occupation obstructed the land reclamation activities in Qasra village in Nablus Govern orate. For further information, please refer to the report of Land Development Unit.
2. The Unit signed an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture to jointly implement an agricultural road-opening project. The project aims at training a number of the Ministry's supervisors in the different govern orates on how to open roads and make use of the Ministry's unused bulldozers to meet the farmers' priorities. It is worthwhile mentioning that PARC's manual prepared especially for this project that was adopted by the Ministry as the terms of reference for the implementation of the project and training the Ministry's cadre. In the framework of this project, 26 agricultural roads with a length of 61 km were opened in different govern orates.

3. An increasing social, political and technical demand to implement reclamation projects was vigorously felt in Bethlehem region. Farmers paid a lot of attention to earnest follow up and hard work in order to make reclamation projects a success. This attitude had been reflected by cultivating rainfed vegetables in the reclaimed land. Part of these vegetable crops used the improved seeds that were produced by the Plant Production Unit. As a result, the budget of the region pertaining to reclamation projects was increased.

4. An improvement and consolidation of the relationship between PARC's projects' supervisors and the Village Councils and Institutions was remarkably noticed. PARC worked closely with 21 Village Councils, 18 Municipalities, and with 48 Agricultural and Environment Protection and Development Committees. This was achieved through the increasing demand for opening agricultural roads and reclamation projects in the north and south in spite of the attempts of other institutions to implement similar activities in this domain. This is considered a significant achievement in the progress of the Unit over the last 3 years. Presently, the projects' responsibles are engaged with establishing relations with governmental and private institutions aiming at raising funds for the agricultural roads projects in a form of utilizing the Public Works' machinery or in kind donations such as fuel and land fill. This had resulted in activating the budgets dedicated to these projects for example; the Unit signed an official agreement for the opening of 2 agricultural roads with a length of 14 km in Tulkarem area.

5. The number of unifying roads opened by PARC reaches 52 with a length of 150 km connecting more than 90 population communities. These roads had shortened the long distances between Palestinian villages. In addition to this, they served thousands of agricultural dunams in different govern orates. The Local Councils asphalting some of the unifying roads, which were opened in the previous years such as Beit Umrin-Burqa road in Nablus Governorate and Al-Judiada-Sir road in Jenin Governorate.

6. One of the most significant impacts of the agricultural roads project implemented in all Govern orates was encouraging the initiation of agricultural projects such as land reclamation or new livestock projects. The most important agricultural roads, which were utilized in other projects were in Qarawat Bani Hassan in Salft Govern orate, Al-Khader in Bethlehem, Ar-Rameh in Jenin, and Beit Fourik in Nablus. It was also noticed that institutions used those roads for other purposes for example the Palestinian Telecommunications Company used them for the installation of telephone lines. The Local Councils used them for the provision of garbage bins.

7. 2414 dunams of land were bulldozed and levelled. Another 425 dunams were fenced. 45,806 meters of terraces were built and 2,886 cubic meters of collecting wells were dug for the purpose of providing complementary irrigation. In addition to working with the Ministry of Agriculture and the UNDP to bulldozing and leveling 228 dunams of land owned by 36 farmers. Further, 11,420 meters of terraces were built, and 7 wells were dug. Moreover, the leveling of 200 dunams of land was completed in the framework of the land reclamation project of Arinba in Halhoul and 8,500 meters of terraces were built as well as completing the work within the land reclamation project of Beit Umar and Al-Rihia by building 28,918 meters of terraces and digging 21 wells of 50 cubic meters each.
Animal Production Unit:

1. The Animal Production Unit held 13 courses in different subjects related to animal production with the cooperation of the Rural Women Development Department. Unlike farmers, women had shown a great attention and good attendance at these courses from which 289 women benefited.

2. The Unit implemented demonstrations pertaining to the encouragement of breeders to use powder milk replacement for its feasibility as it saves each farmer around $50 with each sheep. The demonstrations were implemented on 31 farms in which the natural milk was replaced with powder milk for feeding 811 sheep. The total amount of money saved by this replacement mounted up to $45,000, not to mention the health benefits hoped from this replacement.

3. Presently, the Unit is implementing an intensive extension program in favor of 88 livestock breeders. It is worth saying that the number of participating breeders has doubled in the second half of the year 1999 as a result of the success and the spread achieved by the program. In this context, the Unit co-operated with the Livestock Breeders Union in Nablus Governorate. The activities of this program focus on encouraging periodical extension visits and documenting the extension information in order to be able to measure the impact in the first place in the direction of expanding the program and using those farms as demonstration stations for other breeders. Further, these farms can be used for conducting applied experiments.

Summary of Activities and Achievements of the Extension & Land Development Department in 1999 (see appendix 2).

Unplanned Activities:

1. The extension workers of the Unit participated in 22 television and radio programs focused on environmental and organic agriculture, the hazards of using chemicals, and trees pruning. The programs had targeted the following areas: Ramallah (4), Hebron (3), Bethlehem (7), Jenin (1), Nablus (3), Tulkarem (4).

2. Improving and producing local (baladi) seeds of 25 varieties. Throughout the year 1999, the Unit distributed 122 Kg of seeds and 39,500 seedlings of local vegetables. 160 farmers benefited from these activities through the cultivation of 530 dunams of land. The total amount of improved produced seeds was 60 kg.

3. The Unit participated in 4 agricultural exhibitions one of these was a special exhibition for encouraging farmers to use organic pesticides and produce. It was held in Hebron with the cooperation of municipalities and schools.

4. Implementing awareness campaigns pertaining to trees pruning that targeted 24 farmers in Tulkarem, Nablus and Hebron areas.

5. The Unit implemented demonstrations on the use of winter oils for the benefit of 21 farmers.

6. The Unit issued a report on the consequences of the local seeds improvement project. The report included the most significant achievements obtained in the context of the project.
Appendix 2:
Achievements of the Extension & Land Development Department Compared to the Planned Activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>Implemented</th>
<th>Implementation Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>First Goal: Protecting Land Against Confiscation &amp; Desertification</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Opening &amp; Rehabilitation of Agricultural Roads</td>
<td>201 km</td>
<td>334 km</td>
<td>166%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Exchanging Visits to Land Reclamation Projects</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Reclamation of Land (evening, fencing, terracing, collecting wells, seedlings)</td>
<td>1,344 dunams</td>
<td>2,866 dunams</td>
<td>213%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Planting Fruit Trees</td>
<td>9,520</td>
<td>7,831</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Distribution of Equipment to Farmers</td>
<td>in 2 areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>222%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Second Goal: Contributing to the Development of Livestock</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Holding Lectures/ Workshops</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>176%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Implementing Demonstrations on Salty Water Treatment for the use of Poultry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Provision of Feeder Subsidy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Enclosed with the drought report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Provision of Veterinary Medicines Subsidy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Enclosed with the drought report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Provision of Feeder Seeds and Seedlings Subsidy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Enclosed with the drought report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Veterinary Visits to Farmers</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Exchange Visits</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Demonstrations</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>158%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Internal &amp; External Parasites Fight Campaigns</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Celebrations</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Transferred to year 2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Third Goal: Improving the Know-how and Professional Abilities of Workers in the Agricultural Sector</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Training Courses in Bee-Keeping</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fourth Goal: Encouraging Farmers to Produce New Varieties</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Implementing Demonstrations on Cultivating Pistachio</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Implementing Demonstrations on Planting Avocado.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Issuing Publications</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Holding Courses in Farm Management</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Planned</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
<td>Implementation Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Holding Demonstrations in Integrated Pest Management</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>126%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Issuing a Manual on Practical Applications in Integrated Pest Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Holding Demonstrations on Compost</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>138%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Conducting Exchange Visits</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>120%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Holding Lectures</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>177%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Holding Training Courses</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>190%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Establishing the Friends of Organic Farming Committees</td>
<td></td>
<td>236 persons</td>
<td>180%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Issuing a Book on Urban Agriculture</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Holding Workshops on Organic Farming</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>110%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Holding Demonstrations on Organic Farming</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>178%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Holding Demonstrations on Solar Sterilizing</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>223%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Developing the Demonstration Stations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Holding Lectures in Rationalizing the Use of Chemicals</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fifth Goal: Contributing to the Development of Urban, Ecological, and Integrated Agriculture**

**Sixth Goal: Raising the Environmental Awareness in the Palestinian Countryside**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>Implemented</th>
<th>Implementation Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Implementing Tree-Planting Campaigns in Public Places</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. Environment, Irrigation & Technology Transfer
Department:

1. Introduction:
The year 1999 has been very remarkable in the Department's progress. It was an exceptional year that had witnessed the drought conditions, which were the worst and the most tough in the history of Palestine during the past forty years. Further, the Department had consolidated its role in 1999 on the internal and national levels. On the internal level, the Department carried on its activities to expand its target groups and began to work with new community groups such as the Bedouins and school children. It also increased its activities quantitatively and qualitatively aiming at achieving the basic goals, which the Department was initiated to realize.

On the national level, the Department had an effective and considerable response to the prevailing drought state and had accomplished a number of pioneering activities to alleviate its destructive impacts on the people. This interaction had coincided with PARC's becoming a leading member in the NGOs' Network working in the environment and water domains. Moreover, the Department had become a reference for many local and international non-governmental organizations working in the field of environmental training.

2. Key Achievements:
1) A remarkable increase and expansion of the target group and the geographical locations served by the Department.
2) The growing importance of the special activities pertaining to the provision of new water resources for agriculture and human consumption. In this framework, the Department succeeded to provide about 1,350,000 cubic meters of additional waters annually through the construction and renovation of collecting wells and pools, the rehabilitation of artisan wells and water canals.
3) Starting work with new activities such as; rehabilitation of artisan wells and water canals, reclamation of the springs, and the construction of wastewater treatment plants.
4) The vast expansion of the gray and black wastewater treatment activities. The achievement percentage had mounted up to 244% of the designed plan. In this context, the Department had unprecedentedly provided a whole village with special water treatment equipment (37 individual plants and one collective plant for a school).
Table 1: 1999 Annual Plan Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Planned Activities</th>
<th>Implemented Activities</th>
<th>Implemented Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Environment Health Lectures and Household Water Rationalization</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>120%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Workshops on Water Rationalization Use in Irrigation</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Energy Conservation Workshops (3 days)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Environment Management Training Courses</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>163%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>A Training Course in Irrigation &amp; Maintenance of Irrigation Water Networks</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Goal: Encouraging of the Reuse of Energy Alternative Resources & the Wastes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Planned Activities</th>
<th>Implemented Activities</th>
<th>Implemented Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bio Gas Digester Demonstration</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Solar Energy Plants</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>120%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Third Goal: Provision of Additional Water Resources For Irrigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Planned Activities</th>
<th>Implemented Activities</th>
<th>Implemented Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rehabilitating Cisterns</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Constructing Cisterns</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>185%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Cement Pools</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Earth Pools</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Irrigation Conservation Techniques (Tensiometer) Demonstrations</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Carefree Demonstrations</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Black Water Treatment Gravel Bits</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Individual Gray Wastewater Treatment Plants</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>244%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Collective Wastewater Treatment Plants</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Third Goal: Encouraging of Voluntary Work and Raising Environmental Awareness in Palestinian Rural Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Planned Activities</th>
<th>Implemented Activities</th>
<th>Implemented Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Forestation Campaigns</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>135%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Clean-Up Campaigns</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Table 2: Activities Outside the Framework of the Annual Plan 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Goal</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Project/ Location</th>
<th>No. of Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raising Environmental Awareness in the Palestinian Countryside</strong></td>
<td>Television Program</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wattan TV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Radio Program</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Radio Amwaj</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lectures on Management of Liquid Waste</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bal'in Club, BirZeit University, Engineers' Trade Union in Ramallah, An-Najah University in Nablus.</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>GVC Aba/ Aba Village</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lectures on Household Garden</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tulkarem</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lectures on Water Conservation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>GVC Aba/ Aba Village</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environment &amp; Public Health Lectures</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>GVC Aba/ Aba Village</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environment Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Save the Children</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Providing Additional Water Resources for Irrigation</strong></td>
<td>Household Gray Wastewater Treatment Plants</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>GVC Aba/ Aba Village</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clean-up Campaigns</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Environmental Week/ Bal'in, E'sawyeh</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Household Black Wastewater Gravel Bits</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>GVC Aba/ Aba Village</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wastewater Treatment Plant at Aba School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>GVC Aba/ Aba Village</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rehabilitation &amp; Renovation of Irrigation Water Canals</td>
<td>3km</td>
<td>Nwei'mah Spring Canal/ ECHO</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rehabilitation of Artisan Well</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Marj El-Ghazal, El-Zbidat</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contributing to the Environmental Recovery (Rectification)</strong></td>
<td>Providing Environmental Consultations to the Environment Committee of the Ramallah Governance, the Palestinian Hydrology Group, Ministry of Environment, and the Palestinian Water Authority.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participating in the Planning of Water Projects Pertaining to the Ministry of Environment in the Framework of Desertification Combat Committee.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Examining of the Impacts of the Mediterranean Free Market Zone on Agriculture and Environment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IV. Training & Support Activities Department

Despite the limited human resources in the Training & Support Activities Department, we implemented almost the whole plan of the year 1999 through the Department's units, which executed the following activities:

The Training Unit:

- **Training PARC's Cadre:** The institution's employees participated in 9 courses implemented by PARC from which 93 employees benefited (some benefited from more than one course). Further, 56 employees participated in 56 external training courses implemented with the cooperation of 20 local institutions and 15 international ones. The women's participation in these training courses reached more than 40%. 72 of PARC's staff participated in the implementation of training programs in favor of their colleagues in the institution, the target groups, and some other local institutions (Save the Children, Ministry of Education). Their participation was in providing training to the aforementioned groups.

- **University Education:** 13 of PARC's cadre (10 women and 3 men) enrolled different levels of academic programs provided by local universities distributed as follows: Masters 4, Bachelor of Arts 8, Diploma 1.

- **Training of Agronomists:** The Unit completed 2 courses for new graduated agronomists in which 24 agronomists (12 in the West Bank and 12 in Gaza) participated. 8 of the agronomists graduated from these courses found jobs immediately upon the completion of the courses. Further, 2 agronomists enrolled university in Italy to complete their higher education.

- **NMCP (Dutch Institution for Management Cooperation) Scholarships:** The Unit brought 5 expatriate experts to assist some of the Palestinian institutions and companies.

- **Developing the Training Strategy & Philosophy of PARC:** The unit established the Training Abilities Manual for PARC. Further, it set-up a "Model Training" pertaining to the development of training activities and programs in the institution. It also established a comprehensive curriculum for high studies in sustainable rural development with the cooperation of Al-Quds University. The program consists of 4 specializations: Agricultural & Rural Extension; Integrated Rural Development & Sustainable Agriculture; Community Work Techniques & Development of Rural Women; Institutional Building. This program will be incorporated in the Rural Development Institute, which is expected to start operation in the last trimester of the year 2000.

The Consultancy Unit:

- Modification of PARC's strategic plan for the next six years:
- Establishing the draft manual on building PARC's Strategic Plan.
- Active participation in a number of working groups (Training Team; Gender Team; PME Team; ISO Team).
- Presenting working papers and proposals to PARC as well as participating in conferences, lectures, and workshops.
- Implementing 3 evaluations on Local Seeds Development Project, Household Garden Project, and Marketing and Jam Processing Project. Currently, the Unit is conducting a research on gender and an evaluation of the Agricultural Roads Opening and Land Reclamation projects.
Information & Publication Unit:

- Issuing one edition of PARC News. The Department took a decision to stop issuing the newsletter.
- Covering the news and activities of PARC by means of local newspapers, Internet, e-mail, national and local radio and television stations. The Unit published about 132 articles and reports through various mass media means.
- Organizing 6 tours for journalists, cooperating and networking with 10 foreign consulates, 10 media institutions, 30 research and publication centers as well as with the directories and departments of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Establishing and broadcasting 24 television programs with the cooperation of the Wattan TV.
- Providing the library with new books and 16 videos on agriculture and development.

ISO 9002 System

1) Maintaining, stabilizing, developing, and guaranteeing the application of the ISO system through, formulating a unified method for forms and procedures, in order to facilitate following up projects, planning, and reporting, as well as undertaking modification procedures, developing directories, and lists of supplier agents.

2) Receiving and solving the complaints of partners, beneficiaries and telling them the results of internal solution.

3) Assisting other departments, especially the newly established "Institutional building department".

Briefly, we can say that issuing executive directories for the projects reflects high transparency, helps in maintaining good quality of work, and methodological solving to the complaints of the beneficiaries, and documenting agreements, in a way that assists PARC on fulfilling its obligations towards its partners.

V. Institutional Building & Grassroots Relations Department

The Institutional Building & Grassroots Relations Department was established in 1999 with a 3 staff capacity. Throughout the year PARC held a very serious and unsettled discussion on whether to adopt institutional building as a specialized work implemented by a limited number of people. Or to adopt it as a strategic directive in the framework of the general policies, which direct the whole activities of PARC. The latter was thought of in the context of PARC's goal to utilize and employ science in the service of a better life for people. In our opinion, the institutional building is not a merely economical process, but a socio economic one connecting the economical development to social change, as we firmly believe that social backward looking creates impediments in front of development.

The work of the Department focused on the following six axes during 1999:

1. The First Axis: Assisting the cadre of PARC in crystallizing and acquiring concepts and creating a commitment to the institutional work in order to integrate it as one of the development elements. The Department held 25 internal workshops in the districts and on a central level. Men and women alike attended the workshops in order to consolidate the culture of the commitment to social change
and to participate in the reinforcement of the institutional structures. Further, the Department provided different educational materials and issued an internal newsletter to establish a platform for freedom of speech and a means of information exchange.

2. **The Second Axis:** This axis pertains to the closest circle to PARC of partner organizations with the aim of developing the concepts of partnership. For example, the relationship with the Palestinian Farmers Union and Youth Union, the Land Defense Committee, the Hydrology Group, the Arab Center for Agricultural Development, and with the branches of these institutions. A remarkable progress was achieved in this direction as PARC signed partnership agreements and memorandums of understanding with these institutions. Further, PARC was able to develop permanent structures for this relationship.

3. **The Third Axis:** Support the initiatives adopted in favor of the Palestinian countryside focusing more on women clubs and farmers' specialized societies. Further, focus on the legal and technical assistance to help these groups to build their legal structures. Due to the overlapping of work and activities, some conflicts occurred between the Department and the Women and Training departments.

4. **The Forth Axis:** Seek to mobilize additional resources in favor of small local institutions especially those serving poor groups in marginalized areas. It was possible to mobilize a special fund for distributing grants to 35 small local institutions working on a local level in the year 2000.

5. **The Fifth Axis:** Implementing emergency projects to help farmers to endure and resist the impacts of drought. In this context, we served the most impoverished groups and families living in caves, wrecked sites and on farms, which are isolated unserved communities (see detailed analysis).

6. **The Sixth Axis:** Participate actively in implementing activities aiming at strengthening and supporting the Palestinian civil society. 17 workshops with the cooperation of 190 institutions had been held. Further, the Department had implemented or participated in organizing 14 training courses for the benefit of 119 leaders. The Department had also organized 33 civil educational meetings, in which 828 citizens participated. The Department succeeded to expand and advance networking between institutions on the regional/district level, and encouraged the participation of 2445 people in different activities aiming at encouraging and promoting certain values such as voluntary work. In this context, 11 activities were implemented, in which 965 people took part.
Emergency Projects

Distinguished Efforts in Facing the Drought, especially with Bedouins:

The drought state that prevailed in the region during the winter of 1999 formed a very critical challenge that confronted farmers. The livestock-breeding sector was most affected as it partially depends on grazing the cattle and thus breeders lost 3 months of grazing. Other damages occurred. In many districts springs dried up particularly Al-Ouja. The salinity of wells increased while some of these wells dried up and therefore the amounts of pumped water decreased. The drought had severely harmed the winter crops and caused a rise to the prices of hay and fodder. Further, the farmers of the olives, grapes and other fruits as well as beekeepers were badly affected by the drought.

PARC exerted and employed enormous efforts to assist farmers to overcome this critical and hazardous period, which truly threatened many farmers of expulsion from the productive process because they could not resist the losses. PARC’s efforts were focused in different directions.

On one hand, PARC forwarded a memorandum requesting the Legislative Council and the Palestinian Authority to declare the state of drought. As a matter of fact, there was an official declaration and response to our appeal; however, no practical steps were adopted to provide subsidies and assistance to farmers.

On the other hand, PARC sought to mobilize additional funds to be dedicated to the alleviation of drought impacts. Further, we issued an urgent appeal to friends and donors for this purpose. Many of them responded to our appeal in different ways for example, some funders dedicated funds and projects to the Palestinian Authority (the projects were not implemented due to a number of administrative complications and reasons). Moreover, some funding agencies provided special funds to PARC and other partners. PARC co-implemented 3 projects in a direct way, while we worked indirectly in a forth project. We can say that PARC was the only institution on the national level among official and non-governmental institutions to dedicate efforts in this domain.

The total budget of the 3 projects implemented by PARC in which fodder, water, and transportation and storage means were provided reached up to 1,138,000 dollars. These projects benefited 5000 Palestinian families in the most impoverished areas and districts. Whereas, 3824.5 tons of barley was distributed, 192 transferable water tank, 1100 water tank, 65 tents, and 16,000 cubic meter of water. Further, 65 gathering wells were dug; an irrigation water canal was rehabilitated, in addition to two artesian wells.
PARC established relations with 486 institutions through its branches in the districts (this does not include the existing relations established on the central level) compared to 314 institutions in 1998. The relationship ranges from coordination and joint ventures to provision of services. The list of the institutions and departments comprises 20 ministries compared to 17 in 1998, 17 governmental or semi governmental departments compared to 9 in 1998.

It is worth mentioning that we almost sustained stable relations with the non-governmental sector as we maintained cooperation with 45 organizations throughout the country. Further, there was a remarkable expansion and development of relations with local organizations on the level of the village and govern orate as we promoted our cooperation with 304 compared to 202 in 1998, among which were 120 municipalities and village councils compared to 115 in 1998.

Our cooperation included the Legislative Council and its branches in govern orates, the media means and newspapers, colleges and universities, scientific and cultural centers, television and radio stations, as well as distinguished partnership relations with another number of institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign Institutions</th>
<th>Ministries</th>
<th>Governmental departments / Quasi Governmental</th>
<th>NGOs / on national level</th>
<th>Local institutions / on regional level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Diagram:**
- Ministries 5%
- Governmental departments / Quasi Governmental 4%
- NGOs / on national level 12%
- Local institutions / on regional level 79%
Summary of the Financial Report 1999

The external funding has a major role in the developmental processes of all sectors. Despite the importance of this funding but it faces lots of obstacles that can be summarized as follows:

1- Directing the funding towards certain sectors and prevailing it form others, based on the donor policies without giving any consideration to the real need.
2- The bureaucratic procedures imposed by funders which creates obstacles for the developmental process, a clear example of this is the implementation of the drought project in June 99 despite the fact that it was submitted in October 98 and all the indicators at that time reflected a bad season.
3- Support of project to beneficiaries through local grassroots organizations without offering any consideration to the administrative costs in support to these organizations and for more effective implementation for the projects.

Despite of all the above, PARC was able to maintain stable funding serving its target group in response to the big needs of rural areas caused by the drought, accordingly PARC's funding for 99 exceeded its funding for 98 which left outstanding footprints for PARC in the development of the agricultural sector. Hereunder are some numeral facts reflecting this issue:

1. Core Program Funding: PARC was able to fundraise for its core program a total amount of 1,854,177$ with an increase of 34% than the year 98.
2. Projects outside the core program: PARC was able to fundraise a total amount of 3,840,066 $ an increase by 57% than the year 98, the total amount of activities on going projects from the year 99 is 882,313$ the total amounts of projects implemented reached 2,957,753$.

In regards to the total funds administered by PARC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Program</th>
<th>1,747,685$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects outside the core</td>
<td>2,957,753$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects that are directly financed outside the budget</td>
<td>599,410$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers’ cash contributions</td>
<td>1,126,350$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary work / in kind contribution</td>
<td>363,000$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,794,198$</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The administrative cost in relation to the available funds amounts has reached 13.6% that is less than the year 98 by 1.4%
The percentage of administrative costs in relation to the amount administered reached 9.4% that is less than the year 98 by 1.6%.

The developmental priorities within PARC were distributed as follows:

**First**: Projects for land development with the percentage of 39.52%

**Second**: Rural Women development projects and grouping of women with the percentage of 17.48%

**Third**: Training & Extension services for farmers with the percentage of 17.08%

**Forth**: Emergency projects for the drought with the percentage of 15.53%

**Fifth**: Irrigation & Environment projects with the percentage of 6.75%

**Sixth**: Capacity building & Institutional developmental projects with the percentage of 2.57%

**Seventh**: Developmental researches and studies with the percentage of 1.07%
PARC Supporters

PARC extends heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the friends and partners who supported our work in 1999:

Core programme supporters include:
Christian Aid
EZE
ICCO
IEPALA
NOVIB
NRD
OXFAM / Belgium

Other partners include:
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AMFP
ANERA
Arab American Association
Belgium Cooperation
British Consulate
Canada Fund
CCFD
CEAR
CIEPAD
CIMADE
CISP
Danida
Danish Palestinian Friendship Association
Echopeace
ETC
European Commission
FAFO
Ford Foundation
French Consulate

German Representative Office
Grassroots International
Hohenheim University
G.V.C.
IDRC
Irish Aid
IFAD
Jacksal
MNCP
Netherlands Representative Office
NORAD
Norwegian Representative Office
Save the Children Federation
Spanish Cooperation
Soliderad International
UNAIS
UNDP
VSF
Welfare Association
ZREC
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Tulkarm: 09-2675944  
Deir Al Balah: 07-2537833  
Khan Younis: 07-2016377

Ramallah / Jerusalem  
02-2952650  
Hebron: 02-2224288  
Bethlehem: 02-2770812  
Jericho: 02-2322673
Towards the Year 2000

PARC offers special attention towards the new millennium. An optimistic plan was placed in developing the internal life within the organization and renewing the systems and regulations to increase the professionalism and benefits of our target groups. Special efforts will be exerted in organizing farmers and women, developing leaders, building institutional capacity and self-reliance to ensure sustainability and better results.

All this will be recognized through building on all the achievements of the past years especially the year 1999, the fact that the right basics were placed for a new era for the joint work with local governmental and non-governmental organizations. The same applies to the external relations, cooperation, exchange of knowledge and information based on partnership of mutual benefits in development with our friends and partner organizations on the regional and international levels. All this leads to an important slogan for active programs and projects within PARC with special need and request for these services. Accordingly, it will be one of the priorities to be discussed on the organization level among employees and with partners and friends. Short and long term plans are to be prepared for this cause.

The Year 2000 slogan "Unifying the efforts of around 100 farmers and women groups", a thing that will lead to significant change in the rural development work and it will be a pilot action done in organizing farmers into groups with strong influence on the political and development decision taken on the National level. PARC will base its work on geographical unity of the regions and the regional offices will be offered more responsibilities for planning and implementation of activities and projects with decentralized administrative and financial accountability.

Relaization of these aims and slogans will be closely related to the development of the internal work conditions and the appropriate external conditions to ensure better results, in correlation with the participation and assistance of our farmers and women volunteers and friends, and based on the kind contribution to the development process of our partners, especially our Consortium members.

PARC as always: "Does what it says"; we renew our assurance to all in keeping up with the same quality of work and do what we say.

Ismail Daiq
The General Director