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:
- Contributing to achievements of food security of rural families.
- To achieve comprehensive environmental development.
- To develop and optimize 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.
- Providing assistant, support, and encouragement to individuals, and groups, particularly for the poorest in the most marginalized areas.
- Contribute in foundation & strengthening of networks, developing of regional cooperation in agricultural field, and empowerment of civil society.
PARC's Structure:

Board of Trustees

Ms. Rawya Al-Shawa  
(Chairwoman)

Dr. Alfred Abed Raboo  
(Deputy)

Ms. Maha Abu Dayyeh/Shammas

Dr. Abed Al-Rahman Al-Tamimi

Ms. Khawla Abu Ghazaleh

Mr. Ommar Abu Ayyash

Mr. Mohamed Hamdan

Mr. Khader Al-Aalem

Dr. Oudeh Shehadeh

Mr. Dawoud Erikat

Ms. Ghada Zeidan

Mr. Faris Al-Jabi
Preface:

The Intifada of the year 2000 was a result of an outbreak due to the Israeli’s continuous lingering in implementing the signed peace agreements, the growing frustration among Palestinians, the decline in farmers’ revenue in the agricultural sector, the increase of marketing and water shortages problems, the confiscation of lands and uprooting of trees. After the outbreak of the Intifada the Israeli authority added new obstacles and problems for the farmers and directed its war machine for destroying the Palestinian farmers’ infrastructure. Land confiscation and uprooting of trees and green houses increased. The farmers were and still are prevented from marketing their products and obtaining fodder and medicines for their cattle. The settlers on the other hand contributed to the killing, torturing and attacking of the innocent and peaceful farmers.

Under the prevailing circumstances PARC had to face the great challenge of finding solutions to technical agricultural problems, environmental problems represented in the 3 years long drought season, the Israeli occupation, problems caused by nature and problems related to mismanagement. We realize that the problems facing the Palestinian farmers are far greater and more complicated for a small institution like PARC or even for the Ministry of Agriculture of our young authority to solve. But we also strongly believe that we must never surrender or despair but provide the best services possible to support our farmers in these most difficult times.

The Staff members at PARC have all done their utmost to implement the projects and various activities. They have also cooperated and coordinated efforts with other institutions and tried to involve as many farmers and volunteer workers to achieve the best possible results on time and at the lowest expenses. The projects and activities implemented during the year 2000 affirm the importance and the correct track and strategic plan PARC has been following in the implementation of its activities such as constructing agricultural roads and land reclamation. The construction of agricultural roads for instance helped find alternative roads in times of closure and siege and eased the suffer of the Palestinian farmers. On the other hand as a result of land reclamation and rehabilitation projects vital food sources for the people were found, job opportunities in agriculture were created and part of the drinking and irrigation water needs were also partially provided. In addition to emphasizing the importance of depending on the family agricultural income, providing food security for the family, and giving a significant role to women in this effort.

It is with great honor we say that what we see so clearly today is the result of the effort we have put throughout the past years. We also believe that the work that is underway now will be strongly felt in the years to come. We have been receiving support whether financially or in voluntary work from our friends locally and internationally and it is everybody’s belief that our collective efforts have not been wasted. People’s appreciation is daily being demonstrated and their acknowledgement felt in all occasions.

We at PARC wish to extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all our friends and partners who have supported us and tell them that without their support and belief we would not have been able to reach where we are today. The member and members of our board of trustees, the general manager and all staff members wish to thank each and every person of you for your help in easing the difficulties and suffering of our people. We have great faith in our people and in us that we will pass this difficult phase triumphantly and we are confident that peace is going to be the goal of our struggle for freedom, gaining our legitimate rights and establishing our democratic Palestinian state with Jerusalem its capital.

Rawya Al-Shawa
Chairwoman
Board of Trustees.
We do what we say
Main achievements:

A total of 130 staff members, men and women, are working in 10 main offices and 3 training centers equipped with bed rooms and other services. These have worked with 61,951 beneficiaries and participants in different activities. Activation of the decentralization policy, through the transfer of responsibility on the implementation of activities to the regions, the formation of fifteen (15) support working teams, in which 35 staff members have participated, and post rotation of 3 managers, had an important role in improving internal work atmosphere.

Seventeen (17) internal training courses as well as 35 external-training courses to train PARC’s cadre were held. A total of 32 staff members joined higher education programs and university education.

PARC’s most important accomplishments for 2000 were:

1. The construction of a solar electricity generating plant that serves 11 families in Innab Alkabir village.
2. A total of 128,718 m³ of water have been gathered through the constructing and rehabilitating 246 cisterns and pools to serve 1240 dunums of agricultural lands.
3. One collective and thirty-three (33) individual, gray wastewater treatment plants have been installed that benefited 550 citizens.
4. The irrigation canals of two springs have been restored. A total of 37000 m³ of lost water has been saved.
5. Contributing in building capacities of 31 associations and local institution through training and consultation visits and the implementation of 14 agricultural and women projects benefiting the targeted groups of these associations. In addition, work started in implementing 17 new projects through a grant donated by the World Bank. The projects are implemented in cooperation with the Welfare consortium.
6. Launching 3 training courses for agronomist. Fifty-one (51) agronomists attend the courses. PARC has signed an agreement with Al-Quds University for the joint management of a post graduate program in “extension and rural development”. Work has started in two new streams: Institutional Building and Agricultural and Rural Extension.
7. The formation of 28 women saving and credit groups, with a total of 539 members. Eighty-three (83) loans, mostly for agricultural work, were granted.
8. The organization of 20 summer camps for children. A total of 1295 children participated in these camps. Children are mostly the sons and daughters of women beneficiaries from the rural development program.
9. Foundations of 69 organic farm and house gardens as well as 52 farms that adopt IPM system.
10. Increasing the number of improved indigenous agricultural varieties from 21 to 32 types. Sixty two (62) kg of improved seeds and 68000 seedlings were distributed. The revenue earned by the beneficiary families is estimated at $ 72,000.
11. Opening of 75 agricultural roads with a length of 176 km in 52 locations. 56% of these roads are unifying roads serving agricultural purposes and connect villages to towns. One thousand three hundred and six (1306) dunums of land have been reclaimed through building stone terraces, digging cisterns and planting 61,000 fruit tree seedlings and 613 palm.
12. Export of 4.5 tons of processed and dried agricultural products with a total value of $ 140,000. This has created 190 job opportunities for women. An additional 75 tons of olive oil have been marketed to benefit 550 farmers.
13. The hosting and management of the Palestinian non-governmental organizations’ network and the Arab network for Sustainable Agriculture.
The Palestinian Uprising (Intifada) might form a surprise in timing. However, this is not true in terms of its scope, severity and continuity.

After about one year, since the government change took place in Israel, Israeli policy of annexation and non-adherence to requirements of the signed agreements continue on one hand; the lack of advance towards concluding an agreement on the final state settlement and continuing pressure on the PNA to postpone the declaration of Palestinian independent state, that was due on the 5th of May 1999, under various pretexts: not to affect Israeli election, giving the new government a respite or enable Barak to continue in power, in addition to the clear bias of US, patron of the peace process, to Israel, has put the PNA in a stalemate with Palestinian people.

The intensive negotiations at Camp David II and the American administration biases to the Israeli position, together with the collapse of the government coalition in Israel, demonstrated that what is demanded from Palestinians is to sacrifice the Palestinian legitimate rights at the altar of Israeli coalition and elections maneuver. This has pushed the region to its inevitable end, represented in late September explosion.

These political instabilities in the area had its effects on the internal Palestinian structure. It postponed conclusions on essential and vital core issues and resulted in no progress in building the economy and implementing the needed reform to enhance the structure of Palestinian society. This was reflected negatively on the non-government sector in Palestine, both before and after the eruption of Intifada.

The political crisis and Israeli measures against the Palestinians had its negative impacts in the last quarter of the year 2000. The national domestic product declined by 20%, unemployment reached 38% and thus people living under the poverty line increased by 50%. The poverty line defined by the World Bank is an income of $2.1 per person per day. For further information, please refer to the UN’s special coordinator’s report - January 2001. The above alarming figures require attention to projects that offer job opportunities, and to improve people’s income and ensure the increasing needs of the poor.

The discussion on the diagnosis of the Palestinian questions and work priorities has been re-opened. The rashness and mistake of the circles that thought that the siege and collective punishment became part of the past became evident. This is true also for the non-governmental organizations that did not take into considerations the necessity to balance between working in the fields of democracy, human rights and legislation on one hand and providing services to regions that are still under occupation. It is necessary to maintain flexibility and capability to respond to changing society needs.

As far as PARC is concerned, we can say that the current crisis did not come as a surprise. The work that has been done throughout the years; (opening of agricultural roads, land reclamation, enhancing de-centralization management and strengthening of district offices, the focus on food security, water projects, food processing, the encouragement of small scale projects for women, the crop diversification, and independence from the Israeli markets and borders) have
helped big sectors of the society to overcome the hardships of sieges, especially with the development of new projects that correspond to the immediate and urgent needs without prejudice to the medium and long-term developmental projects.

Regarding the internal Palestinian situation and in spite of the approval of the NGO's law number one for the year 2000, there are still unfortunately bureaucratic obstacles preventing its implementation. It is felt in some cases that there are attempts to override this law through initiating protocols that are in contradiction, in spirit and in script with the law. This exhausts non-governmental work instead of enhancing and empowering it.

All that has been mentioned above has left its marks on defining new tasks for the non-governmental works in Palestine. It is vital to re-arrange programs and priorities and to look for better means to create a supportive juridical environment. This could be achieved through developing institutions' structures and laws, adopting transparency and achieving higher work productivity. Through its extensive relations and distinctive position in the non-government work, we believe that PARC can play an important role in this sense.
Internal Situation at PARC:

PARC has managed through de-centralization to implement its projects and activities through its 10 branches spread throughout the Palestinian districts, that is 3 additional branches from the previous year. A total of 82 field workers implemented most of the plan before the start of the September incidents with the help of 48 administrative employees and technical assistants. 36% were women working on the projects.

The most important developments and accomplishments on the internal side were:

1. Rotation of managerial posts:
   PARC has been a pioneer in activating the technical management through rotating the department managers (extension and land development, training and support services, and rural women development). This is aimed at activating the different management and managers and improving their abilities and knowledge to contribute more efficiently in developing comprehensive concepts in development and to give them a broader vision of the whole institution instead of restricting them to their departments. This has been very successful and will be repeated in future years.

2. Working Teams:
   To enhance teamwork and participatory value, 15 teams including 35 staff members from different managerial levels have been formed and developed. The aim is to exchange expertise and to capitalize on people’s energies in the institution. At the same time these teams will deal with general issues concerning PARC. The most important teams that were formed, are higher education, savings and credit, marketing, media and gender.

3. De-centralization:
   In continuation of PARC’s policy of de-centralization, 2 new branches were opened in Gaza. The branches played a very important role in facilitating PARC’s relief work during the closures. This is mostly true in the Gaza district, which has been divided into 3 completely separated areas. The branches also helped in decreasing financial costs such as transportation and minimizing transportation time and decreasing the non-conformities in the quality management system (ISO 9002).

4. Main Offices:
   Services are provided through 14 main offices, the most distinguished of which is in Ramallah headquarter office. The new building provided a better work environment with advanced communication systems, access to the Internet, training centers and has solved office congestion problems. Eleven Offices have been supported logistically and work is under way to equip the different offices and branches.
5. Voluntary work:
PARC considers voluntary work as a fundamental indicator in evaluating its performance. There is a direct relationship between the number of volunteers working in the various programs and activities and the efficiency in the implementation of these programs. The number of volunteers reached around 6476 volunteers of which 50% are women. The number of voluntary days reached 37991 days equivalent to 156 full time employees. The ratio of voluntary work to paid work at PARC for the year 2000 reached 120% that is an increase of 36% from last year. Assuming that the average daily wages are $15.00, voluntary work has saved PARC around $569,865.00.

6. Cooperation and coordination with local and international Institutions:
15 employees have participated in the 11 meetings of committees and international networks during 2000 related to the rural development issues. The most remarkable events were:

Coordination with local institutions:
PARC considers its good relationship with the 350 local governmental and non-governmental organizations as one of the most important indicators of PARC’s constant development and sustainability. PARC’s coordination with other institutions aims basically to implement joint projects that serve various purposes and target groups and to develop the rural areas in Palestine. PARC has successfully participated with 240 local and non-governmental institutions in 133 solidarity campaigns and lobbying groups. The campaigns handled causes like boycotting Israeli Settlements products, support of the injured, and defending land confiscation and women education.

Palestinian non-governmental organizations network (PNGO):
PARC has hosted the cooperation and coordination committee for the PNGO and the committee campaigning to boycott Israeli products. This committee consists of a group of NGOs that aim to boycott Israeli Settlements products locally and in Europe.

The Arab Network for Sustainable Agriculture:
PARC has assumed the management of the coordination committee for the Arab Network for Sustainable Agriculture. The most important of its activities has been to produce a report on the symposium held in Tunis in 1998 on sustainable agriculture and holding two training courses for a group of NGOs in Yemen and Mauritania on sustainable agriculture. In addition, a 3-year work plan for the committee was developed with the participation of 3 new countries, Syria, Mauritania and Jordan, in addition to the steering committee members (Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Morocco)
7. Enhancing PARC’s staff skills and abilities:

i. Training of staff:

Based on PARC’s philosophy of developing the cadre’s abilities the training department held 17 internal training courses, as well as employees participating in 35 external training courses and in 5 courses held outside the country. The courses dealt with specific issues related to new concepts in rural development, credit and savings, gender, water and the environment, water and irrigation. The internal courses dealt with social development, poverty identification, motivation, time management, report writing, lobbying and group organization, media and the institution, computer skills like in WinWord, Excel, Spss, Internet, Power Point, etc. The cadre’s training in other external institutions concentrated on important issues like managerial issues: strategic planning, incorporating gender in developmental projects, project management, community empowerment, fund raising, civic society work, journalism, management skills development, conflict resolution and negotiation skills, ISO, media and gender. Other specific technical issues include: post harvesting techniques, managing and planning natural resources, environment health and safety, management of fish farms, reproduction and monitoring of Claris fish (Cat fish), institutions’ capacity building, re-cycling of industrial waste, specific issues in animal production.

ii. University education:

32 staff members have joined university education until the end of 2000 out of which 15 are women. The subjects studied include, community development, gender development and law, administration and economics, business administration, water and irrigation management, civic society management, agricultural knowledge, rural development and institutions’ building, rural development and agricultural extension, and sociology.

iii. Development of training curriculums:

The goal of the development of the cadres’ training skills formed a main field of work on during the year 2000. Six workshops for 13 trainers of the cadre were held, in which issues related to the training curriculums were discussed. The following curriculums were developed: Training in communications, in gender, in small projects’ management, young leadership, cattle breeding, poultry breeding and organic agriculture. Individual meetings with the trainers were held to discuss in depth the context of the training material, the formulation of the curriculums, to set objectives and build the training process.

iv. Training of other institutions:

11 of our trained staff held training courses for a number of external non-governmental organizations and ministries in 13 subjects. These subjects include: time management, fund raising, gender, needs assessment, workshop management, household economy and Palestinian women’s situation, small projects’ management, courses for mothers being the ones that look after the nutrition of their families, IPM, public and non-governmental institutions administration.
First: Contribute to minimizing prejudices to the environment

1. Environment Management Courses:
28 specialized environment courses were held. The courses included liquid and solid waste management in Palestinian rural areas. The courses were attended by 510 citizens including, rural women, farmers, and environmental specialists. 120 citizens applied for benefiting from gray wastewater treatment plants. Thirty-three of these plants were installed. A committee by the name of (land monitoring committee) was formed in Bale'en village near Ramallah. The duties of the committee are to protect and safeguard the quality of the village's environment. The committee organized a cleaning campaign in the village, forestation and awareness building, through PARC's support.

2. Lectures on the environment:
68 lectures took place in the year 2000 that focused on environmental issues like environment health and rationalizing water use at domestic and farm levels. It dealt with treatment of liquid and solid wastes and safe usage of pesticides. 1231 citizens including, rural women, farmers and students attended the lectures.

3. Environment workshops:
23 workshops were held on environmental issues and on adopting environmentally friendly measures. 417 citizens participated in the workshops including, rural women, farmers and students. Gray wastewater treatment idea was propagated. Treatment plants in new areas where PARC has not worked before were installed. such as, Silwad and Betounia, individual plants and wastewater pools were constructed at the own expense of beneficiaries.

Women participated in protecting the environment:
In Hebron as much as 70-100% of families in 9 different villages treat solid organic wastes and prepares composts. Until today 345 piles of compost have been prepared. This has been possible after 4 months of training and working with women to qualify them in compost preparation.
4. **Environmental theatre play shows:**
   19 shows were staged to present the protection of the environment and 3090 people, mostly school students, attended it from the West Bank and Gaza.

5. **Workshops on rational use of energy:**
   12 workshops were conducted on the reduction of electricity bills in rural areas, 187 rural women participated in these workshops. Since there is increased need for these workshops, will be conducted in the fact that in the year 2001.

6. **Hygiene/Cleaning campaigns:**
   55 campaigns were carried out throughout the West Bank and Gaza. 4669 citizens participated in these campaigns from all sectors of the Palestinian society. During these campaigns 6 committees for the protection of the environment were formed in Ramallah, Jenin, Jericho and Bethlehem.

7. **Forestration campaigns:**
   141 forestration campaigns were carried out in 141 locations throughout Palestine in 2000. 1440 citizens participated from all sectors of the Palestinian society, men, women, and students. A total of 30417 forest and decorative trees were planted.

8. **Environment clubs:**
   10 environment clubs were established in four schools in Bethlehem and six schools in Ramallah and Jerusalem. 360 students joined the clubs, which carried out several environment-related activities.

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**Model project for alternative energy sources:**

The village of Anaba lies south of Hebron and has a population of eleven families. The village depends on agriculture and cattle breeding and far off the main road. The village has no electricity due to the high infrastructure costs. PARC has conducted a study on the possibility of providing the village with electricity by solar energy and winds. The idea is both foreign and new to PARC's technicians. However, PARC consulted with the Internal environment guide and with UNDP to install the plant. The plant provides the village with electricity around the clock. This project is the only one of its kind.
9. **Individual and collective gray wastewater plants:**
33 individual and collective plants were installed during 2000 that benefited 550 citizen, women and farmers. The plants irrigate 33 house gardens. The plants can treat 60 sq. meters of gray wastewater per day. Additional 56 families also benefited through decreasing the cost of emptying the wastewater pool by 80%. 116 citizens applied for installing wastewater plants and other citizens installed plants on their own expense.

10. **Biogas Digester.**
A biogas digester has been constructed for research purposes on both animal and plant waste re-cycling for energy production. A cow farm including 12 cows that belong to Al-Najah university has benefited from the digester and 300 students from the agricultural school in Tulkarem. 7 farmers from the Tulkarem region applied to make use of similar digesters in their areas.

11. **Photovoltaic electrical stations for clinics:**
26 solar panels were installed in 3 electrical stations serving clinics were installed. These benefited 5850 citizens in the rural areas. The stations enabled the clinics to use equipment that works on electricity.

12. **Building of a hybrid electric station from photovoltaic cells and a wind energy:**
The station consists of 68 solar panels and a wind generator. Two hundred and fourteen citizens from Innab village benefited from this station. It became possible for them to enjoy using domestic electric equipment like refrigerators, TV, water pumps, etc.

**Public appreciation for the theatre plays:**
The department of environment and irrigation at PARC introduced the mobile theater as part of its awareness raising campaign. A play has been produced in cooperation with a Palestinian scriptwriter that carries important environmental messages. The play was performed in several schools and public areas in cooperation with local institutions. The plays were very successful and attended by citizens from different areas in Palestine.
Second: Development of new water resources through gathering marginal water

1. Construction of water cisterns.

147 water cisterns were dug benefiting 1016 citizens. Water gathered is estimated at 11169 m³ of water serving 58 locations and benefiting 266 dunums cultivated with trees like (olives, apples, almonds).

2. Rehabilitation of water cisterns.

90 cisterns for gathering rainwater, distributed in 29 localities were rehabilitated. 796 citizens benefited from these cisterns, of which 23 were for domestic use, rehabilitated as part of the emergency project in Nablus and Jenin, and 67 ones were for agricultural purposes, 8130 m³ of water is gathered in these cisterns and 157 dunums planted with olives and almonds will be irrigated by this water.

3. Rehabilitation of springs and irrigation canals.

2 springs and 2100 meter of irrigation canals were rehabilitated. Another 1700 meter of canals was replaced by polyethylene pipes. This has reduced the water loss by 37000 m³. This water provides 195 dunums with permanent and complimentary irrigation. 740 citizens benefit from this activity.

Decrease in water loss by 37 thousand m³ in Wad Fouqueen village:

Wad Fouqueen lies south west of Bethlehem. The people depend primarily on irrigated agriculture. The water lost through the canals used reaches 30%. The Irrigation and Environment Department at PARC sent a technical team to rehabilitate the canals. 1600 meters of canals were rehabilitated and 400 new ones built. 3 small water sources were also rehabilitated that gathered its waters in Polithean pipes with a length of 300m. The cost did not exceed $ 11,000. The area of irrigated land was increased by 30 dunums and improved other agricultural land.
4. **Earth pools construction.**

8 earth plastic pools, size ranging from 200-350m³, were constructed. 4,000 cubic meters of water are estimated to be harvested annually in these pools. This water irrigates 31 dunums. The pools are distributed over 6 locations and benefit 106 citizens.

5. **Rehabilitation of earth pools.**

7 earth pools were rehabilitated in 2000 in 5 locations in the Jericho and Gaza regions. The pools are 6507 m³ in size. 76 citizens benefit from this activity and the area of land served is 192 dunums.

6. **Cement pools construction.**

40 cement pools, sizes that range from 180-450m³, were constructed. 61,775 m³ of water are estimated to be gathered per year for irrigation use. This water will also irrigate 176.5 dunums of green houses. The cement pools were distributed over 29 locations and benefited 796 citizens.

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128718 m³ of water was gathered through water harvesting. The area of irrigated land increased by 1240 dunums.
Third: Optimal use of available water sources in Agriculture

1. Courses on improving effective use of irrigation water and water networks maintenance.
   Eight training courses were held this year in 8 locations in the West Bank and Gaza. 671 farmers benefited from the courses. The impact of the courses was positively reflected in the increased demand for Tensiometer demonstrations, which totaled 13 demonstrations.

2. Irrigation scheduling using tensiometer
   13 tensiometer demonstrations were conducted in 11 locations attended by 13 farmers.

3. Complimentary irrigation demonstrations
   11 demonstrations this year were conducted in eleven locations. 70 dunums benefited from complimentary irrigation. 11 farmers and 48 family members made use of the water. The water was used in the irrigation of fruit trees and vegetables.

4. Carefree demonstrations
   8 demonstrations on carefree equipment were conducted, serving around 150 dunums of land planted with citrus fruit trees, grapes and vegetables in green houses. The results were successful although salty water was used in a carefree farm in Gaza.

Tamoun cooperative:
During the year 1999 PARC’s extension workers have studied the various problems facing farmers trying to build an organic agriculture program. The most important problems are related to the increase of transportation costs of goods to the central market and the increase in the cost of agricultural goods. Another problem is the scarcity of water. After a number of visits, 22 farmers have formed a cooperative organization,
Fourth: Contribution in capacity building of rural community organizations

Through field extension visits conducted by the extension workers at PARC and the department of institutional capacity building together with the Farmers' Union, a total of 29 workshops and training of other 29 local institutions and conducting number of projects and activities work have been implemented with 106 charitable and agricultural societies, youth clubs and local councils. The most important was the work that has been done with 21 specialized agricultural societies for enabling them to obtain their popular and legal legislation, supporting them technically and managerially, contributing in raising the capabilities of the institutions and local councils in determining the needs and preparing project proposals. Work during the last year focused on developing the capabilities of 31 local societies and institutions in South Gaza, Jenin and the Jordan Valley districts through providing training. The result was the implementation of 14 agricultural projects with the value of $2,563,65 benefiting directly 333 families and finishing the necessary preparations to implement 17 agricultural productive projects that worth $2,463,06. The projects will be implemented during the first quarter of the year 2001. It is expected that the projects will have an important impact on reinforcing the societies' credibility in their villages, increasing the number of members and their ability to implement projects and activities.

which was officially registered and carried out a number of activities. The most important achievement was to transport the goods collectively to the central market, which in turn saved the farmers as much as 0.50 shekels per box of agricultural product and ensured steady revenue to the cooperative. Developmental institutions have found it more efficient to cooperate with the cooperative to implement projects and activities as cisterns digging, and compost demonstration, that costs $15,000 and is expected to start working at the first quarter of 2001.
Fifth: Training of newly graduated agronomists to help them find jobs

The training and research department worked on developing a curriculum consisting of four basic principles. The main principle was to create general capabilities in the participants in the domains of IT, communication, project management, implementation of programs and activities of PARC and of farmers and other establishments. The curriculum also emphasized research and special studies in development and a technical program according to their different specializations.

The Naim Khader Center for Research and Rural Development in Zababdeh and the Gaza Training Center started executing 3 training courses for rehabilitating 50 agronomists for the period of 9 months in rural development. The participants in these training courses will receive a higher education diploma from Al-Quds University within the program of higher studies in rural development, in which PARC participates in its management in cooperation with the university, as part of the cooperation and partnership that PARC aims at establishing.

The Training Department completed building an agricultural training center in Jericho. The center consists of 2 training rooms, a library, a computer center, and 24 beds. The management is currently finishing the last needed touch-ups in order to start the training program by the end of February 2001. Furthermore, the management is developing a computer center and a library in the Zababdeh center, which in addition to 2 workshops for the agronomists, hosted 13 other workshops and voluntary summer camps, in which a total of 372 men and women participated.

The center’s management is currently developing the training facilities and buildings in the field of greenhouses, poultry, and harvesting.

New bee keepers:
The training courses assisted in establishing income-generating projects and in Jenin area a woman cooperative for bee keeping was established after attending the specialized training courses.

85% of the 162 newly graduated agronomists found employment after finishing the training program. 14 training courses were held in 2000.
Sixth: Unions and lobbying groups

PARC hosted the non-governmental organization networks and offered them all the needed assistance on the administrative and logistic level, to reach their goals in motivating the collaboration among NGOs, and in specifying their relation with official organizations, and exchanging expertise and information. This reflected on the increase of PARC's networking ability on the local and regional levels; common programs and activities were organized with 350 official and non-governmental organizations, and the regions were included in 8 regional networks, especially those working with women, organizing programs and animal husbandry.

PARC assisted in the implementation of 20 voluntary campaigns, 15 summer camps, and 80 different activities in which local institutions participated. These campaigns served general national agricultural and environmental goals; they also encouraged the efforts of youth, women, and students in the different areas, stressing the value of voluntary work in the midst of different residential strips. For helping social sectors that have been negatively affected by laws and regulations, or by the lack of services, PARC contributed in forming solidarity committees and in guiding relevant institutions towards those sectors, where the PARC's cadre participated in 9 local solidarity committees. The most important were involved in teaching women, supporting people affected by the Intifada, and presenting projects and programs for villages deprived of services, and especially helping some Bedouin clusters, as well as families living in caves.

Outstanding participation in the IPM courses:
One of the training in Hebron areas started with 20 trainers and ended with 48 trainers, due to the spreading of the news among farmers and its importance to agriculture.
Seventh: increasing the participation of rural women in the productive process

1- Loans distribution:
83 loans have been distributed, 83% of them are agricultural and 17% commercial and services loans. They have been distributed in 30 locations in 5 areas in a total cost of $229,638; the rate of account settling was around 88%. The revenues of these projects are around $133,440 annually. 4 institutions funded these loans.

2- Projects management training and management skills:
25 courses were carried out, 430 woman benefited from 42 location, 83 of them were given loans and executed projects under their own management the matter which gave them chances of income.

3- Forming saving and credit committees:
28 groups in 36 locations distributed in 10 areas, the she-number of the members in these areas are 539. The amount of savings was about NIS 150,000. 44 loans of them were distributed in total cost of NIS 83,820. Work is going on now to register these groups in cooperative associations (one association in each area).

4- Developing and establishing household gardens:
25 gardens were established and another 45 were improved by giving seeds, seedlings of fruit and vegetables, natural

Reviving of traditional soap:
Through an initiative from Bethlehem region, the fact that increased demand is on the traditional and local type of soap processed from olive oil. Jama'ın women club in Nablus who has excess production of oil started processing soap and marketing in Bethlehem region.
herbs, wastewater treatment plants and some animals. The total area of these gardens is 40.7 dunums, 70 families, (561 person) benefited from them in 21 locations in 10 areas. These gardens are considered as additional income, for the family, being about 50% of the family needs of vegetables and natural herbs.

5- Holding promotion exhibitions:
12 exhibitions were held, and participating in another 5, it contained women manual and handcraft produce, agricultural produce from the women who own the project and from the trainees. Around 242 women participated in, then they had marketed produce in a sum of NIS 24,000. The visitors and beneficiaries of the exhibitions reached 3362 people.

6- Assistance in natural herbs and others.
111590 seedlings and 45 kg of seeds were distributed on 1640 women beneficiaries and planted in more than 102.5 dunums. The revenue out of this was around NIS 178,544. 25% of the beneficiaries got used from the medicinal herbs produce as an opportunity to improve their income.

7- Workshops:
118 different workshops were executed in all the areas benefiting 1857 women and girls. They concentrated on conceiving ideas for pioneering projects and needs assessment and administration of clubs, and about the participation of women in life in general and in the Intifada in particular.

Evaluating the agronomists’ program:
PARC together with an expert from Holland have finished evaluating the training program designed for agronomists. The program aims to develop the agronomists’ ability in communication. The evaluation led to financing the program for another three years to train another 140 agronomists.
Eighth: Empowering rural women and develop their know-how and skills

1- Vocational, agricultural training and food processing:

186 courses were implemented benefiting 2719 women. We were able to establish 230 income-generating projects (women have now long term or short term income). 7% trainers have developed to become trainees in different fields this year especially in vocational training.

2- Women empowerment training:

8 courses were implemented benefiting 114 women. As a result of these courses and previously conducted similar courses the number of women leaders in rural areas became 216, who participate in local councils, configurations, committees and local grassroots organizations.

In addition to the above 21 courses in civic awareness (legal and justice) were conducted benefiting 335 women. Besides 26 training courses in first aid and theoretical driving training benefiting 351 women.

3- Social awareness lectures:

A total of 646 awareness lectures on social issues were conducted benefiting 7073 women. The agriculture awareness formed 16%, nutrition and food processing formed 8%, civic and legal awareness formed 19%, health formed 20%, household and life administration formed 10%, whereas for the psychological and social awareness it formed 27%. Awareness building for this year was marked by concentration on the agriculture, legal, civil, psychological and social issues.

In addition to the above 36 food processing demonstrations were conducted in agriculture and food processing benefiting 416 women.

Girl students participate in waste Management:

One of the girls in Silwad near Ramallah has transferred the wastewater treatment plant to her father after attending a workshop, which in turn contacted PARC’s specialist for more information. The father then installed a plant on his expense and PARC’s technical support.
4- **Exchange visits:**

A total of 79 exchange visits were conducted with the participation of 3062 women aiming at exchange of experience and know-how between the different locations. These visits were marked by a visit to Gaza for the first time since the forthcoming of the PA, which had positive impact for the women.

5- **Celebrations and festivities:**

A total of 5139 women participated in the different national celebrations such as International women day, mothers day, workers day,...). It is worth mentioning that women leaders had an outstanding role in organizing and administering of the celebrations.

6- **Tawjih teaching and University scholarships:**

18 women sat for the Tawjih examinations and 8 passed, of which 5 entered university. In addition to granting two scholarships for two women who are members in the Jenin women clubs. Four new tawjih classes were opened in the last quarter of the year, each class had around 15 students in addition to opening 11 classes for adult learning in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. It is worth noting that the demand for tawjih and university education is increasing, which reflects positively on the women status in the family and the society and fulfills a strategic need for rural women.

**Working opportunity for seven women:**

Um Talal from Alzaituna street in Gaza city participated in management and processing course for cous cous, her seriousness for work has encouraged PARC's credit coordinators offer her a loan for 6000$ to establish a processing project. PARC's marketing department interfered and assisted her in packaging and labeling of the products, the fact that 5 other women were able to join her project in addition to her daughter who is concerned for the local marketing of the products. Part of the production is sold locally and the rest is exported.
Ninth: Activating the role of women organizations in rural lives

1- Contribution in preparation of the working plans for the different clubs:
this was conducted through the participation of the extension workers in the preparation of 48 working planned for 48 clubs. The percentage of implemented plans reached 90%.

2- Networking and coordination with organizations:
the cooperation was conducted with 138 organizations in the fields of training and awareness building and also in implementing joined programs for the women clubs.
The administrative committees in the different clubs coordinated directly and independently with 126 organizations, local village councils and parents committees in schools.

3- Establishment of new clubs:
one club was closed due to lack of cooperation and commitment by the women and it was moved to another location. In this field we can say that the number of beneficiaries in the different clubs reached 4,900 women and the enrolled members reached 1,000 women, who have received membership cards. The issuing of membership cards started during this year, 2000.

4- Providing the clubs with appliances and equipments:
7 clubs were supported by essential equipment's and appliances, and there is an approval for establishing 27 income generating projects within the clubs which will be established throughout the year 2001. 28 agreements for discount supply for club members with a discount rate of 5% to 50% were signed with a number of pharmacies, doctors and merchants. It is worth noting that the total budget of the clubs by the end of the year 2000 reached 65000 NIS.

5- Summer camps:
20 summer camps were conducted with the participation of 1295 children whose mother's and sisters are members in the women clubs. This activity was considered as social services offered to the society by the clubs on one hand and the reinforcement of the relation between the clubs and the local community organizations.

Organic farms in local institutions:
through the extension support of PARC some local NGO's started working in organic farming such as Jabal Alnijmeh Center; others are starting to follow this technique such as (Dar Alamal Institute). In addition to the work that started with Munif Albarqutti Cultural center for preparation of 50 dumums in Albireh area.
Team spirit on different levels.
Tenth: Raising agricultural developmental awareness

1- Extension visits:
1386 extension visits were conducted benefiting 1136 farmers in 119 locations. These visits aimed at activating the environmental agricultural programs and encouraging farmers to establish or join agricultural committees and societies in their regions. In addition to activating volunteer work and cooperation among farmers through the establishment of farmer leaders that offer extension and facilitate the services offered to the less fortunate neighbors.

2- Extension training courses:
21 courses were conducted benefiting 376 farmers in 25 locations. 3 courses in organic agriculture, 7 courses in bee keeping, 3 courses in IPM, 5 courses on farm management, 1 course on development of local seed varieties, 2 courses in first aid related to poisoning by pesticides, bee stings and injuries from agricultural work, aiming at the development of the agricultural extension training.

The plant production unit also prepared a curriculum on organic agriculture training and the first draft on farm management training.

3- Lectures and workshops:
21 lectures and workshops were conducted with the participation of 1322 farmers in 65 locations, it all focuses on organic agriculture, pesticides side effects, local seeds, farmers organizations and other subjects of benefit and priority to farmers. A number of workshops concentrated on developing programs for identification of farmers needs in developing local seeds varieties and one of the workshops resulted in conducting a first aid training course for farmers.

4- Exchange visits:
16 exchange visits were conducted with the participation of 261 farmers. These visits concentrated on activating the extension services from farmer to farmer according to their specialization's and exchange or expertise besides beginning some social relations among farmers.

Other organizations adopts solar sterilization programs:
for the several years PARC has been undergoing solar sterilization demonstrations for farmers, due to the successful achievements currently some organizations in the Northern Regions (Jenin area) are distributing plastic for free.
Eleventh: Raising interest in Environmental Agriculture

1- Establishment of organic farms:
69 organic farms and house gardens were established in fields of rural women and farmers who are using no chemicals to ensure the production quality. House gardens constitute 43% of the total amount of cultivated organic farms and IPM farms, which reached 144 dunums. Farmers also prepared 711 cubic meters of composting in the targeted fields using the remainders of plants and animal wastes from their fields or purchased from outside. Farmers also used various traditional biological and mechanical techniques in fighting pests without the use of pesticides but through the use of traps and shash.

2- Solar sterilization demonstrations:
40 demonstrations were implemented benefiting 40 farmers directly. Demonstrations this year proved successful in newly targeted mountainous areas. This achievement was vital for farmers given the fact that sterilization gas prices has risen.

3- Composting:
Implementation of 35 demonstrations benefiting 1783 farmers in 46 locations, were 711 cubic meters of compost was prepared in addition to preparation of 340 heaps of compost in Hebron region with women in cooperation with Save the Children. Currently work is undergoing in preparing a small compost production factory as a pilot project; if it will prove successful it will be promoted in the future for organic agriculture and IPM programs.

4- Construction of IPM farms:
52 farms were constructed in 34 locations with total of 119 dunums. The technique followed in these farms concentrated on less use of chemical pesticides and the safe and scientific use of pesticides. Shash, insect traps and repelling plants were used for isolation of newly cultivated seedlings.

5- Demonstrations:
37 demonstrations on various agricultural subjects were carried out, the most important were tree pruning, vaccination, loony traps and organic pesticides.

Concept of organic agriculture for Alquuds Open University students:
close relations have been developed with the agriculture faculty of the university in Ramallah, and their interest are raised in environmental agriculture, were one student prepared his thesis on organic agriculture. In addition to the training of 50 students on organic farming and the establishment of a farm in Beit Hanun were an organic agriculture model farm will be established.
Twelfth: Enlargement of the quality and quantity of local seeds varieties used in agriculture

1- Seeds development demonstration:

The local seed varieties use was increased from 21 types in 99 to 32 types in the year 2000. It is worth mentioning that farmer`s demand is for 35 types of seeds.

2- Construction of seeds production farms:

Distribution of 63 kg of seeds and 68000 seedlings for 22 types of improved seeds benefiting 430 farmers, women constitute 58% of the beneficiaries. This was cultivated in 311 dunums of land with an estimated income of around 72,000 $.

3- Training of farmers and extension workers:

In response to PARC`s strategy of decentralization, 5 extension workers in the different Governorates were trained to implement the local seed development project. The project expert is expected to monitor the training of these extension workers in the coming year through field visits. In addition to the above a training manual was prepared on the techniques for development and preservation of local seeds.

The programmes scope of work was expanded to reach all region of the West Bank, and the number of direct beneficiaries increased from 220 in 99 to 340 farmers in the year 2000. In addition to the training of 60 farmers on the production techniques of local improved seeds to ensure sustainability of the project.

The farmers participating in the improvement process increased from 11 in 99 to 32 in 2000.

Farmers offering extension:

A number of outstanding farmers emerged as extension workers after receiving training for some time with PARC. Some were teachers who benefited from the training in teaching agriculture for schools students and promoted environmental agriculture in Hebron region.
Thirteenth: Raising consumer’s awareness in environmental and organic productions

1- Exhibitions and markets:
participation and promotions of 5 exhibitions for organic agriculture, they were visited by 500 people, 8 farmers exhibited their agricultural productions. A permanent exhibition for safe use of pesticides and save agricultural product was established in Hebron.

2- Friends of organic agriculture:
103 contacts were made with potential organic farmers. This activity aims at establishing a lobbying body for the development of organic agriculture and the establishment of a local market in support of organic products in the future.

3- Media campaigns:
19 awareness campaigns were implemented through the local TV in the different Governorates and through publications in the local newspapers.

Organic farmer:
Haj Othman from Azzoun village owns 4 dunums of green houses, he stopped the use of chemical and pesticides and adopted the use of diversification even in the green houses and he makes utmost benefit from composting. The existence of the red worm, which doesn’t survive in chemically polluted soil, is an indicator for the healthiness of this soil.
Fourteenth: Contribution in marketing the excess of agricultural productions

PARC was able to export 45 tons of processed and dried agricultural products to Italy, Belgium and Germany. The total revenue of export reached $140,000, and 190 jobs were created for rural women. Three training courses were offered to 230 women who received training in 10 cooperatives on the production and marketing of agricultural produce. 72 women were also assisted in developing marketing plans as a preliminary request for receiving loans. 12 training courses in marketing were offered benefiting 130 women.

The marketing department also assisted in marketing 75 tons of olive oil through the comprehensive marketing scheme "From the farmer to the consumer"; this campaign benefited 550 farmers directly and assisted in maintaining the oil price from declining.

Farmers reclaim their lands after opening of agricultural roads:

15 farmers in Zeita village in Nablus area reclaimed 230 dunums of land near the newly opened agricultural roads during the year 2000. The collected data through coordinators surveys in the field also outlined how that farmers reclaimed 634 dunums of land on the sides of the opened roads, in addition to the hundreds of dunums that were not surveyed.

Unifying roads are the only outlets in crises: the total number of unifying roads opened by PARC in the past years reached 142 roads.
Fifteenth: Protection and enlargement of the agricultural land and improving its productivity

1- Opening of agricultural roads:

75 agricultural roads were opened with a length of 176 km in 52 locations. The percentage of unifying roads serving agricultural land and connecting villages reached 56%. The number of direct beneficiary families using the roads reached 34,577 families and the roads serves more than 118,000 dunums of land.

The implementation of agricultural roads was conducted in cooperation with 52-village councils, municipalities and farmer's organization. The farmers' contribution to the project reached 46% of the total financial cost while PARC's contribution reached 44%, in addition to fundraising of 10% of the funds from the Ministries of Labor and Agriculture.

2- Land Reclamation:

1306 dunums of land were reclaimed, 4,018 square meters of terraces built, 2,137 cubic meters of wells were dug and 34,645 seedlings were distributed to benefit 150 rural families.

27,000 seedlings of fruit trees facing no marketing problems were also distributed serving 147 farmers and cultivated in 800 dunums of reclaimed land independently by farmers.

613 palm seedlings were cultivated in Gaza and Jericho regions benefiting 163 families. Farmer's financial contribution to the land reclamation projects reached 52%, in addition to the in kind contribution of farmers.

with a total length of 336 km. These roads played an important role in mobility of public and private transportation the fact that they were the only outlets between villages and cities.

In Salfeet and Bani Zeid areas who were greatly affected by the imposed closure, the unifying roads played an outstanding role in serving the surrounded villages and connected them to the Governorates of Nablus, Qalqilia and Ramallah.

Also these roads assisted villagers in the eastern areas of Jenin to reach Rulkarem, Nablus and Ramallah.
Sixteenth: Contribution to the development of animal wealth sector

In the West Bank, PARC focuses on the development of small ruminants’ production in 14 locations of the northern areas. It delivered technical advices to 120 farmers whose animal population accounts for more than 52,000 animals. The main objective is to improve the technical skills of farmers in three essential areas of the production process, newborn care, animal feeding and reproduction. Agricultural extension messages were supplied in the form of individual visits (2,892), meetings between farmers (13), study tours (3) and demonstrations (53).

Also, the unit undertook this year a refinement of its strategy in order to improve its impact. A first step was the designing and editing of a booklet to assist farmers in collecting important technical information. These data will be used to calculate indicator of production and evaluate our extension services. Another step was the launching of a livestock farming system survey which aimed at better understanding on how farmers manage their available resources to reach their own farm and family objectives. The results of this survey are expected to develop the planning of extension activities.

In the Gaza Strip, the aim was to developing broiler production. It proposed this year to focus on the breeding period from day 1 to day 21, whose management will determine future productivity. 59 producers are concerned. This represents one third of the total Gaza Strip capacity for broiler production (130,500 chicks). Around 800 individual visits were organized as well as 4 training courses, 1 study tour and 2 demonstrations. As for the West Bank a system was developed to evaluate the success of our interventions. First results were encouraging as only 37% of the controlled batch face a mortality rate at 21 days only 10%, are considered bad.

It is worth noting finally that the unit provides technical assistance to the Women Credit Program by evaluating livestock projects submitted, and providing individual visits and training of women. The unit was involved also in a national study solicited by the Ministry of Agriculture and implemented through UNDP for assessing the availability and affordability of agricultural by-products for small ruminants feeding.

Local TV’s:

the extension services for promotion of organic agriculture is currently conducted through TV series in Jericho region, the number of telephone calls to the program indicated the high interaction of farmers with the program, a similar program was transmitted in Hebron area.
Funding Situation:

The funding for the year 2000 was a normal expansion of the core program and the already supported projects outside the core. PARC was able to maintain its relation with all its partners and donors. Despite the different funding methodologies and techniques used; new fundraising relations and opportunities were established and developed during the year. This is clearly reflected in the funding situation for the coming years that coheres with PARC's funding for its projects and programs in accordance with its strategic vision in maintaining the necessary funding for its projects to enable the continuous support for services offered to the poor in marginalized areas. This funding approach also corresponds to PARC's strategy in maintaining strong relations with its partners on one hand and assist in obtaining long term funding on the other, a thing that is clearly noticed in the funding situation during the year 2000 in comparison with the past years. Despite all the above the acquired funding was also characterized by low coverage of administrative cost for internal development within the organization.

The funding status of PARC during the year 2000 amounted to 5,928,989 US$ and can be summarized in the following:
1- Core program funding 1,819,000 US$ (this amounts to 98% of the funding of the core program for the year 99).
2- Outside core program funding 4,109,899 US$. (an increase by 7% in comparison to the year 99).
3- The administered funds by PARC during the year 2000 reached 7,218,607. These funds were distributed as follows:
   i) Direct funding agreements from donors $ 5,580,066
   ii) Local community financial contribution for projects $ 1,068,676
   iii) Inkind contribution by farmers and PARC's volunteers $ 569,865

The administrative cost reached 10.41% in comparison to 9.63% in 99. this increase was due to the decreased financial contribution of farmers in support of some projects due to the situation during the last quarter of the year 2000.

The following graph illustrates the expenditure priorities:
Towards the year 2001

The year 2001 focuses primarily on Scopes of effectiveness by measuring the intermediate objectives through developing indicators with the various departments. In pursuit of developmental work, the plan also focuses on realising the extent to which PARCs committed to its policies and values. This is to be measured through a set of indicators and programs evaluation in a MIS.

PARC considers the year 2001 a year for greater voluntary work. It aims at achieving 29 short-term objectives related directly to ten strategic objectives, with the help of volunteers. The short-term plan is expected to benefit 34,000 people directly. The main activities are:

1. The construction and rehabilitation of agricultural roads, especially unifying roads. The reclamation of high lands to protect it from confiscation and to increase its productivity.

2. Construction of organic farms, IPM demonstrations, training courses on olive tree pruning and local seeds variety development.

3. Digging of water cisterns, cement pools, rehabilitation of water sources and awareness-raising campaigns on water irrigation.

4. Workshops, lectures, and courses in environmental awareness raising, courses in energy conservation, solar energy and construction of treatment plants.

5. Lectures, workshops, training course, various courses for women in different social and productive fields. Organizing women in women clubs and developing the existing ones.

6. Grants distribution, consultation services and training to develop the capacity of local institutions, especially agricultural and rural development organizations.

7. Training of newly graduated agronomists and conducting agricultural and developmental research.

8. Promotion, marketing and awareness raising campaigns to market excess of agricultural products.

9. Conducting training courses and workshops to enhance PARC’s cadre in technical and managerial fields.

10. Participation in local and international networks and committees to exchange expertise and coordinate efforts.

11. Help in organizing the targeted groups consisting of farmers and women and to go into partnership with local community institutions.

Ismail Daig
Director General
Headquarter and Branches:

PARC's Headquarter is in Beit Hanina north of East Jerusalem.
PARC also have branches in Gaza, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jericho, Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarem, Deir Al-Balah and Khanyounes.

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