

Agricultural Mechanization Situation in the Palestinian Territories



by
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Abstract

In this paper, general information about agricultural and agricultural mechanization situation in Palestinian territories is presented taking into consideration that there is a scarce in articles related to agricultural mechanization in Palestinian territories. Different activities of Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) related to agricultural mechanization are discussed. Situation of several machineries (e.g. tractors, tillage equipments, sprayers, grain drills and seeders, threshing machines, potato planters and harvesting machine) and future vision are presented. Generally, there is no balance between the number of agricultural machines and the total planted area, and there is a need for more advanced efficient agricultural machines.

Introduction

Agriculture plays a crucial role of the Palestinian national, social, cultural and economic structure. The Palestinian agricultural area in 2010 was approximately 95,717 ha, which is about 30 % of the total area of Palestinian territories land (6,210

km²), including 92.1 % in the West Bank and 7.9 % in the Gaza Strip (**Fig. 1**). The agricultural sector contributed 8.1 % of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2007. Significant quantities of vegetables, olive oil and flowers are mainly exported to Israel, European Union (EU) members' states and some Arab countries (Palestinian National Authority, 2009).

The total population of the Palestinian territories in 2010 was about 4.152 million (World Bank, 2012). There are about 292 thousands employees in agricultural holdings in the Palestinian territories, and around 12 % of men and 30 % of women of the total employment (Japan International Co-operation Agency, 2007).

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was established in 1994, and it leads the agricultural policy in the Palestinian territories.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) there are about 71 % of agricultural holdings are plant holdings, about 29 % of agricultural holders aged

40-49 years, about 79 % of agricultural holdings cultivated with permanent and temporary crops, about 33 % of the area cultivated with field crops was in Hebron governorate, about 21 % of the area cultivated with vegetables was in Jericho and Al-Aghwar governorate, about 19 % of the area cultivated with tree horticulture was in Jenin governorate, Hebron had greatest number of cattle, Jerusalem the least, and olive trees represent about 67 % of the total number of horticultural trees.

The rain-fed area constitutes 86 % of the cultivated land, including

Fig. 1 The Palestinian territories



Source: European commission, 2012