apis dispatch

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ADDRESSING NEEDS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

UNDP Offers Hope to Gaza's Farmers

This month, the United Nations Development Programme/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) began the first phase of their project "Urgent Support to the Agriculture and Electricity Sectors in the Gaza Strip". The project's aim is to enhance the resilience of the Gaza Strip residents through supporting agro-productivity and livelihoods-based interventions, rehabilitation of destroyed agriculture facilities, in addition to enhance access to basic services through rehabilitation of damaged electricity networks and enhancing the delivery of power supply in the Gaza Strip. Specifically, agriculture work will focus on restoring open fields and greenhouses, providing equipment for fishermen, assisting poultry farms through provision of inputs, and rehabilitating and reconstructing 39 ground water wells.

The project comes as a response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian population following the late Israeli military assault on the Gaza Strip, which inflicted large scale damages on infrastructure including agriculture and electricity facilities. The project was designed to immediately restore damaged agriculture, and will also tackle employment and livelihoods where many of the activities will be carried out through labour intensive schemes and long-term job creation opportunities, particularly through the agriculture sector component.

Funded by the Islamic Development Bank, eight million USD will go towards the agriculture component, and another 5 million will help restore electricity facilities through the procurement and installation of new equipments and spare parts. UNDP/PAPP is working closely with seven local NGOs on the ground in Gaza to implement the project, which is expected to complete August 2010. For more information, contact Mr. Tamer Qarmout or Mr. Jehad Al-Khatib.

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APIS Updating Campaign

Since 1 August, the APIS database received a large response to the MoA call for project updates. Members have logged 783 activities to-date, and have added a record 98 new projects. A few of these projects are listed below:

• Support to the Bedouin population and breeders in Hebron District (UCOEP)
• Assisting poor families to increase household income (MAAN)
• From poor farmers to poor families— voucher 5 (MAAN)
• Emergency fodder to drought affected communities in West Bank (CISP)
• Enhancing livelihoods and entrepreneurship skills of vulnerable youth through Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools in the WBGS (FAO)
• Social youths nets to reconstruct the hope: support to the youths in Jenin and Ain Arik (Overseas)
• Improving farmers capabilities in production of export crops (PARC)
• Emergency cash for work and livelihood support for the vulnerable households affected by the current crisis in the north of the Gaza Strip (ACF)
• Agri-irrigation network rehabilitation— Jericho/Al Jiftlick multistage (ICRC)
• Vaccination campaign in Hebron/Masafer Yatta area (ICRC)

As projects are added, it is critical to add some details including subsector, activity, district, and locality in order for quality analysis and mapping to be conducted.

The information gathered will help the MoA design and implement the sector strategy in close consultation with stakeholders.

Contact: Dr. Ahmed Shwaika, Sarah Leppert, David Jackson and Dr. Azzam Saleh

events

CAP 2010 National Level Workshop, 9-10 Sept, Best Eastern Hotel, Ramallah

Thematic Groups of the ASWG, Every Tuesday this month at 10am, MoA Ramallah

Post event announcements by emailing david.jackson@fao.org.