



Activity:	Demonstrations on brackish water uses
Locations:	Middle and Southern Jordan valley
Beneficiaries:	5 Farmers, 20 house holds
Objective:	To encourage farmers and train them on date palm planting as a mean of efficient use of brackish water in agriculture

Summary	Available documents
<p>Background information:</p> <p>Large areas in the middle and southern Jordan valley are characterized by being saline in regard to soil and water (especially in the areas near the dead sea basin). Due to this reason, farmers in these areas either do not cultivate their lands, or use high cost modern techniques (such as reverse osmosis for water desalination) to plant their lands.</p> <p>Date palm trees are considered to be tolerant to high levels of salinity in soil and water. They prefer the hot climate which is prevailing in the Jordan valley. In spite of the high economic return from dates locally and for exporting, plantations of date palm trees is new in the Jordan valley and is still exclusive for farmers with high resources who can pay for the costs of acquiring the expertise for date palm growing and to take the risks if these plantations failed (until now, date palm seedling from a good variety such as Majhool costs about 35 JD).</p> <p>The aim of this activity is to familiarize the farmers with the date palm growing on small and medium scale levels, in order to change the trend among them from traditional costly crops (such as banana and vegetable crops) toward the more suitable crop to their environment, and, as a result, to improve the use efficiency of brackish water in agriculture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo gallery • Beneficiaries' agreements
<p>Criteria for Location/ beneficiary selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farms are located in the target area (middle and southern Jordan valley). • Farmers are willing to shift from traditional agriculture patterns to date palm trees planting. • Farmers own their land and are practicing agriculture themselves. • Source of water is available for irrigation. • Either soil or water or both are saline. • Enough space is available or can be made available for date palm trees planting. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Photos</p>  

Benefits:**Expected:**

- More efficient use of land (especially with saline soil)
- More efficient use of brackish water in irrigation
- Higher income for the farmers
- Reduction of water waster from the desalination process.

Actual:

The primary monitoring of the farms showed better use of water, where brine water wasted from the R. O. units was used for irrigating date palms. In addition, some neighboring farmers start planning for planting date palms in their unplanted lands, and many farmers in the target areas are showing more interest and want to learn more about the date palms and their required agricultural practices.

Beneficiary contribution:

- Provide the land on which the date palms will be planted and the irrigation water
- Plant the date palm seedling including land preparation and irrigation system installation.
- Looking after the date palm trees with all required agricultural operations.
- Provide the monitoring data
- Transfer knowledge to neighboring farmers.

Time schedule of implementation:

- **Location/beneficiary selection:** 5/4/07 - 20/4/07
- **Implementation:** 15/5/07 - 25/5/07
- **Monitoring:** 20/10/07 - 02/4/08