

wide range of development-oriented studies in the fields of agriculture, rural industries, sociology, health, and education. Its mandate will include feasibility studies of proposed projects and progress appraisal of existing ones. It will be affiliated to An-Najah National University but enjoying a marked degree of autonomy and discretion. The studies to be undertaken by the RRC will be conducted by researchers employed at the centre itself and by external consultants who may be recruited for specified studies. A potential source of expertise is short-term affiliation of M.A and Ph.D. researchers whose interests happen to coincide with those of the RRC. Eligible candidates will be sponsored by the Centre for a specified period in return for publishing rights of the final report.

A detailed proposal concerning the establishment of the RRC was submitted in the fall of 1980 to the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait, which accepted it and earmarked for the proposed centre a grant of \$270,000. Accordingly, the RRC was established in May 1981.

2.0 Extension, research, and education

2.1 Inservice training for extension and research staff.

It is strongly recommended to initiate a sustained program of professional inservice training for extension and research staff. The present number of eligible students is around 50, and that is small enough to provide them with adequate training opportunities within a short time. Duration of training should range from 3 - 15 months during which the emphasis should be placed on providing professional skills for trainees rather than on achieving academic qualifications. Much of the needed training

could be accomplished in specialized research centres and institutes established by international agencies and some governments. Due to the technical and highly elaborate nature of this program, it is proposed to have it delegated to the training department of the FAO, which has already agreed to offer five training opportunities to West Bank technicians, leading to an M.Sc. in certain fields of agriculture. It is proposed to continue this program.

2.2 Expanding extension staff of voluntary agencies.

It is recommended that the Community Development Foundation and the Mennonites Central Committee employ technical field officers covering such specialized areas as irrigation and soil science, horticulture, and pest control. Counting on the record of existing agricultural staff of voluntary agencies, the new addition will help materially in improving the standard of extension services available to West Bank farmers.

2.3 Modernizing the Khadourie and A'rroub Agricultural Schools

Both schools suffer from severe technical and financial shortages. It is proposed to extend necessary aid to both of them in order to help them assume their potentially important role in developing West Bank agriculture. Although both schools are under the authority of the Military Administration, it is likely that they will be permitted to receive aid from a "safe" third party.

The introductory study which would diagnose problems and propose needed developments and project their cost could be undertaken by the Rural Research Centre (see 1.3).

2.4 Conducting a feasibility study for a college of agriculture.

It was noted earlier that there are serious doubts on the