

do not compete with olives for air space.

B. Grapes

Grape production is unique in West Bank horticulture as being the closest to a highly commercialized and intensive type of farming. Consequently, it is potentially highly remunerative, but at the same time it is noticeably vulnerable to problems of marketing. At such, though a fundamental objective of a policy for grapes should be oriented towards further horizontal expansion, this should be done on such a selective scale that it does not result in depressing prices. The following policies are suggested:

1. Expanding of trellised vineyards in the Hebron-Bethlehem grape corridor.
2. Gradual but massive replacement of vineyards from a wider assortment of varieties (mostly late-maturing) which are grafted on Phylloxera-resistant root stocks.
3. Accelerating modernized production practices in vineyards under intensive production in southern districts.
4. Expanding vineyards of late varieties in the upper hills of Ramallah and Nablus districts, and of early varieties in the Jordan Valley. In coastal districts, grape production could be very profitable if under irrigation. However, this presupposes an advanced level of cultural practices.
5. Introduction of grape processing and cold storage facilities.
6. Lobbying more forcefully for larger and more secure markets.

C. Almonds

The almond should play a significant role in the present context of West Bank agriculture, because of its immediate relevance to

the two critical issues of land use and the raising of income received by poorer segments of the population. Therefore, the major components of an almond policy are:

1. Unconditional dissemination of almond plantations in all land in classes IV and V. This could be accomplished easily through campaigns of sowing bitter almond seeds. Voluntary work camps of students could play an important role in this regard.
2. Emerging seedlings can be left ungrafted when land quality is too low or when other constraints do not permit a reasonable level of husbandry. Otherwise, young seedlings should be grafted with sweet varieties.
3. Provision of almond orchards with more intensive care in the form of fertilizers, weed killers, and insect control. The aim is to raise productivity to the extent permitted within the present socio-economic constraints.
4. Imposition by Jordan of effective restrictions on almond imports from other countries. This is strongly justified on economic as well as political grounds.
5. Restructuring of the almond trade in a way which permits a stronger bargaining power for growers and the loosening of present cartels.

D. Plums

This tree has considerable potential, since it suits a wide range of land and climate and is relatively less vulnerable to pest damage than almonds, figs and apricots.