

equipment at about half of its market price. Likewise, the cost of sawing (fuel and labour) would also be subsidized at a rate of around 50 percent. The project would be administered by the CDF, MCC and/or ADC (see 4.5). Interested farmers could apply for this service through local extension agents or through direct contact with the agencies mentioned above through an arrangement similar to that of seedling distribution.

#### 8.4 Supplemental irrigation of olive trees.

West Bank olives are totally dependent on rainfall for their water needs, in contrast to the more famous olive producing countries such as Spain, Italy, Greece, California and some parts of Israel. While olives can produce widely varying yields when they are totally dependent on rain water, their yield could be substantially raised and stabilized by providing them with small quantities of water two or three times a year (July, August, and September). This, however, is not intended to put olive orchards under irrigation in the usual sense, since that is clearly impossible.

The suggested project calls for providing those olive trees close to cisterns with about 60-100 litres of water three times during the summer months. As such it would be possible to serve 20-50 trees from a single cistern. Water would be lifted by a portable pump, used otherwise for spraying purposes (see 8.6), and carried down by gravity to surrounding trees.

With the large number of cisterns scattered all over the

country, and as a result of active efforts to develop more cisterns, the suggested project might eventually help reach a large number of rainfed olives. Its positive impact includes a pronounced multiplier effect on such cultural services as fertilizer application, pest control, and pruning.

In the long run, this might even turn out to be a breakthrough in West Bank olive culture.

#### 8.5 Application of chemical fertilizers.

West Bank olive growers add little or no chemical fertilizer. This is quite contrary to the strong recommendations made by olive experts at the Volcani Institute who recommend liberal use of nitrogenous and potassium fertilizers.\*

Based on observations gathered from local technicians and leading farmers, the researcher believes that a mild use of fertilizers is advisable and may lead to highly favourable results. This could be achieved through vigorous educational efforts of extension agents and other technicians employed by voluntary agencies, ADC, and cooperative societies. The process could gather effective momentum by conducting a number of demonstrations in selected areas. It is not suggested, however, to subsidize the cost of fertilizer for fear of causing problems in the price of fertilizers used

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\* This information was derived through personal contacts with the staff of the Olive and Grape Institute at Volcani.