

possible to modernize any one or more of these processes without having to scrap the entire outfit and replace it with a new one.

- c. Intensive research to explore the possibilities of operating modern presses for purposes other than olive oil extraction.

8.10 Introduction of modern oil tinning techniques.

The present system of processing and tinning of olive oil has limitations. Most importantly, quality is not adequately controlled and standardized, and the size of cans is too large (around 17 kilograms).

The suggested project calls for a gradual but substantial improvement in olive oil processing and bottling techniques by establishing modern plants in major production areas. Each plant would be equipped with a refining unit and other equipment needed to classify oil into 2 - 3 grades. Edible oil would be bottled in tin cans of various sizes and labelled with a distinctive trademark indicating its Palestinian origin. The quality of the oil would be further checked through spot testing carried by the Horticulture Unit in the Rural Research Centre.

It is proposed to start out the project by implementing current plans to construct two such plants, one in Deir Sharaf (Nablus-Tulkarm-Jenin junction) and another in Ein Sinya (Ramallah district). Both locations are strategic centres for olive production, and in both cases the projects are undertaken by olive pressing cooperative societies. In the future, it may be possible to establish

more such processing units.

As for oil sold through other channels, it is recommended to have it tested and certified by the proposed plants at a reasonable fee. At some time in the future it might be possible to restrict all exports through accredited processing units and the Agricultural Marketing Bureau.

9.0 Grapes

Despite slight risks of overproduction, it is proposed to adopt an expansionary policy of grape production for reasons of paraeconomic significance. The new policy should also aim at minimizing costs especially those paid in cash. Precautionary measures should also be taken in anticipation of excess supply.

The following list of projects is proposed in relation to production and marketing.

9.1 Wider dissemination of seedlings.

The suggested plan envisages a substantial expansion in the area under grapes. Some of the new vineyards would be planted in southern districts (Hebron-Bethlehem), but most of them will be grown in the Ramallah and Nablus hills. Furthermore, a large number of vines would be needed for interplanting within young olive orchards, in preference to almonds or other trees.

Although direct growing of cuttings could be accelerated and modernized by delegating production of seedlings to specialized nurseries. In this way it would be possible to introduce a better and wider selection of varieties, graft parts of the seedlings on the phylloxera-resistant