

of spraying vineyards would be covered by producers themselves without the need for further subsidy.

9.4 Processing of grape products.

A large part of the increased supply should be processed into other products which may have a good market potential. In addition to wine, grapes may be used to produce jam, syrup, juice, raisins and malban.

It would be very unlikely that a wine factory would be established in Hebron district, but a lot more could be done to support existing wineries in neighbouring Bethlehem district. Most importantly, it is proposed to introduce more effective ways of by-passing religious inhibitions still observed by most farmers. The fact that most of the West Bank grapes sold in Israel is channelled into wineries is perhaps an encouraging sign!

As for the introduction of other industries, the problem is much more complex. Past attempts met little success due to the erratic supply of grapes and occasional boom in prices of table grapes. But there is a firm conviction that over-supply is imminent in the future, and the need is growing for precautionary measures. Besides the need for a more vigorous marketing policy (see 5.1) the problem of a larger supply could be offset by the construction of cold storage facilities and grape-based industries. A feasibility study for both purposes was suggested earlier (see 5.3 and 5.4).

10.0 Almonds

In view of the policy guidelines outlined earlier in this chapter, the following projects and development measures are suggested.

10.1 Dissemination of almonds as a forest tree.

Some varieties of almonds (especially bitter and hard-shelled) are probably tolerant to rugged topography even more than olives - although their longevity is admittedly much less. But almonds have the additional advantage of being much easier and cheaper to propagate, since that is possible merely by direct sowing of seeds.

The suggested project aims at extensive sowing of almond seeds in land of classes 4 and 5. At worst, emerging trees could be considered as forest plantations which would yield much higher returns than alternative forest trees. The prospect remains open, however, that wild almond orchards could be rehabilitated to a commercial status by providing a limited amount of cultural practices.

The fact that most of land area in marginal categories has become after occupation of a controversial title should not deter the proposed seeding campaign, at least until the military authority expresses its explicit opposition.

Sowing almond seeds is best accomplished through voluntary work committees which have been set up in recent years by university and high school students in most towns and large villages. The financial obligations for this project are relatively modest. The price of one olive seedling would