

Development Corporation or Voluntary agencies.

Lambing regulation treatment should be made widely available through local extension agents, some of whom have already been trained in Israel. It is recommended to have more people trained for this purpose, who are to be selected from among the staff of cooperative societies. Part of the work would be undertaken for demonstration purposes without charge, but most of it against a subsidized service fee (the current fee is JD 1.8 per head).

11.6 Promoting "Assaf" sheep raising in in-door patterns of management.

Although Assaf sheep have a considerably higher production potential than Awasi, their tolerance to the rugged patterns of rough grazing is much lower.

The profitability of raising Assaf sheep in-doors has been conclusively demonstrated, both in Israel and in the West Bank itself, yet such projects have not taken off on the West Bank due to inadequate credit and extension services. It could be effectively disseminated, however, by providing eligible farmers with loans for construction purposes and buying replacement ewes. Construction loans would be procured from the PACC, and those for operational purposes from the Agricultural Development Corporation. Owners should contribute a minimum of one third of total capital outlays.

16.0 COWS

While there is still ample room for peasant-type dairy farming where labour is free and out-of-pocket expenses are squeezed to a minimum, large scale commercial farms are hopelessly non-viable. The cost of production will remain too high to compete with heavily

subsidized Israeli milk products, against which West Bank produce has no compensating quality advantage. When it is possible to exercise sovereignty on the West Bank's economy it will then be necessary to reconsider the situation of commercial dairying in the light of more favourable realities. In the meantime, however, some measures could be taken to assist peasant cow raising, as will be described in the two following projects.

Beef projects pose a different situation. Due to high prices of red meat and consumers' reticence to buy meat slaughtered in Israel, locally produced beef commands a distinctive quality advantage. Trials on dry lot fattening of calves (Jenin district) are encouraging, but more testing is needed.

12.1 More efficient insemination services.

In its effort to reduce its budget, the Department of Agriculture has terminated its free artificial insemination service. This has rendered artificial insemination less reliable and considerably more expensive.

It is proposed to entrust the AI service to regional cooperatives who would charge fees on a non-profit basis. Each unit would be equipped with needed facilities and would be operated by a trained technician. Five such units are needed. Insemination technicians would perform this function as a partial assignment, since they would be originally hired with a broader mandate as livestock extension agents.

Capital requirements for AI units would be provided by sponsoring cooperatives themselves.