

ARIJ Annual Report 2000, English version

Introduction:

This year witnessed, in the last quarter, the eruption of Al-Aqsa Intifada that was followed by Israeli repressive measures and the imposition of a severe blockade on the Palestinian areas which brought to a halt most Palestinian development plans. As a result, the institute had to adjust to the new situation and meet the recent challenges but at the same time, continue its research work. It may be fair to say that the institute succeeded in minimizing the damages resulting from the restrictions on movement and shift in priorities towards emergency and continued its work to promote its research capabilities as a Palestinian center of excellence.

This year the institute had taken significant steps, upon the recommendations of the board, to strengthen its cooperation with the Palestinian ministries such as the Palestinian Ministry of Planning and International Corporation (MOPIC), the ministry of Agriculture (MOA), the ministry of Higher Education (MHE), the ministry of Environmental Affairs (MENA), the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and the Negotiations Affairs Department (NAD). ARIJ worked to become a real partner in the activities of the Palestinian National Authority through services, consultations, or joint activities.

Activities of Research Units

Research activities:

This year witnessed a great and distinguished transformation on the research level for all units:

Water and environment research unit:

During this year, the unit continued with its work to watch closely the conditions of both water and environment in Palestine and improve the Palestinian research abilities in these areas. ARIJ concluded its work on the Jordan River Water Allocation project, which is funded by the EU. ARIJ prepared a computerized mathematical model that can be used for allocating water resources among different purposes according to the availability of water, its quality, need and other factors.

The unit also continued its assessment of a small scale waste water treatment plant based on aerated sludge technology in the hope that such unit will be used at a larger scale in Palestinian rural areas to replace cesspits.

In cooperation with the ministry of environmental affairs, the institute was able to localize 21 agenda in Palestine through a fund by the German Fredrich Newman institution. Ten chapters were chosen to be studied and some localized mechanisms were submitted through workshops held at the institute and with the participation of many ministries and national establishments according to the following schedule:

Comment [m1]:

23/12/1999	Dr.Marwan Hadad , An-Najah National University	Linking sustainable development with decision making.
24/ 1 /2000	Dr. Hasen Dweik, Al Quds University	Air protection.
21/2/2000	Dr. Abed Al-Hameed Barghuthi	Forests Protection.
9/3/2000	Dr. Mansoor Abu Ali, An-Najah National University	Combating desertification and drought.
11/4/2000	Dr.Idamar al Zughayyer , Beir Zeit University	Developing mountainous districts.
18/5/2000	Mr. Nadeem Milhem,GTZ	Waste management
4/7/2000	Dr. Jamal Safi, Al Azhar University	Management of toxic waste
9/8/2000	Dr. Awni al-Khateeb,Hebron University	The management of hazardous materials.
1/9/2000	Dr.Anan Jayyousi, An-Najah National University	Water resources management
16/9/2000	Mr. Yunis Subeh , UNDP	Biodiversity

The results of all of these workshops will be issued in a comprehensive book at the beginning of the next year.

The unit also worked on strengthening the relationship with the ministry of environmental affairs through the participation of the research director in the works of the METAP program suggesting the idea of surveying the medical and hazardous waste in Palestine. Both the general director of the institute and the unit director participated in the ministry's program for integrated solid waste management. The director of biodiversity and agricultural research participated in the works of the national committee to combat desertification which will prepare a national plan concerning this issue. The institute also participated in the activity of the environmental rangers who were taken to a field tour in 25/7 in order to introduce them to the environmental conditions in the area. .

On 25/9/2000, the general director of the institute and the director of the research unit met the minister of environmental affairs Dr. Yusef Abu Sofia and discussed ways to promote cooperation in the field of modernizing the environmental information system and preparing the sustainable development indicators in Palestine and other issues of mutual interest.

During this year, the general director of the institute finalized an environmental human right action plan in cooperation with the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the Palestinian ministry of NGO affairs. The institute also participated in assessing the social impacts of the

Zahret-al Fenjan solid waste sanitary land fill that will serve the district of Jenin with potential funding of the World Bank.

During this year, the unit submitted a number of projects for potential funding including:

- Medical waste classification project (METAP)
- Wastewater treatment project for three villages. (SMAP)
- Studying the impact of climatic changes on water resources. (USAID).

The unit received an invitation from the European Community office in Jerusalem to participate in an environmental forum within the European Mediterranean Cooperation program scheduled to be held in France in November 2000. However, the imposed siege on the Palestinian lands prevented the institute from participating in the meeting.

The unit also executed a study on the status of infrastructure and the environment in Jerusalem upon the request of the Orient House and the Jerusalem Task force of the department of negotiation affairs.

The institute submitted a research project to IDRC with the Ecosystem Health program to study the impact of settlements on the Palestinian population in Burqan area. The idea of the project was submitted at the workshop held in Amman with the participation of Dr. Nasri Qumsiyah, Nezar Katoosh and Abeer Safar. The first part of the study was accepted and implemented.

A delegation from the Water Authority headed by Dr. Amjad Elewi visited the institute in 15/8 to discuss potential cooperation. ARIJ handed PWA copies of the study that ARIJ carried out to assess the extent of water contamination in the Western aquifer and the computerized model for determining the movement of pollutants.

The institute also received an invitation to participate in an international conference on water held in Hamburg 8/11. However the political situations prevented the institute from participating in this conference, but a paper was prepared and presented to the conference.

The institute received invitations from two German companies to participate in preparing studies on wastewater in both Gaza and Nablus. The general director of the institute also received an invitation to participate in a workshop organized by IDRC in Canada from 8-10/11 on development and peace researches. On 6/12, Ms.Chrestina Mass from the Heinrich Boll German Foundation visited the institute and discussed the bilateral cooperation in the field of developing a Palestinian paper on Roe+10. A project on training environmental rangers in Palestine was submitted.

The institute received a letter from the United Nations developmental program, Lebanon Branch, to participate with universities of America,

Mozambique, Croatia, Mexico and Gana in preparing an integrated course on managing environment through the Internet. Contacts were made with Al-Quds University to introduce this course jointly.

Biodiversity and Agricultural research unit:

During this year, the unit went on with its work in developing the rain fed farming through demonstrations on field crops that covered 200 dunoms. It also proceeded with its project to study the urbanization in both Bethlehem and Hebron districts funded by IDRC.

The unit also finished executing the consultancy related to the requirements of developing the rain fed farming in the Eastern slopes for the benefit of the Welfare Association which included:

- Surveying the economic, social, agricultural and environmental situations for six villages in the eastern slopes.
- Providing recommendations for specific programs and mechanisms to develop this important area (this study will be issued next year).

The director of the unit participated in the Danish funded regional workshop for developing the rain fed farming that was held in 18-21/9. The institute received an invitation from the ministry of agriculture to participate in the national committee for combating desertification and Nader Hrrimat was nominated to represent the institute.

The unit prepared two detailed research projects to MERC. The first project looks at the use of wastewater in agriculture. The ministry of agriculture was contacted to select a suitable site. Deir-Debwan was chosen for this project. The second project investigates the potential impact of the climatic changes on water resources and agriculture.

The unit held a training course for the staff of the ministry of agriculture as part of the consultancy to map forests and agrobiodiversity in Palestine.

The institute also received a letter from the Arab organization for food and agriculture stating that the institute was granted a reward for in an appreciation for its work.

On 12/6, the unit signed an agreement with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), small grants program ,to look at the oral plant history in Palestine.

Geographical information system and remote sensory unit:

This year, the unit published the atlas of Palestine (West Bank and Gaza Strip) as a culmination of more than five years of hard work. The atlas, which is forwarded Mr. Ahmad Qurei', (Abu Al-Ala) the president of the Palestinian Legislative Council, includes 200 maps covering the political, geographical, economic, environmental and other aspects. A presentation

of the Atlas was made to President Yasser Arafat, who acknowledged the efforts of the institute for issuing this Atlas. The atlas received a lot of attention worldwide since its publication. The unit is now working on issuing this atlas on a CD with funding from IDRC.

At the beginning of the year, the unit signed an agreement with the Palestinian ministry of agriculture to execute a consultancy for building a computerized geographical system for five forests in West Bank which was completed by the end of the year. The unit also continued its execution of the consultancy for the ministry of agriculture on mapping agrobiodiversity. At the same time, the unit concluded the trilateral transportation project which is funded by DFG. The unit participated in the JOWA project in cooperation with the water and environmental research unit. In addition, the unit worked with other units in monitoring the settlements expansions in Palestine where almost 50 case studies were issued in addition to periodic reports about settlement activities.

The general director of the institute participated in IAOS conference held in Switzerland and submitted a paper on using the GIS in the fields of water and environment. This paper was received with great attention by the participants and a number of contacts were made for potential cooperation in this area. During this conference, the Arab participants held a meeting in order to establish an Arab society for statistical sciences and ARIJ was asked to establish a home page for this network.

The unit received an invitation from ICARDA to participate in the meetings of the regional agrobiodiversity project, which is funded by GEF/UNDP. The general director of the institute and the director of the unit participated also in the thematic policies and GIS workshops held between 28/9 and 5/10/2000 in Amman. A training course in the field of remote sensing was held in March 2000 and lasted for a week in which the director of the unit participated as a trainer.

In September 2000 the unit received an invitation to attend ESRI conference held in Tel-aviv at which the general director of the institute gave a lecture on the atlas of Palestine. The institute also received a letter from MAICH institute in Greece asking the institute to participate in a European program for managing natural resources. Khaldoun Rishmawi represented the institute in the first meeting, which was held in the beginning of February 2000. The institute will submit a joint research project with MAICH soon.

Staff Affairs

Developing the human resources in ARIJ

During this year, the institutes went on with its program to develop the human resources, and develop the efficiency of the employees. Sofia Saed went to get her masters degree in GIS at Durham University, Britain through the British Council. Khaldoun Rishmawi is continuing his study

to obtain a master degree in natural resource management at MAICH, Greece. In addition, a number of ARIJ staff participated in short training courses including:

- Qumsieh and Abeer Safar. A course on the P.R.A in Amman for Violet
- Abu Amreyah. A course on P.R.A in Ethiopia for Mohammed
- Training courses on environmental health system for Dr Nsari Qumsieh, Nizar Qattoush and Abeer Safar.

ARIJ Staff in December 2000

	NAME	POST/OCCUPATION
1	Dr. Jad Isaac	Director General
2	Dr Mohammed Ghanayem	Research director
3	Nadir Hrimat	Deputy Director General .
4	Helen Morad	Financial Director
5	Leslie Berkley	Administrative assistant
6	Suha Nazzal	Secretary
7	Mariam Salahat	Janitor
8	Nasir Shoka	Maintenance
9	Violet Qumsieh	Director, water and environment research unit.
10	Abeer Safar	Research assistant.
11	Majid Abu Quba	Research associate
12	Marline Andonia	Research assistant.
13	Maysoon Bannoura	Research assistant.
14	Nizar Qattosh	Research assistant.
15	Hanna Maoh	Director, geographical information system and remote sensing unit .
16	Suad Istanbuli	Research assistant.
17	Jane Hilal	Research assistant.
18	Fuad Isaac	Research assistant.
19	Sofia Sa'ad	Study leave
20	Manal Daoud	Research assistant.
21	Isam Isaac	Director, computer unit
22	Carol Shahin	Research assistant.
23	Reem abu Aita	Research associate
24	Roubina Bassos	Director, Biodiversity and

	Ghattas	agricultural research unit
25	Mohammed abu Amriyah	Research assistant
26	Faten al Juniedi	Leave without pay
27	Beatrice Felkin	Research assistant
28	Khaldoun Rishmawi	Study leave
29	Shadi hannounah	Computer unit
30	Issa Zboun	Research assistant
31	Ahmad samarah	Research assistant
32	Nezar Farsakh	Research assistant.

Consultancies :

This Year, the institute expanded its work on executing a number of professional consultancies including:

- Developing the eastern slopes for the benefit of the Welfare Association.
- Environmental human rights action plan for the United Nations.
- Managing the natural resources for ministry of agriculture.
- Medium term plan for developing the agricultural sector for the ministry of agriculture.
- Using the geographical information system in the agrobiodiversity project for the ministry of agriculture.
- Surveying the forests for the ministry of agriculture.
- Social assessment of the sanitary landfill in Zahret al Finjan for the World Bank.
- Building geographical information systems of rain fed farming for The Danish project

Executing these consultancies was an exhausting task because of the short time frame. But the institute is still determined to develop its capabilities in the field of executing consultancies in an attempt to promote its sustainability. There is no doubt that such an approach opens new horizons to the institute, but this requires developing the human resources in the institute especially where there are deficiencies in expertise such as hydrology and social analysis.

Services

Negotiation Affairs Department:

The institute worked with NDA through the provision of information related to the settlements activities in the Palestinian areas and active participation in the activities of the committees concerned with the issues of settlements, borders

and water. In addition, the institute contributed in preparing a document on the status of environment and infrastructure in Jerusalem in cooperation with the Jerusalem Task Force in the Orient House. The director general of ARIJ worked a resource person for the Palestinian negotiating team during the Camp David meetings and participated in the Taba negotiations on the issues concerning land, borders, settlements and Jerusalem.

Ministry of higher education and scientific research:

During this year, the institute continued its work with MHE in developing a Palestinian strategy for promoting Science and Technology. The director general was asked to serve as a member of the committee in charge of formulating the green paper.

Ministry of Planning and International Corporation

During this year, the institute participated in the work of the committees in charge of long term planning in the sectors of environment, water and agriculture. In addition, the institute worked with the staff of the ministry in preparing the files for final status negotiation related to borders, settlements and Jerusalem.

Ministry of Agriculture:

This year witnessed the strengthening of the working relationship with MOA. ARIJ and other Palestinian NGO's signed a code of conduct that aimed at fostering a relation of commensalisms and complementarity between all stakeholders working in the agricultural sector. ARIJ hosted an MOA delegation to share with them its work plan for 2000 and identify areas of cooperation. ARIJ worked with MOA in developing the agricultural strategy and policy focusing on natural resource management. Later, ARIJ worked with MOA in developing the medium term plan for the development of the Palestinian agricultural sector. In addition, ARIJ worked with MOA in the regional Danish project that aims to develop the dry land farming in the region. ARIJ hosted the regional partners and presented a proposal on how to use the geographical information systems (GIS) in this field. ARIJ submitted its credentials to execute a number of consultancies for the benefit of MOA and was awarded the consultancy to map the forest area in the West Bank and to conduct the GIS component of the regional agrobiodiversity project.

Ministry of environmental affairs:

In cooperation with the Palestinian ministry of environmental affairs, and with financial support from the Friedrich Newman foundation, ARIJ worked this year on localizing the agenda 21 in Palestine. Ten chapters were selected and ten local experts were contracted to prepare working papers for each chapter that were discussed in workshops attended by representatives from Palestinian ministries and NGO's. A book comprising all these deliberations will be issued at the beginning of next year concerning this issue. In addition, ARIJ is working with MENA on a project aimed at monitoring air quality. ARIJ is currently working with the ministry and other NGO's to prepare the Palestinian contribution to Rio + 10. Also, ARIJ has worked with Mena to submit a project to METAP for surveying the medical and hazardous waste in Palestine. ARIJ has also participated in the activities of the environmental sector-working group.

Administrative and organizational issues:

This year, ARIJ enjoyed the services of Dr. Mohammad Ghanayem who became the first research director to assume the responsibilities of coordination the research activities in the various units at ARIJ. This proved to be a step in the right direction and it resulted in a more harmonious work and concerted efforts to integrate the entire disciplinary research activities at ARIJ. Mr. Nadir Hreimat was appointed as the assistant director general and assumed his administrative responsibilities focusing on staff affairs and organizational issues. Mr. Leslie Berkley joined ARIJ through a UN volunteers program as the administrative assistant in charge of procurement and administrative issues.

As a result of the recent political situation, the institute adopted a very strict employment policy to face the financial crisis. Thus, no new employees were hired except to fill urgent gaps. A number of volunteers and trainees were employed temporarily to help the institute in covering its needs for professional experiences. At the beginning of Al-Aqsa intifadah, a number of foreign citizens were evacuated from Palestine among which the Canadian volunteer and the Dutch researcher.

Participation in International and Local Conferences and Workshops:

This year was full of events for the staff of the institute in participating in a number of symposiums, workshops, international and local conferences as outlined below as follows:

Date	Activity	Organizer	Participants
8/1	Workshop on the project of the right exploitation of water & land	Ministry of agriculture	Nader Hrimat & Hanna Moah
10-11/1	The regional project for the dry land farming teamwork	Danida	Nader Hrimat
13/1	A Symposium on developing the Scientific research in Palestine	Ministry of higher education	Dr Mohammad Ghanayem.
15-27/1	A workshop of the regional project of Dryland farming.	Danida	Nader Hrimat
25/1	Meeting of the team work of the agricultural sector	Ministry of agriculture	Dr. Jad Issac
26/1	Work plan of human rights	Ministry of NGO affairs	Dr. Jad Issac
27/1	Covenant of conduct with the national organizations	Ministry of agriculture	Dr. Jad Isaac
3/2	Symposiums of coordinating work with non-governmental organizations.	Ministry of NGO affairs	Nader Hrimat
3/2	Workshop on the program of the food security.	Ministry of agriculture	Dr Jad Isaac
4/2	Coordination workshop	Pugwash Group.	Dr. Jad Isaac
5-9/2	PRA Course	KHEMTP and ministry of environmental affairs.	Violet Qumsieh & Abeer Safar.

6-9/2	Workshop on future planning	Ministry of planning and international corporation.	Dr. Jad Isaac & Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem.
9/2	Coordinate meeting.	Department of negotiation affairs.	Dr. Jad Isaac.
14/2	Workshop on METAP program	Ministry of environmental affairs.	Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem.
14/2	Conference on the role of non-governmental organizations.	Welfare association.	Dr. Jad Isaac.
17/2	The steering committee of the environmental conference.	Polytechnic University-Hebron.	Dr. Jad Isaac
26/2	Workshop for human rights action plan	UNCHR	Dr. Jad Isaac.
28/2	Conference on the agricultural policies.	Ministry of agriculture.	Dr. Jad Isaac & Nader Hrimat.
6/3	Workshop on the agricultural strategy .	Ministry of Agricultural	Dr. Jad Isaac
7/3	Workshop on the joint work program.	Ministry of agriculture and Arij.	
10/3	A Conference on long term planning in Palestine.	Jerusalem Task Force.	Dr. Jad Isaac
25/3	Workshop on the use of wastewater in agriculture	Ministry of agriculture.	Dr Mohammed Ghanayam & Violet Qumsieh.
26/3	Symposium on coordinating work with the national	Ministry of agriculture.	Nader Hrimat.

	organizations.		
28-29/3	Environment conference	Polytechnic University of Palestine	Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem Mohammed Abu Ammreyah & Faten Juniedi.
29/3	Meeting of the technical committee of the agrobiodiversity project.	Ministry of agriculture.	Nader Hrimat & Roubina Ghattas.
16/4	Workshop on the environmental human rights action plan.	Ministry of the national organizations affairs.	Dr. Jad Isaac.
17/4	Jerusalem Symposium	PASSIA	Dr. Jad Isaac & Eyad Al a'raj.
24/4	Workshop on healthy cities.	World health organization.	Nizar Qattosh.
26/4	Workshop of the world council of churches.	Council of middle east churches.	Nader Hrimat
26/4	Workshop on assessing of SDC Program.	SDC	Dr. Jad Isaac.
30/4	Workshop on using waste water in farming	Ministry of agriculture.	Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem.
4/5	Workshop on managing solid waste.	Ministry of environmental affairs.	Dr. Jad Isaac & Violet Qumsieh.
4-7/5	Conference on transportation.	Ben Gurion University.	Hanna Mo'ah.
8/5	Workshop on environmental media.	Ministry of environmental affairs.	Abeer Safar.

16/5	Workshop on environmental human rights action plan.	Ministry of NGO affairs	Dr. Jad Isaac.
17/5	Workshop on the informal	Ministry of Trade	Wafa Safar.
18/5	Workshop on the role of Jerusalem in the final solution negotiations.	Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce.	Dr. Jad Isaac & Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem.
22/5	Workshop on ministry of agriculture.	Ministry of agriculture.	Dr. Jad Isaac.
22/5	Workshop on land reclamation.	Palestinian Research center-Nablus.	Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem
24/5	Workshop on the economic and social survey of the agrobiodiversity project.	Ministry of agriculture.	Nader Hrimat.
30/5	Meeting of the workgroup of the agricultural sector.	Palestinian Research center-Nablus.	Dr. Jad Isaac
13/6	International conference on Jerusalem	Law establishment	Nezar Farsakh
	Workshop on the statistical survey results in Jerusalem.	The Palestinian statistics center.	Dr. Jad Isaac.
15-19/6	Workshop on RIO+10 Brussels.	Heinrich Boll.	Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem.
21/6	Workshop on strategies and valleys development.	Ministry of environmental affairs.	Violet Qumsieh.
22/6	Workshop on environmental disputes.	IPCRI	Nizar Qattosh.

22-25/6	Jerusalem conference	The Spanish ministry of foreign affairs	Jad Isaac
26/6	Workshop on the problems of the agricultural sector in Bethehem.	Ministry of Agriculture.	Nader Hrimat & Mohammed Abu Ammreya.
29/6	Borders workshop	French research institute- Jerusalem	Dr.jad Issac &Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem
10/7	Workshop on the Palestinian economic future.	MAS institute.	Dr. Jad Isaac.
16/7	Workshop on environmental work plan.	UNCHR	Dr. Jad Isaac
26/7	Workshop on water and environment	Al azhar University.	Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem.
10/7	Workshop of industries union	Al-Marsad	Mohammed Abu-Amreya
5/8	Environmental Rangers	Ministry of environmental affaires	Mohamed abu-Amreya
21/8	Workshop on using agricultural waste.	Ministry of agriculture.	Mohammed Abu Amerya
4-8/9	International statistical conference Switzerland	IAOS	Dr. Jad Isaac.
21/9	Workshop on managing solid waste	Ministry of environmental affaires	Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem
28/8 – 8/9	Training course on PRA Ethiopia.	IDRC	Mohammed Abu Amreya.
29/8	Workshop on policies and scientific	Ministry of higher education.	Dr. Jad Isaac.

	research.		
18-21/9	Workshop on developing rain fed farming.	Ministry of Agriculture.	Nader Hrimat
19/9	ESRI conference.	ESRI	Dr. Jad Isaac, Hanna Mo'ah and Issa Zboun.
28/9- 5/10	The regional meeting of the agrobiodiversity project.	Ministry of agriculture.	Dr. Jad Isaac and Hanna Mo'ah.
23/10	Symposium on Jerusalem program.	Welfare Association.	Dr. Mohammed Ghanayem.
5-9/11	Training course on environmental and health systems- Amman.	IDRC	Nizar Qattosh and Abeer Safar.
8-10/11	Conference on peace building and disputes assessment.	IDRC	Dr. Jad Isaac

Lectures:

During this year the institute continued to present the results of its research and studies that are related to settlements agriculture, environment and water for a lot of delegations. They are:

Date	Lecture
1/5/00	Secondary school students.
1/11/00	Delegation from the Christian peace team
1/12/00	Ben Gurion university

15/12/00	Swedish cooperative delegation
5/4/00	American students delegation.
5/4/00	A delegation from the Middle East council of churches .
10/5/00	A Delegation from the church of Scotland.
13/5/00	An American delegation thorough the Catholic Relief Services.
23/5/00	An American delegation through the Alternative Tourism Group.
28/5/00	A German delegation
29/5/00	A delegation of the Christian peace makers team
6/6/00	The German foreign affairs minister through the Orient House.
13/6/00	A delegation from the British parliament.
27/6/00	A delegation of American students
13/7/00	An American delegation.
14/7/00	The assistant of the British minister for foreign affairs through the Orient House.
15/7/00	A delegation from the World Council of Churches.
15/8/00	A French delegation.
5/9/00	A delegation from the World Council of Churches
17/9/00	The ESRI conference.
3/11/00	SOAS London.
5/11/00	The Palestinian community in London Imperial College.
20/11/00	A delegation of the Christian peace makers team.
8/12/00	A delegation from the World Council of Churches

2000 Publications

- J. Isaac (2000, the essentials of sustainable water resource management in Israel and Palestine, Arab Studies Quarterly, 22,2,13-31.)
- Jad Isaac et al (2000), an Atlas of Palestine and Gaza (the West Bank and Gaza) ARIJ.
- Ihab Abed Rabbo and Jad Isaac (2000), political use of land and water distribution: an analysis through statistical data demography and remote sensing, present to IAOS conference on statistics, development and human rights, Montreux 4-8 Sep.
- Jad Isaac (2000), the status and perspective of the negotiations on the Jordan River Basin.

Work Program for the Year 2001

Biodiversity and Agricultural research unit:

- Following up and assessing the observations of rain fed farming in the district of Bethlehem and Al Arroob Agricultural School.
- Participating in the works of the national committee of fighting desertification.
- Participating in the regional project for developing Rain fed farming in corporation with the Palestinian ministry of agriculture.
- Developing the agrobiodiversity strategy
- Trying to execute the consultation related to the Austrian project on the right use of land and water, in corporation with the Palestinian ministry of agriculture.
- Documenting the oral history related to agrobiodiversity in Palestine.
- Finishing the study of urbanization in the middle and south of the West Bank and publishing it.

Geographical information system and remote sensing unit:

- Following up the work of surveying the agrobiodiversity and connecting this information to the geographical information system in corporation with the Palestinian ministry of agriculture.
- Finishing the consultancy of surveying forests in five areas in the West Bank for the Palestinian ministry of agriculture and working with the ministry on a comprehensive survey of forests.
- Monitoring settlements expansion in Palestine and publishing information about it on the homepage and other mass media.
- Following up the work with the negotiation affairs department in the issues related to settlements and borders.
- Complete the gathering of historic spatial information on Palestine .Issuing the Atlas of Palestine on a CD Rom.
- Finishing the project of transportation and its impact on the environment.
- Working on accomplishing a comprehensive survey of Arrtas village including the geographical, social and economical situations in trying to reach a whole and complete management of the natural resources.
- Issuing scientific papers about the results of the executed research.

Water and Environment Research Unit:

- Finishing the project of localizing agenda 21 and publishing the results of this project in a book.
- Finishing the water allocation project in the Jordan River Basin.
- Publishing an initial report on evaluating the impact of settlements on the Arab villages in Salfit district in order to submit a detailed project.
- Trying to work on the project of sustainable development indicators in Palestine in corporation with the ministry of environmental affairs.
- Estimating the emission of green house gases in Palestine
- Assessing the quality of air in Palestine in cooperation with the ministry of environmental affairs.
- Building a small scale wastewater-treatment unit
- Working on modernizing the environmental information system In Palestine in corporation with the Ministry environmental affairs .
- Working with the ministry of higher education and the scientific research unit in producing the green paper.
- Issuing scientific papers on environment and water.

The Financial Situation

The institute this year faced a financial crisis, which threatened its continuation. While the institute started the year with great optimism regarding the funding of a number of submitted projects, the eruption of the Intifada and the consequent decision to stop regional cooperation and shift of donors towards emergency programs led to the loss of funding to most of the research projects. ARIJ adopted an emergency program to face the new situation.

It became clear, more than ever before, that ARIJ cannot go on with its work depending only on funding raised for specific research projects. It is necessary to look for other alternatives including the decision of the Palestinian National Authority to support Palestinian research centers to develop scientific research, technology and innovation as essential ingredients for promoting authentic development in Palestine. But due to the political situation, it is expected that the financial crisis will remain in the coming years. This year, the institute joined in establishing the new farm company which aims at promoting agricultural marketing in an attempt to generate some income to cover part of its operational expenses. The execution of consultancies and the sale of publications and services provided ARIJ with income that covered 20 % of its overall expenses.

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Notes to the Financial Statements:

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