Press Release
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The European Union provides nearly €317,000 to support farmers in the West Bank

The European Union made its contribution to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to support Palestinian farmers and agro-businesses in the West Bank. The contribution was channelled to the PA's programme "Assistance to Agriculture in the West Bank - AAWB"amounts to €317,000.

The eligible beneficiaries are farmers and agro-businesses in the West Bank directly affected by Israeli occupation, and particularly farmers in Area B and C. This support will help the farmers to restart, repair or replace their damaged businesses through different activities including acquisition of agricultural supplies, rehabilitation of land and other small infrastructure works.

Through this programme, the EU supports 42 farmers in the Nablus and Salfit Governorates. The total number of benefiting farmers from the programme is totalled to 61 in the West Bank.

The overall financial envelop of the Assistance to Agriculture in the West Bank (AAWB) programme is €7.0 million. It is expected to serve about 450 eligible beneficiaries in the West Bank with focus on Area C. The programme is managed by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture.

Background:
Most of the European Union's assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is channelled through PEGASE[(1)] Direct Financial Support to the PA, the financial mechanism launched in 2008 to support the PA Reform and Development Plan (2008-2010) and the subsequent Palestinian national development plans. As well as helping to meet a substantial proportion of the PA's running costs. European Union funds are supporting major reform and development programmes in key ministries to help prepare the PA for statehood. Since February 2008, over €2.3 billion have been disbursed through the PEGASE direct financial support programmes. In addition, the EU has provided assistance to the Palestinian people through UNRWA as well as through a wide range of other cooperation projects.

[(1)] *Mécanisme **P**alestino-**E**uropéen de **G**estion de l'**A**ide **S**ocio-**E**conomique (PEGASE)*

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