Press Release
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The Palestinian Authority and the European Union support Gaza farmers with €3.7 million

The Palestinian Authority's programme "Private Sector Reconstruction Gaza – Agriculture" is providing an integrated package of support to Palestinian farmers in the Gaza Strip. This EU-funded programme is helping Palestinian farmers throughout the Gaza Strip affected by the Israeli occupation in restoring their businesses.

The new contribution of €3.7 million targets 178 additional famers and agro-businesses to relaunch, repair or replace damaged businesses. It covers wide range of activities including the acquisition of agricultural supplies, rehabilitation of land and other small infrastructure works. In particular, the Palestinian Authority will rehabilitate 22 water wells to irrigate about 2800 dunums, supply 15 agricultural tractors, provide 118 livestock farms including 2600 heads of livestock and construct 37 greenhouses units. This brings the total number of beneficiaries of the programme until today to 259 farmers.

"Agricultural production is a crucial sector of the Palestinian economy. The support to the agricultural sector is essential to build a future Palestinian State with a viable economy. In this context, the EU contributes to programmes run by the Palestinian Authority to sustain the livelihoods of people and further strengthen the Palestinian agro-businesses. The Gaza Strip has a strong agricultural potential and the farmers there have suffered from the consequences of multiple conflicts since 2008. This programme will allow hundreds of them to restore their agricultural businesses and improve their lives" said the **Deputy EU Representative Tomas Niklasson**.

The overall financial envelope of the Private Sector Reconstruction Gaza - Agriculture (PSRG-A) programme amounts to €10.5 million. It is expected to serve about 400 eligible beneficiaries in the Gaza Strip. The programme was designed and is managed by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Agriculture Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund. The payments are made by the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Finance and Planning through a network of local banks.

Background:

Most of the European Union's assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is channelled through PEGASE 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. It also aims at meeting a substantial share of the PA's running costs. European Union funds currently support major reform and development programmes in key ministries to help prepare the PA for statehood. Since February 2008, over €2.5 billion have been disbursed through 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.

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