



## EVAP News Vol.4 (January 2013)

### Improved Extension for Value-added Agriculture in the Jordan River Rift Valley “EVAP”

Implemented jointly with Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture “MOA”

Funded by Japan for International Cooperation Agency “JICA”

General Directorate of Extension & Rural Development

Ministry of Agriculture,

Palestine National Authority

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### Conducting trade-matching sessions between An-nassaryia Farmers Cooperative and some key farming inputs suppliers:

The sessions were held on January 1, 2013 at An-nassaryia farmers cooperative office. They were attended by a group of member farmers and three farming inputs suppliers form Hebron, Jericho, and Tubas. The main objective is to negotiate and obtain a lower buying prices by applying bulk procurement method.



### A group of pilot farmers in Jericho & Auja areas were received grafted watermelon seedlings:

Approximately 8,000 grafted watermelon seedlings were distributed on eight (8) carefully selected pilot farmers both in Jericho & Auja areas. The aim is to resume cultivating watermelons in this area as a strategic & key crop which could replace the Israeli products in the local market. The importance of this area is mainly attributed to its well-know history of producing tasty watermelons.



### Establishment of a Compost Making Unit in Jeftlik area:

The required equipments were delivered to the Al-Ard Al-zera'yeh Farmers Cooperative in Jeftlik for the purpose of initiating compost making process by using all crops and animal residues abandoned in the area. In its turn, the compost will contribute towards improving soil fertility, reduction of production cost, and replacing the existing Israeli compost in local market.



**Follow-up Field Visits to EVAP Project's Targeted Sites:**



**Study Tour, Pilot flowers farms- Tulkarem**



**EVAPs' Demo Farm Signboard, Bardala**



**Study tour, Flower's farm, M. Barakat**



**Practical Training on Grafting Techniques- Jericho**



**F. visit to An-nassaryia cooperative ,with Ms. Yoshinami & Mr. Ogata**



**F. Inputs Procured by bulk Procurement method**

**Training of MOA Extensionists on Watermelon Cultivation Techniques:**

A training workshop was conducted at the MOA HQ, December 22, 2012 in close cooperation with a watermelons expert from (Palestinians 1948) who has a long professional experience in the training topic. The workshop was attended by all vegetables & Plant Production extension officers from the entire West Bank districts, including EVAP target areas.



**Carried-out a Study Tour program for a group of farmers from Frosh Beit Dajan Cooperative to Pilot Flower farms in Tulkarem:**

A study tour for pilot and interested farmers from F.B. Dajan cooperative was held in Tulkarem to explore pilot flower farms & share experiences with other pilot farmer from Bala'a village (Mr. Nidal Imair). Indeed this tour was conducted under the efforts being exerted to change predominant conventional crops patterns by introducing high value crops which in their turn could improve farmer's income and mitigating marketing bottlenecks faced by conventional corps.

