

INCOME, AGENCY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PALESTINIAN FARMERS: SOUQONA PROJECT BASELINE ASSESSMENT

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Prepared by AL-SAH EL COMPANY FOR INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATION



Partners in Continuous Improvement



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1 Baseline Objectives & Methodology

1.1 Introduction

The Souqona project was launched in April 2016, with funds from the Australian Government as part of the program “Palestinian Farmers Connecting to Markets,” which constitutes the third phase of the Australian Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement (AMENCA) program in the occupied Palestinian territory. This project is implemented by a consortium of three organizations: Care International West Bank & Gaza as the leading party, The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), and the International Centre for Agriculture and Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA).

Souqona’s main goal is to increase income, agency, and market opportunity for female and male Palestinian farmers through growth in pro-poor agribusiness and market development.

Souqona targets two main value chains – the sheep and goat dairy products value chain and the vegetable value chain (entry commodities are cucumber, eggplant, and tomato) – and was planned as two phases over five years. It targets 23 locations in three governorates located in the northern area of the West Bank (Nablus, Jenin, and Tubas).

In order to lay down the benchmarks for project objectives, Care International commissioned Al-Sahel Company for Institutional Development and Communication (Al-Sahel) to conduct a baseline study.

1.2 Study objectives

The main objective of this baseline study is to prepare a detailed reference database of baseline information that will assist the project in measuring change and capturing impact. More specifically, the baseline study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Validate Souqona targets that are set as part of the theory of change and logical framework in the targeted locations as well as the population size for the targeted value chains in the West Bank.
- Provide the baseline information against which the project will measure results, monitoring, evaluation, impact of the project and the achievement of the indicators.
- Provide recommendations and considerations to help increase impact and outreach/scale-up.
- Validate the overall theory of change and the basis for the M&E framework, mainly in relation to relevance (how the theory of change addresses the needs and opportunities of the impact group by addressing value chain and systemic constraints) and early signs of impact/outcomes as a result of the progress that has been made.

1.3 Study methodology

The Souqona project targets Market actors in two value chains, the sheep and goat dairy value chain and the vegetable value chain (comprised of tomatoes, eggplant, and cucumber). The project has a

geographic target area of 23 communities the northern part of West Bank (Nablus, Jenin, and Tubas). The following activities were undertaken to collect reliable data at the level of the market system of the two value chains.

1.3.1 Literature review

The study team undertook a comprehensive review of all the documents and reports shared by the Souqona project team, seeking to extract all relevant baseline data. These documents included:

- Souqona Project proposal
- Value chains selection criteria
- Private sector-input suppliers Engagement Analysis
- Project reports and action plans
- Interventions strategies (safer products, dairy milk collection hubs)
- Cucumber/tomato/eggplant market system analysis
- Export potential index for cucumber, tomato, eggplant
- Market attractiveness index report for cucumber, tomato, eggplant
- Cucumber Fact Sheets for exports to the Israeli and United States markets
- Tomato Fact Sheets for exports to the Israeli and Saudi Arabia markets
- Eggplant Fact Sheets for exports to the Israeli and Netherlands markets
- Business mapping for cherry tomatoes, safer products, and baby cucumbers
- Sheep and goat dairy cold chain pre-feasibility assessment
- AMENCA 3 baseline assessment
- AMENCA 3 and project M&E framework
- AMENCA 3 social inclusion strategy
- Definitions and notes on AMENCA 3 indicators

1.3.2 Review of logical framework indicators

A one-day workshop was organized with the Souqona project team to review the program's logframe and indicators, and identify the tools needed to capture baseline data on project indicators. The workshop discussions revealed that several of the areas of inquiry included in the baseline ToRs are not linked to the project performance indicators, but need to be captured nonetheless to inform the design of future interventions within the framework of the project. Discussions also confirmed that the following tools will be required in order to capture data on project indicators:

- Structured interviews with a representative sample of farmers and women and youth in farmer households from the targeted communities;
- Semi-structured group interviews with women and youth key informants to augment data gathered through structured interviews; and

- Semi-structured interviews with a purposive sample of market actors (traders, processors, input providers, community based organizations (CBOs), and social enterprises) to enable Souqona to establish a better understanding of value chain dynamics and investments.

Moreover, through the workshop discussions, it was determined that while it will be possible to measure baseline data for all project indicators, not all of those measurements will be statistically valid (because beneficiaries may end up exhibiting a different socio-economic profile than that of the average population in the targeted communities). Providing a valid measurement of these indicators will require conducting a baseline study once interventions are designed, intervention result chains and their indicators are defined, and intervention beneficiaries and partners are selected. Accordingly, baselines will not be captured for some indicators in the Souqona or AMENCA 3 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

1.3.3 Survey of producers in the two target value chains

Structured interviews (questionnaires) were carried out with a representative sample of targeted vegetable producers and sheep and goat dairy producers (which include male farmers, female farmers & youth). The survey will also collect quantitative data on the following areas of interest, among others:

- The socio-economic status of farmers working in the targeted value chains, mainly household livelihood, poverty status, income, assets, expenditure and gender division of labor.
- Farmers' production role (producer, processor, etc.), productivity, profitability, access to input, linkages between value chain actors, access to the market, information and services (access to labor, credit, technology including ICT, training, mechanization, extension services, infrastructure, and markets).
- Farmers' access to land, water and infrastructure
- Farmers' sales nationally and in exports
- Farmers' access and adaptation to innovation and new practices
- Farmers' perception on private sector, MFIs, and investors
- Productivity analysis, cost, profile, scale of production for selected value chain farmers
- Other dimensions related to women and youth, including:
 - Generational and household power dynamics, including gender division of decision-making concerning economic activity and household finances;
 - Roles and nature of engagement and involvement in the value chain; and
 - Capacities, perceptions, aspirations, returns from labor and personal fulfillment, potential, and opportunities across the value chains.

The study team, in close coordination and collaboration with Care International, designed a questionnaire for each value chain to cover the research areas. With several stages of feedback from CARE International, the survey questionnaires were deployed for testing in the field. Field data collectors were mobilized and trained in the survey before data collection commenced. Data collectors were assigned work localities and provided a time schedule for collecting the information. A field supervisor then compared the results against a set of completion and accuracy benchmarks. The survey

manager re-interviewed 5-6% of each data collector’s respondents, and a random sample of 10% of entered questionnaires were manually and electronically checked for entry mistakes, with corrections made as needed.

Quality control has become an accepted “research culture” at Al-Sahel. Moreover, all of the data collectors who worked on this survey have long experience in the field work with Al-Sahel and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. They are aptly familiar with the targeted regions, and they are particularly familiar with household-based surveys.

1.3.3.1 Sampling design

A random sample was selected using proportionate allocation to get a self-weighted sample. The selected number of producers in the two value chains was chosen based on the farmer’s total numbers in each of the 22 targeted localities¹, with the sample size proportionally allocated based on the concentration of producers. Two samples were drawn, one representing the sheep and goat producers and one representing the vegetable producers.

The total sample size needed was estimated to be 381 sheep and goat **household** producers and 698 **household** vegetable producers representing the two value chains in the targeted localities. The sample size allowed data dissemination in targeted clusters, where 353 household producers were interviewed in the Jenin cluster, and 397 in Tubas and 328 in Nablus. By the end of the survey, 703 interviews were completed with vegetable farmers.

Table 1: Sample distribution for targeted localities

Cluster	Sheep/goat dairy farmers	Vegetable producers	Total
Jenin	92	261	353
Tubas	145	252	397
Nablus	138	190	328
Total	375	703	1078

1.3.4 Focus groups and individual interviews with women and youth

With the aim of collecting and analyzing qualitative data related to gender dynamics and the role of youth in the two selected value chains, as well as the challenges faced by women and youth, three focus groups were conducted with women and three focus groups with youth, all covering the three clusters (Nablus, Tubas and Jenin) of the 12 communities targeted in the Project. Total participation comprised 81 women and youth (30 females, 25 males).

In addition, 15 individual interviews with women and youth were undertaken (eight women, five youth), with the aim of providing specific cases through which women and youth farmers express how they perceive their roles and the challenges they face.

¹ Ramoun in Ramallah governorate was not targeted by the survey

Table 2: Focus group distribution and number of participants

Cluster	Governorate	Community	Number of participants			
			Women	Youth (18-29)		
				Females	Males	Total Youth
Cluster 1	Nablus	Froush Beit Daajan, Beit Fourik, Nawajee, Ein Shibly, Nassariyyeh, Aqrabaneyye, Beit Hasan	24	18	9	27
Cluster 2	Tubas	Ein Al-Beida, Kardala, Bardala, Tayaseer, Aqaba, Al-Aqqaba, Tammoun, Atouf, Wadi Fara'a	42	10	8	18
Cluster 3	Jenin	Jdaydeh, Dair Abu Daif, Arraneh, Abba Sharqieh, Faqqoua, Al Jalameh	15	2	9	11
Total			81	30	25	56

1.3.5 In-depth interviews with market actors

The study team conducted 5 in-depth interviews with private sector companies, investors, factories, input suppliers, service providers, marketers, wholesalers and other actors believed to be active actors in the two value chains. This research area was also guided by market system assessments and the private sector engagement analysis document and other related documents made available by Care International.

2 Vegetable and Dairy Value Chain Baseline Findings

2.1 Income and expenditure

Goal level indicator: 13,551 farmers (including women and youth) report increase income from Souqona interventions

2.1.1 Monthly income

The survey results indicated that the **average household monthly income for sheep/goat dairy farmers stands at NIS 2,671**. Dairy farmers in Tubas cluster reported the highest average income compared to farmers in other clusters. On the other hand, sheep/goat dairy farmers in Nablus cluster reported the lowest average monthly income, estimated around NIS 2,081.

Vegetable farmers have greater income on average, with the **average household monthly income of those surveyed standing at NIS 3,513**. Vegetable farmers in Tubas cluster reported the highest average income compared to farmers in other clusters. On the other hand, vegetable farmers in Nablus cluster reported the lowest average monthly income, estimated around NIS 2,206. Figures 1 and 2 below show the average and the distribution by cluster of household monthly income.

Figure 1: Sheep/goat dairy farmers: Average monthly household income, in NIS

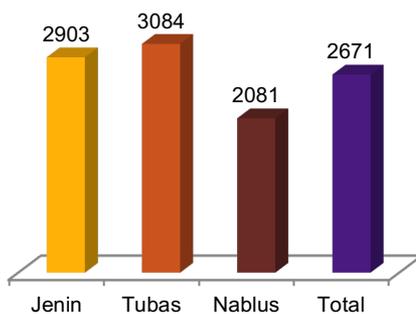
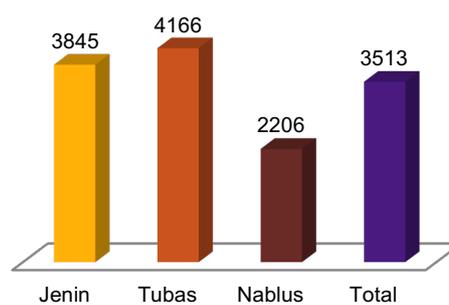


Figure 2: Vegetable farmers: Average monthly household income, in NIS



Agriculture is a major contributor to household income among targeted beneficiaries, contributing around two-thirds (65.9 percent) of the total monthly income of sheep/goat dairy farmers, and around 92% of the monthly income of vegetable farmers.

Figure 3: Sheep/goat dairy farmers: Agriculture contribution to household income, %

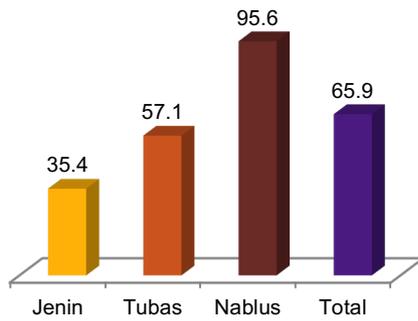
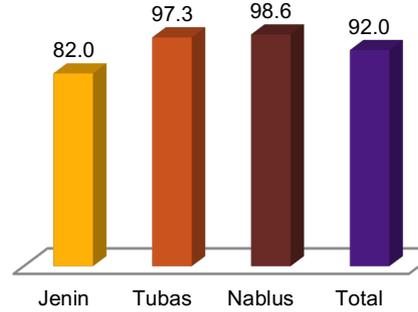
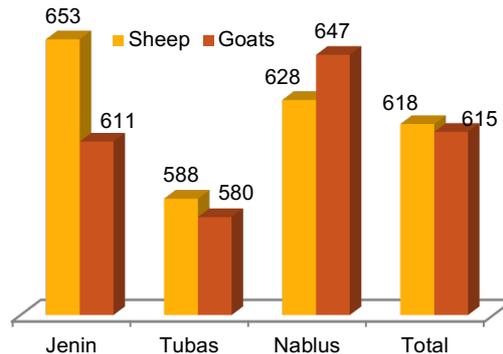


Figure 4: Vegetable farmers: Agriculture contribution to household income, %



Location deeply impacts the value of agricultural assets. Sheep/goat dairy farmers in Jenin cluster reported the highest average income per individual livestock compared to farmers in other clusters. On the other hand, sheep/goat farmers in the Tubas cluster reported the lowest average income per each sheep and goat, at NIS 588 and NIS 580 per season respectively.

Figure 5: Average net income from the sale of milk and sheep and goat offspring, per head of livestock, NIS



The potential gap appears even greater for vegetable farmers, where income for the same produce in two regions can differ by half. In Jenin, tomatoes grown in open fields yielded NIS 15,000 per dunum whereas in Nablus, the same tomatoes yielded NIS 7,136 per dunum. Tomato farmers in the Tubas cluster reported the highest annual income (also of all types of produce) compared to other clusters, estimated at NIS 18,638 per dunum of tomato greenhouses. Among cucumber farmers, those in Nablus clusters reported the highest annual income among the three clusters, with annual income estimated at NIS 13,120 per dunum of cucumber greenhouses. Eggplant farmers in all three clusters reported more similar average income. More details in that regards are shown in the table below.

Table 3: Average net income per year per dunum reported by vegetable farmers for vegetable produce, NIS

Clusters	Cucumber		Tomatoes		Eggplants
	Open fields	Greenhouses	Open fields	Greenhouses	Greenhouses
Jenin	10,000	11,284	15,000	15,072	6,500
Tubas	12,697	11,662	8,697	18,638	7,900
Nablus	8,882	13,120	7,136	17,436	6,500
Total	10,524	11,741	8,456	19,708	7,433

2.1.2 Household expenditures

Monthly household expenses among the targeted farmers are NIS 2,793 (goat/sheep dairy farmers) and NIS 3,426 (vegetable farmers). Goat and sheep dairy farmers in Nablus reported the highest average expenditure compared to farmers in other clusters.

Figure 6: Sheep/goat dairy farmers: Average monthly household expenditure by locality, NIS

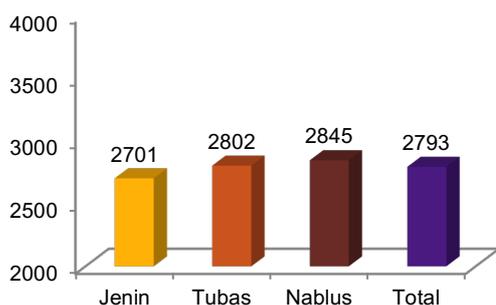
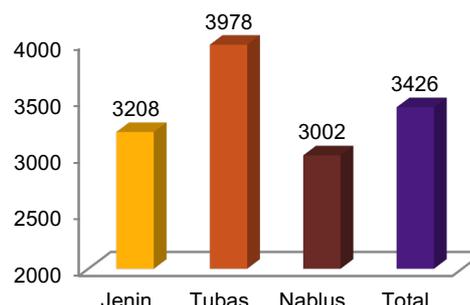


Figure 7: Vegetable farmers: Average monthly household expenditure by locality, NIS



2.2 Household Members' Employment

Among the targeted beneficiaries, agriculture provides what appears to be a fairly accessible source of employment: among all the farmers surveyed – both sheep/goat dairy farmers and vegetable farmers - reported at least one family member currently employed. Sheep/goat dairy farmers in Jenin had the highest numbers of employed household members, with 56.6% of them reporting more than three employed household members. ²

² That include paid and unpaid workers

Figure 8: Sheep/goat dairy farmers: Employed household members, by number and cluster

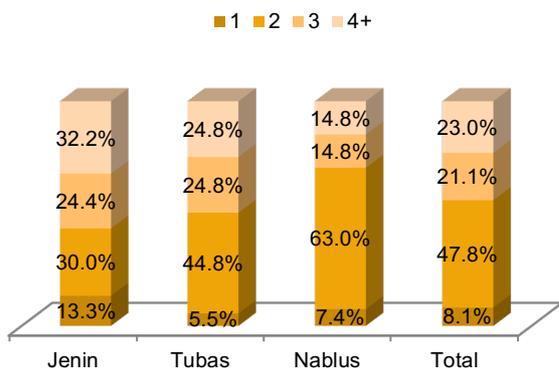
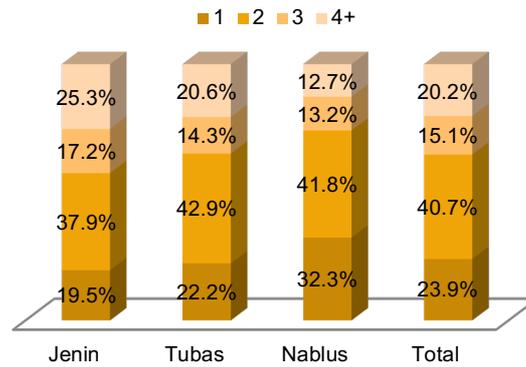


Figure 9: Vegetable farmers: Employed household members, by clusters



This does not indicate the entire picture, however, as gender clearly plays a role in employment opportunities. Nearly one-third of vegetable farmer households (31.3%) have no employed females, compared to the 1.6% that have no employed males in their households. Similarly, 9.9% of sheep/goat dairy farmer households have no employed females.

Figure 10: Sheep/goat dairy farmers: Employed household members, by number of employed and sex

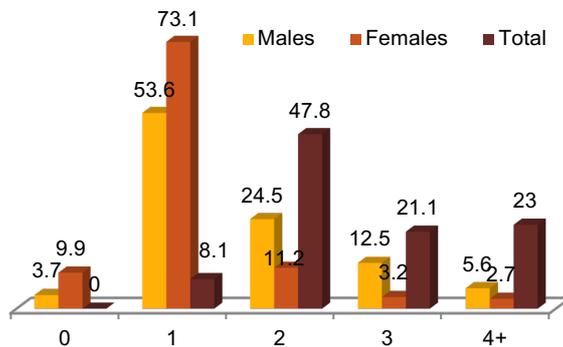
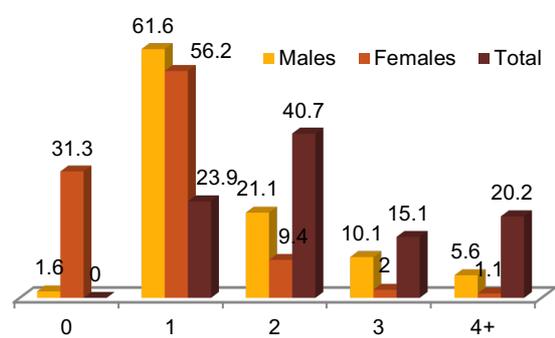


Figure 11: Vegetable farmers: Employed household members, by number of employed and sex



The rate of unemployment among sheep/goat dairy farmer households stands at 13.4%, slightly lower than the unemployment rate in the West Bank (at 18.2 in 2017³). Among vegetable farmers, the unemployment rate (16.9%) was slightly higher, but still below the regional rate. Figures 12 and 13 illustrate the survey findings in that regard. Interviews with households indicated that unemployment and lack of work opportunities, mainly resulting from limited economic space and access and movement restrictions, were perceived as the key challenges for both groups of farmers.

³ (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017, q1)

Figure 12: Sheep/goat dairy farmers: Unemployment rate among the work force, %

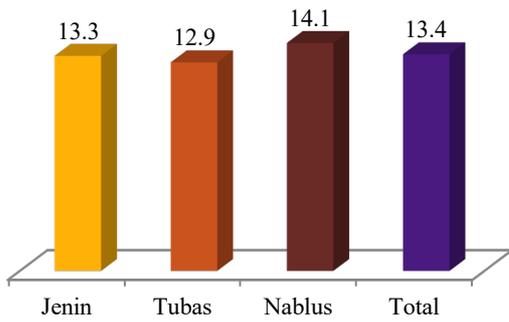
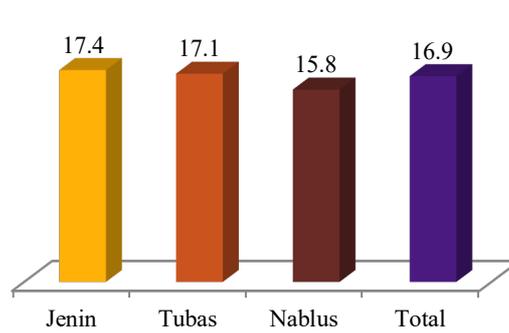


Figure 13: Vegetable farmers: Unemployment rate among the work force, %



The difference between the unemployment rate among these agricultural households and the whole of the West Bank can be explained by the large number of unsalaried workers in these households. These family members (many of them female) are working but do not receive pay as can be seen from the two figures below which indicate that the vast majority of targeted households have unpaid workers.

Figure 14: Sheep/goat dairy farmers: Un-Paid employed household members, by number and gender

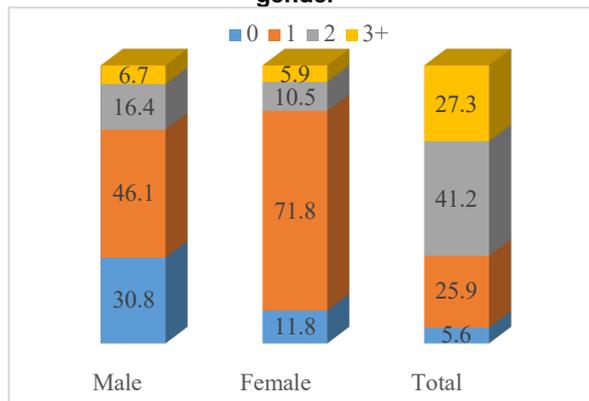
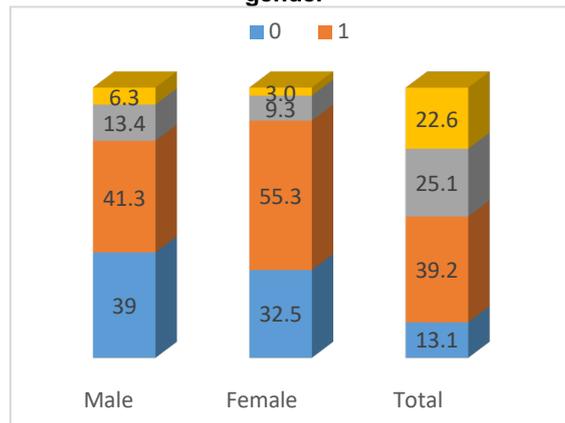


Figure 15: Vegetable farmers: Un-Paid employed household members, by number and gender



Case Study 1: Working in Agriculture was Hisham's Last Resort



“In 2011, I got my bachelor degree in sport education from An-Najah University.” relates Hisham Faqha, a 29-year-old farmer from Ein Al-Beida. “I travelled abroad thinking I could find better work opportunities, but returned unsuccessful. I also could not find a job here in Palestine. I was active as a board member of a joint youth club for northern communities in the Jordan Valley (Bardala, Kardala and Ein Bayda). We established this club as part of a youth initiative supported by MA’AN Development Centre, and we were hoping to register the clubs, but were unsuccessful.

As I could not find any suitable and fulfilling job in my field of specialization, I started working in agriculture five years ago. In the Jordan Valley area, being involved in agriculture seems to be the only employment option for youth nowadays. My parents are farmers that own 20 dunums of land. We also have 40 heads of goats.

Currently, I work alongside my brother and mother. We plant the greenhouse with cucumber, green beans and tomatoes. As a young farmer, the greatest challenge that I face is marketing our produce. Prices of vegetables are very low, and we barely make a profit. One box of cucumber costs from NIS 12-15, and I sell it at NIS 15. I usually sell to known middlemen in the area. They export to Israel. Traders control prices in the market. Prices of agricultural inputs are high. I spend around NIS 2,500 on livestock feed. We produce cheese. Marketing yoghurt is very difficult. It is also costly to send milk to companies. Along with other youth, we were thinking of establishing a dairy factory in our area, but we could not get funding for this initiative.

We also suffer from the lack of water. We used to access 16 cubic meter of water an hour, but the Israeli occupation reduced the quantities to seven cubic meters an hour. Our water equipment is often confiscated.

The Ministry of Agriculture does not support us. Extension workers visit us but their experience is limited. Farmers often have to depend on their own knowledge and skills. I have never been compensated by the Ministry for losses I sustained as a result of bad weather. I lost around NIS 12,000 worth of greenhouse equipment.

Despite these challenges, I feel that working in agriculture is a suitable choice for young Palestinians. It is better than being unemployed. It provides a source of income for me and my family. And it is better than working in Israel.

2.3 Access to Water

EoP Outcome 1 Indicator: 3,900 farmers have access to improved water management systems

Water wells are the main source of water for more than 50% of sheep/goat dairy farmers surveyed and for more than 70% of vegetable farmers. In Jenin, 100% of vegetable farmers reported that water wells are their main source of irrigation water. Figures 14 and 15 below illustrate the survey findings in that regard.

Figure 16: Sheep/goat dairy farmers: Main source of water

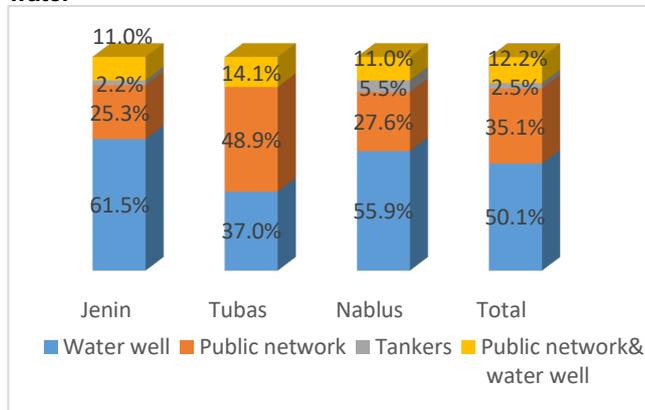
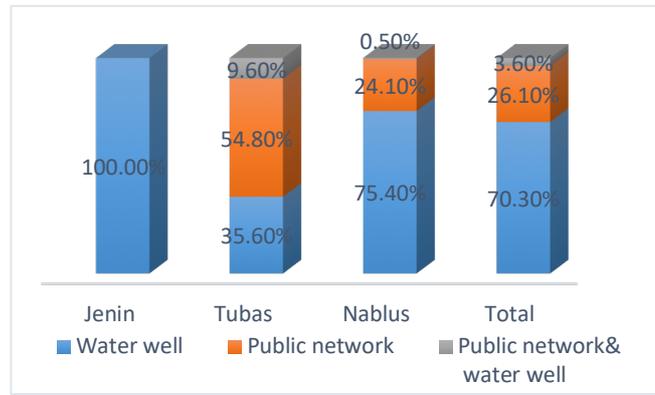
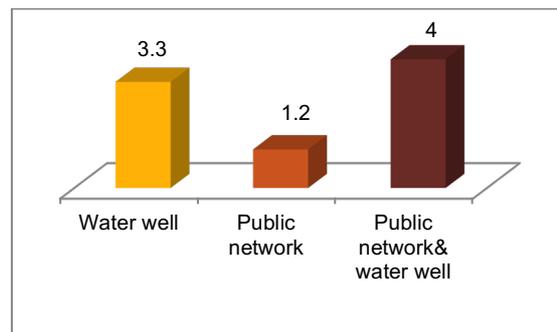


Figure 17: Vegetable farmers: Main source of water



Despite their prevalence, water wells were not reported to be the most cost-effective water source. Public water networks are the cheapest water source available, with average prices at NIS 1.2 per cubic meter, compared to NIS 3.3 per cubic meter for water procured from water wells.

Figure 18: Vegetable farmers: Average prices of water sources, NIS



The vast majority of vegetable farmers surveyed in the clusters use drip networks (40 cm) to irrigate their crops (Figure 17). Only 2.8% of vegetable farmers are using balanced pressure networks that can be used to preserve water and reduce production cost (Figure 18).

Figure 19: Vegetable farmers: Do you use drip irrigation networks?, by cluster

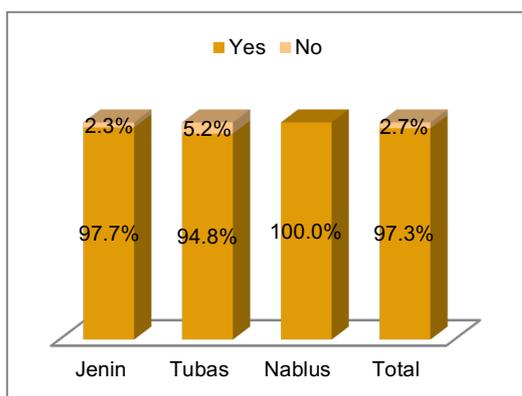
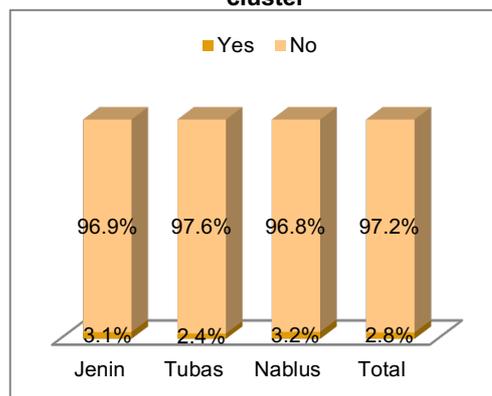


Figure 20: Vegetable farmers: Do you use drip balanced pressure networks?, by cluster



When asked about the problems they encountered in accessing irrigation water, vegetable farmers reported water disconnection/interruption, limited supply, the long distance between their land and irrigation sources and high water prices. These challenges were more visible in the Nablus cluster where more than 92% of farmers emphasized problems with water disconnection/interruption and the limited supply of water.

Table 4: Vegetable farmers: What problems do you encounter accessing water? By cluster

Water related problems	Jenin		Tubas		Nablus		Total	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Water disconnection	47.1	52.9	33.3	66.7	92.6	7.4	54.5	45.5
Limited supply of water amounts	54.4	45.6	35.9	64.1	92.6	7.4	58.1	41.9
Long distance between land and water source	44.1	55.9	20.7	79.3	76.7	23.3	44.5	55.5
High water prices	67.7	32.3	23.1	76.9	78.3	21.7	52.4	47.6
Problems related to water quality	5	95	0.8	99.2	12.7	87.3	5.6	94.4

Assessing the West Bank Value Chain for Sheep and Goat Dairy Products

Based on "Market and Value Chain Mapping and Development for Sheep and Goat Dairy Products in the Middle and Northern West Bank," CARE, 2013

A value chain is the set of activities performed in an industry in order to deliver a finished product. There are five chains to producing sheep and goat dairy products: inputs, production and processing, outbound logistics, marketing and sales, and consumers.

The sheep and goat dairy products value chain includes a large number of vulnerable farmers, many of them women. Further, there are multiple large private sector opportunities available related to animal feed and commercialization of sheep and goat dairy production.

Input stage constraints:

- Need to improve the genetic potential of sheep and goat, the lack of knowledge on how to assess milk productivity, and the absence of intensive breeding. Less productive local strains are more common due to their lower initial cost.
- lack of access to water by approximately 50% of farmers in the targeted areas. Establishment of new water networks and utilization of unused water wells will improve the situation for farmers living in remote areas in Area C.
- Majority of farmers do not provide regular *veterinary care* for their herds. Those that do are limited to Ministry of Agriculture vaccinations. Private veterinary care is expensive and most do it themselves. There is a high mortality rate.
- Forage available has been steadily decreasing due to restrictions of access to grazing land and changing climate. Concentrated feed is expensive, leading to decreased feeding and lower milk production. Solutions include private sector investment and increasing forage.
- Supply chain of sheep and goat milk is weak and fragmented, characterized by small farmers and individual processes.
- Lack of cool storage, causing spoilage and the need to process the milk into cheese. Preservation of milk in cooled storage will allow sheep and goat dairy products to be available year-round rather than just in certain seasons as they currently are.
- Rural women are involved heavily in the input stage. However, they are constrained by the lack of knowledge, equipment, and training. There is the opportunity to engage the Ministry of Agriculture to provide training and instruction manuals for women to improve product quality and increase efficiency.

Production stage constraints:

- Most consumers prefer sheep and goat dairy products, but do not purchase them because of the perceived lack of quality and hygiene and the lack of availability.
- Lack of stability and product quality assurance due to home-based production and lack of recipes.
- Need for *commercialization of sheep and goat dairy products* through a private sector engagement or cooperatives.

Outbound logistics, markets and sales, and consumer stages constraints:

- All related to the systemic constraints discussed above.

2.4 Agriculture holdings

Purpose level indicator: AUD 15,394,166 additional agricultural production is generated through Souqona

2.4.1 Ewe and nanny holdings

On average, each sheep/goat dairy farmer has 43 ewes or nannies. Dairy farmers in the Nablus cluster have the highest average number of ewes and nannies compared to farmers in other clusters. On the other hand, sheep/goat dairy farmers in the Jenin cluster reported the lowest average number of ewes and nannies at 37 (Figure 19). Overall, 35.6% of the targeted farmers have fewer than 20 heads, 39.8% have anywhere between 20-50 heads, while the remaining percentage of farmers (24.7%) reported maintaining more than 50 heads of ewes and nannies (Figure 20).

Figure 21: Average holdings of ewes and goats reported by farmers

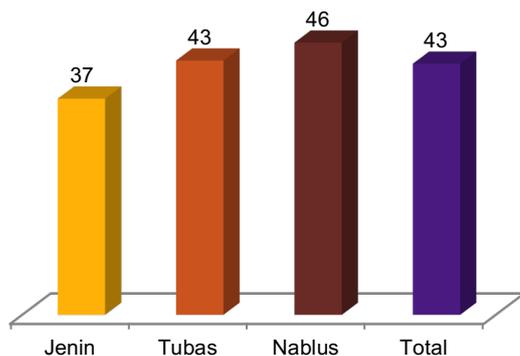
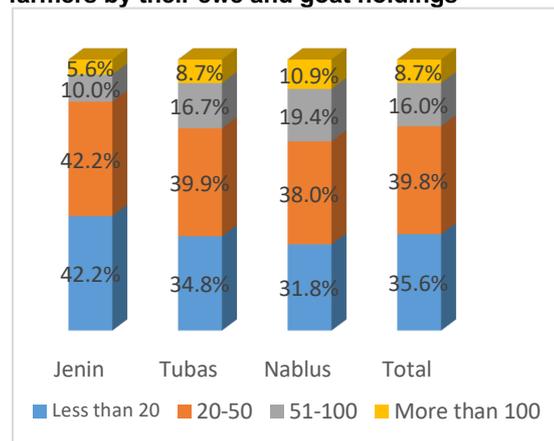


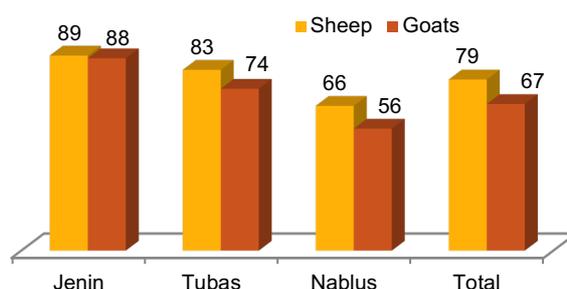
Figure 22: Distribution of sheep/goat dairy farmers by their ewe and goat holdings



2.4.2 Sheep and goat milk production

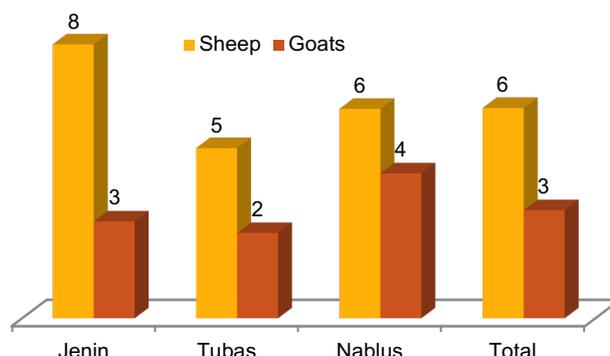
In the targeted clusters, the survey found that each ewe produces an average of 79 liters of milk while each nanny produces an average of 67 liters of milk annually. Sheep/goat dairy farmers in Jenin cluster reported the highest average production of ewe and nanny milk compared to farmers in other clusters, while, sheep/goat dairy farmers in the Nablus cluster reported the lowest average production of milk, as portrayed below.

Figure 23: Average production of milk reported by farmers, by cluster and livestock



Farmers reported that they lose an average of 6% of sheep milk and 3% of goat milk every season. Nevertheless, farmers were either hesitant to report a specific percentage of lost milk or were not able to provide accurate numbers because in most cases, they keep no farm records.

Figure 24: Average fresh milk and processed milk lost per season, %



2.4.3 Land holdings cultivated with vegetables

Survey findings indicated that vegetable farmers surveyed have more than 3,000 dunums of land cultivated with cucumber, tomato and eggplants, with tomato and cucumber comprising 95% of the cultivated areas. The cultivated area in the Tubas cluster comprises more than 42% of all of the cultivated areas in the clusters.

Table 5: Land area cultivated with vegetables (cucumber, tomato and eggplant)

Clusters	Cucumber open fields	Cucumber greenhouses	Tomato open fields	Tomato greenhouses	Eggplant greenhouses
Jenin	4	322	10	659	26
Tubas	266	540	196	313	92
Nablus	269	128	33	328	48
Total	538	990	230	1299	166

When asked about the percentage of total production that is lost pre- and post-harvest per dunum, vegetable farmers reported a loss of 3.9% of cucumbers cultivated in open fields and 5.2% of

cucumbers cultivated in greenhouses. They also reported a loss of 4% of tomatoes cultivated in open fields and 6.7% of tomatoes cultivated in greenhouses.

Table 6: Total produce lost pre- and post-harvest per dunum, by crop

Clusters	Cucumber open fields	Cucumber greenhouses	Tomato open fields	Tomato greenhouses	Eggplant greenhouses
Jenin	3.0	6.6	3.2	13.3	2.8
Tubas	2.4	4.3	3.7	2.2	2.6
Nablus	7.6	4.3	5.0	4.4	3.4
Total	3.9	5.2	4.0	6.7	2.7

2.5 Exported Products

EoP Outcome 2 Indicator: AUD 19,650,320 of additional exports facilitated, including new exports

Almost all sheep/goat dairy farmers surveyed (99.2 percent) reported that they had not exported their milk or milk products to Israel or to international markets, with no significant variations between clusters. About 30% of vegetable farmers (29.3%) reported, on the other hand, that some of their produce had been exported, with the highest proportion of these found in Jenin cluster. Vegetable farmers in the Nablus cluster had the least experience exporting their produce, with only 17.9% having done so.

It is worth noting, however, that the majority of the farmers do not know the final destination of their products, as most of them sell their products to middlemen or wholesalers who distribute the products through market channels. Survey results are shown in the two figures below.

Figure 25: Sheep/goat dairy farmers: Have you exported any of your milk or dairy products?, by cluster

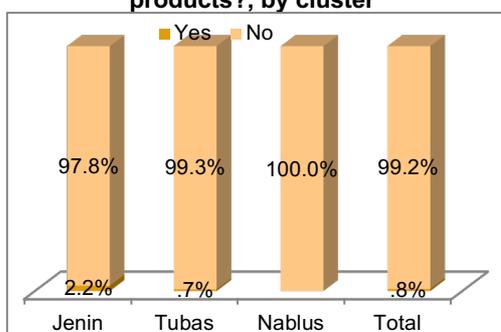
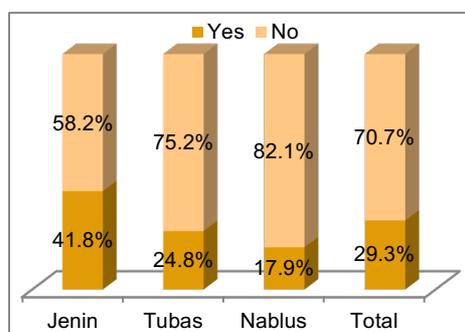


Figure 26: Vegetable farmers: Have you exported any of your produce?, by cluster



Of the vegetable farmers who reported that they had exported produce, each farmer reported exporting an average of 14.5 tons of cucumber, 28.2 tons of tomato and 5.6 tons of eggplant.

Table 7: Average quantities of vegetables exported

Clusters	Cucumber	Tomatoes	Eggplants
Jenin	9.8	45.4	3.3
Tubas	23.1	7.5	8.4
Nablus	7.7	6.0	8.7
Total	14.5	28.2	5.6

2.6 Access to market information

Farmers were asked if they had access to information about the market. Most (97.4% of the vegetable farmers and 90.6% of the sheep/goat dairy farmers) reported having access to market information, as well as product specifications.

Figure 27: Do you have access to market information?, Males

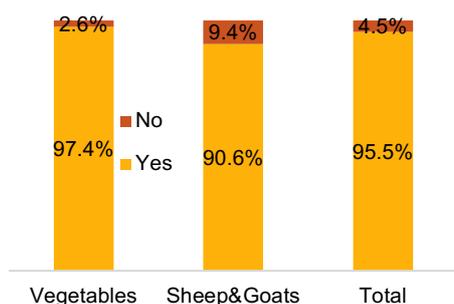
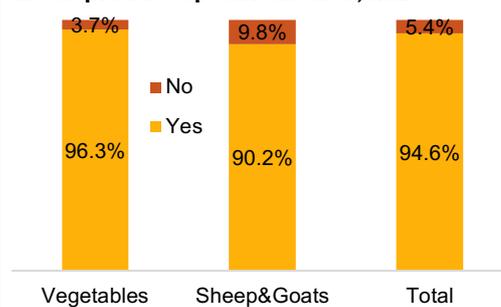


Figure 28: Do you have access to information about product specifications?, Males



Unlike men, most women reported that they don't have access to information about the market. (97.4% of the vegetable farmers and 90.6% of the sheep/goat dairy farmers) or to access information about product specifications as be observed from the two figures below.

Figure 29: Do you have access to market information?, Females

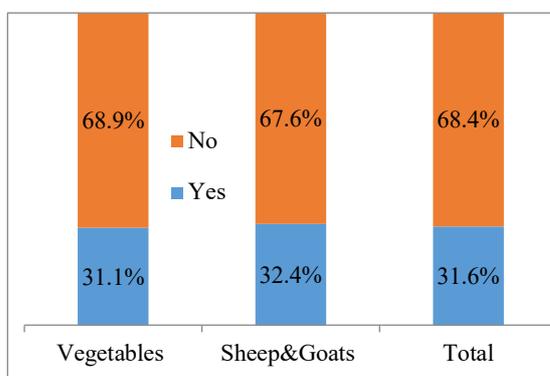
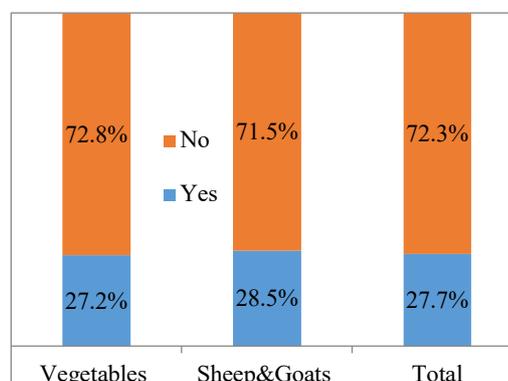


Figure 30: Do you have access to information about product specifications?, Females



Vegetable and sheep/goat dairy farmers obtain market information mainly from middlemen and traders. Information shared often focuses on the sizes required by the buyers, prices and changes in market demand, although there were complaints from some farmers concerning the level of transparency among the traders, particularly when it comes to the prices their products were bringing at end markets and future demand. Because farmers rely on the buyers to provide them with market information, they are usually price takers and do not take part in price negotiations with the buyers.

While the farmers seemed satisfied with their access to information, most farmers did not use this information to develop their products to meet market demands. Only a minority of vegetable and sheep/goat dairy farmers reported using market information to develop their products (Figure 27). Most farmers (83.5%) participated in sharing production and marketing information with other farmers.

Figure 31: Do you develop your products based on the market intimations you have?, by farmer type

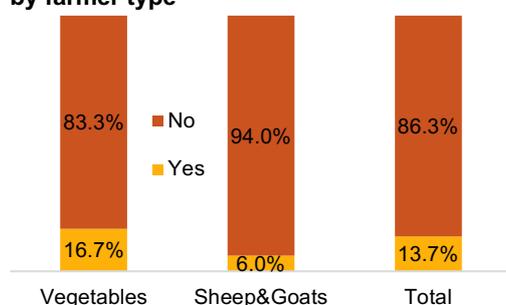
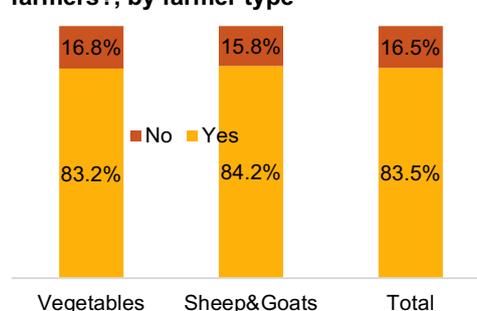


Figure 32: Do you exchange production and marketing information with other farmers?, by farmer type



Case Study 2: Low Prices, High Expenses Make Family Farming Difficult



Alla Salameh, 29, from Froush Beit Dajan is married with two children. He says, “I started working in agriculture in 2005 on my family’s land of six dunums. We plant vegetables, like cucumber and tomatoes. With my two brothers, we manage the farm. A year ago, we also established a small 300-meter-square chicken farm to diversify our income sources, because working in vegetable production is seasonal and is not sufficient to cover our household needs.”

My wife does not work with me in the farm. I don’t want her to be engaged in agriculture. I want her to focus on raising our children.

We live in Beit Dajan and it’s illogical to bring our small children with us to the farm, as we have to leave the house early and come back late in the evening. Conditions in Froush Beit Dajan are unsuitable for living.

As a young farmer, the challenges I face are related to the low prices of our produce sold to traders, who then increase prices in the market. There are several middlemen, and this significant increase in prices of vegetables from farmer to middlemen to the consumer is unfair. Prices of chicken fodder

are also high. Every 45 days, I need 55 tons that cost me NIS 2,300. We also face water shortages. We used to depend on water from Al-Fara, but wells have dried up. We buy water at a cost of NIS 2.5 for one cubic meter. I spend around NIS 8,000 on water per season.

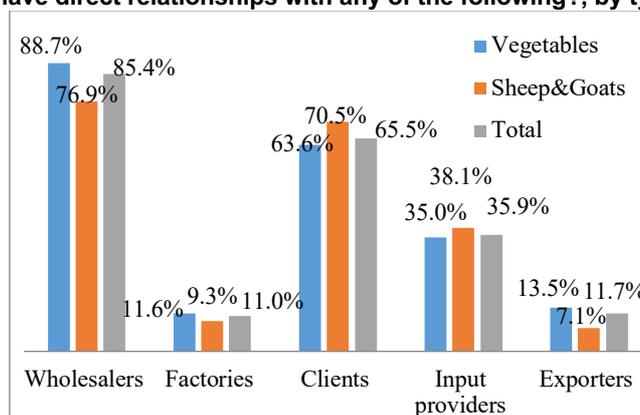
To encourage youth to work in agriculture, it is important that the Ministry of Agriculture supports young married couples and farmers. They also have to monitor the market to avoid illegal Israeli settlement products and vegetables from entering our markets. Illegal smuggling of Israeli produce negatively affects Palestinian farmers and influence prices of vegetables.

2.7 Relationships with Value Chain Actors

Intermediate Outcome 2.1 Indicator: % female & male farmers reporting improvement in their linkages with other value chain actors

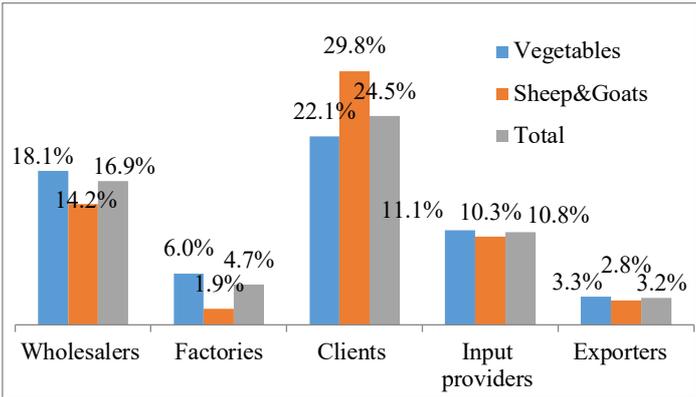
Male vegetable farmers and sheep/goat dairy farmers have direct relationships with several actors across the value chain, including exporters, traders, intermediaries, wholesalers, and retailers in rural or urban retail markets. Transporters, who own trucks and transport produce from farms to destination markets, also play a significant role in the market, as many of them act as collectors. Based on the survey results, 85.4% of the farmers have direct relationships with wholesalers, 11% with factories, 65.5% with clients, and 35.9% with input providers.

Figure 33: Do you have direct relationships with any of the following?, by type of farmer (Males)



On the other hand, minor percentage of women reported that they have relationships with several actors across the value chain, including exporters, traders, intermediaries, wholesalers, and retailers in rural or urban retail markets as elaborated in the figure below.

Figure 34: you have direct relationships with any of the following?, by type of farmer (Males)



Assessing the West Bank Vegetable Value Chain

Based on CARE's value chain assessment for tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplants

There are six chains in the value chains of the three selected commodities: inputs, production, processing, outbound logistics, marketing and sales, and consumers. The activities and actors in each chain were researched and analyzed separately and a list of constraints and potential interventions were identified for each stage. They are summarized here:

Input Stage Constraints:

Poor access (in terms of quality, affordability, and availability) to key inputs (seeds, irrigation systems, and fertilizers and pesticides). Imported seeds are sold without testing for the local conditions, affecting the overall quality of the produce. There is no commercial production of seeds in Palestine. The total cost of vegetables seeds in 2008 equaled approximately \$36 million. The government, universities, and private sector could be engaged to create a research center for the testing of seeds. The private sector could be engaged to produce certain types of seeds that do not necessarily require the same technological complexities and trade secrets, and/or to increase the use of heirloom seeds across Palestine.

The majority of farmers utilize drip irrigation, which is an efficient system that has numerous advantages over the commonly known or available alternatives. A more efficient and effective alternative to drip irrigation is the subsurface drip irrigation system or the balanced pressure dripping system. Conservation of water resources is crucial, and the government, universities and the private sector could be engaged as knowledge centers.

There is also a need for innovation and research in fertilizers, which are strictly regulated by Israel. Farmers are required to spend more on alternatives that are less efficient. Women and youth could be engaged in utilizing new technologies and farming methodologies, serving as more innovative and potentially more profitable farms or demonstration sites.

Only 5% of farmers use cash to purchase inputs, most relying on postdated cheques, which have a substantial rate of return. This issue has led many input providers to either limit their operations or leave the market altogether. Better oversight is needed.

Production Stage Constraints:

Lack of agricultural planning. Small and medium sized farmers mostly base their agricultural decisions on what vegetable attained high prices the previous season, instead of sales forecasts, actual and projected supply and demand, profits, costs, or availability of market. This causes inefficiency and economic waste. The most basic intervention would be to engage the government and other actors to collect data, conduct statistical analysis, and provide market information to farmers.

The quality of government extension services is insufficient. Farmers complained that service agents possess a lot of theoretical knowledge but little practical knowledge. Farmers lack knowledge about

new and available farming methodologies and practices. There is a need to create knowledge centers or demonstration sites that farmers could attend to obtain knowledge they currently have no access to.

Processing Stage Constraints:

Poor access to inputs. Not all varieties of cucumbers, tomatoes, and eggplants are equally suitable for processing. Testing of and experimentation with new varieties could potentially improve processing and make products more competitive.

Outbound Logistics Stage Constraints:

Grading is nonexistent and packaging is wholesale-oriented with practically no consumer-oriented packaging. Selling produce by the box results in economic waste and losses to farmers.

Markets and Sales Stage Constraints:

Eleven central marketplaces as the primary market channel for produce. There is no statistical reporting conducted by the marketplaces, vegetables are sold by the box, and using the marketplaces is costly for farmers. Farmers must pay a transportation fee for each box and a 10% commission to the market dealers. Mitigating the issues associated with the central markets systemic constraint requires large advocacy initiatives to challenge the power dynamics while also finding alternative markets and sales channels.

Lack of a pricing system. There is currently no existing agriculture market information system in Palestine. Such a system would allow farmers to base their farming decisions on market data rather than just prices and enable them to make better decisions about harvesting.

Inadequate testing of produce. There are certain chemicals used in agriculture that impose restrictions on farmer that are related to the period when produce can be harvested and sold to consumers. An intervention is necessary to introduce quality standards not only to fresh produce but all stages of the value chain to improve the overall quality of vegetables.

Consumers Stage Constraints:

Quality of available vegetables as safe. There is inadequate oversight over the quality of vegetables and the market practically has no produce that can be identified by consumers as safe.

Women in the Market System Constraints:

There are two main interrelated constraints that women face in the market systems of cucumbers, tomatoes, and eggplants. First, the employment opportunities of women are limited as compared to men. This is because of social norms, limited mobility, and the perceived role of women that is mostly limited to the reproductive role. Second, women are paid lower wages than men. The reason for this is that their limited employment opportunities give them lower bargaining power and that employers generally base compensation on 'perception of need' rather than the monetary 'value of effort'. Employers believe that women generally have less financial responsibilities than men and, thus,

should be paid less. These two constraints could potentially be reduced with increased awareness among women and men.

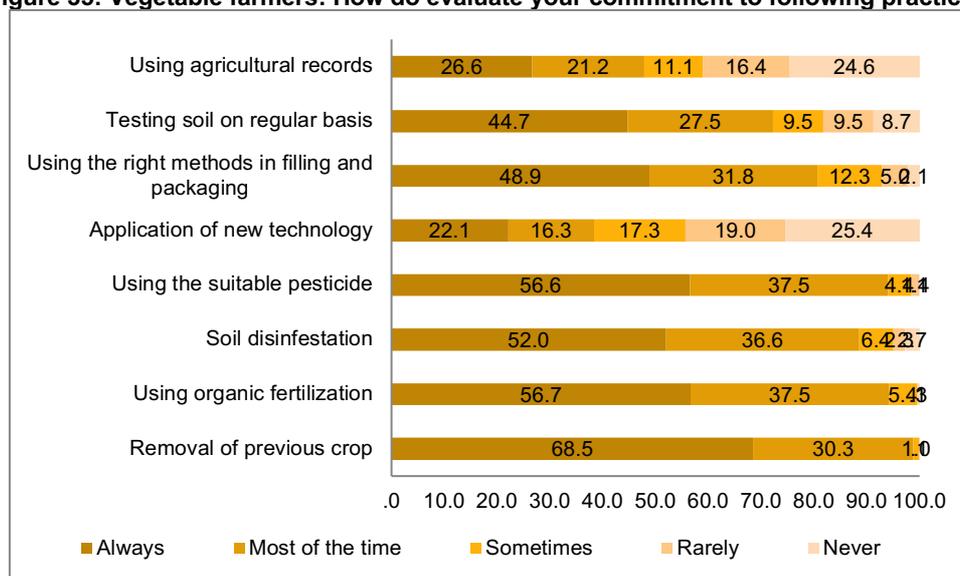
Youth in the Market System Constraints

The main constraints youth faces are related the lack of capacity they possess and the social stigma associated with working in agriculture that this sector is perceived for those who cannot find a good job. Youth are the group most willing to and most appropriate to engage in the innovation and research and development of agriculture. The constrains they face can potentially be mitigated through assistance to support them open new farms where they can utilize innovation, use new farming methodologies, and grow new varieties.

2.8 Vegetable Cultivation Practices

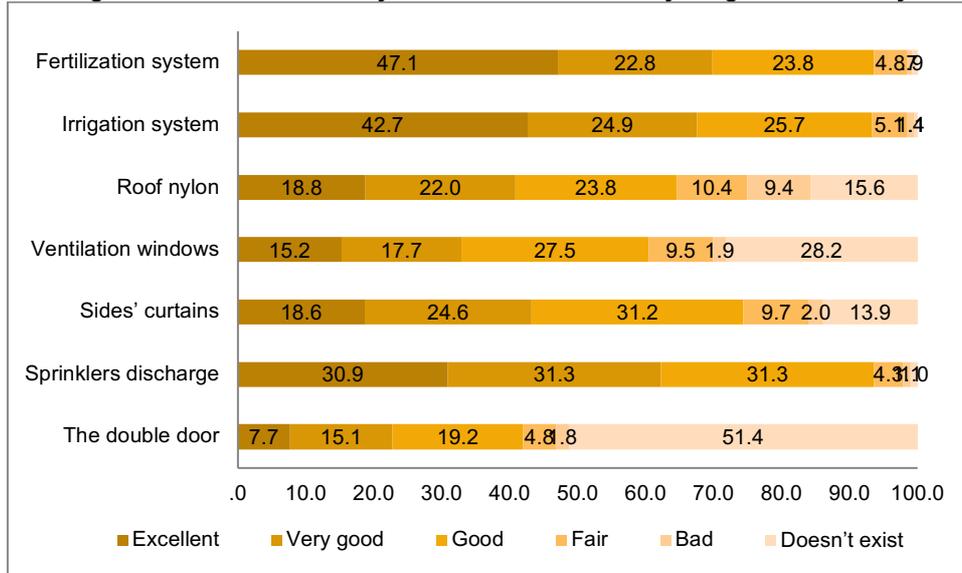
When asked about their commitment to using best agricultural practices on their farms, vegetable farmers responded with mixed feelings. The majority of them reported they are committed always or most of the time to using organic fertilization, disinfesting the soil, removing previous crops and using the suitable pesticides. On the other hand, most vegetable farmers reported that they aren't using farm records or applying new technology on their farms.. Figure 30 illustrates the survey findings.

Figure 35: Vegetable farmers: How do evaluate your commitment to following practices?



When asked to assess the status of their greenhouses, the results were also mixed, as most vegetable farmers gave high ratings (excellent or very good) to the status of the fertilization system, sprinkler discharge and irrigation system. On the other hand, most also gave low ratings (“fair”, “bad” or “doesn't exist”) to the presence of double doors, a ventilation window, roof nylon, and a side curtain in their greenhouses. Figure 31 illustrates these findings.

Figure 36: Vegetable farmers: How do you assess the status of your greenhouse? by component



2.9 Vegetable Farmers' Attitudes toward Private Sector Actors

Generally speaking, most vegetable farmers have negative attitudes towards the private sector, with 93.4% reporting that private sector actors are making high profits at their expense. A minority believed that the private sector is contributing to the development of their work or to facilitating the marketing of their products (Figure 33).

Attitudes towards financial institutions were more mixed, with 50.1% reporting that financial institutions contribute to the development of the agriculture sector, while the 49.9% of them reported that the loans provided by financial institutions are either very hard to access or have negative impact on the agriculture sector. (Figure 32).

Figure 38: Vegetable farmers: How do you perceive the role of financial institutions?

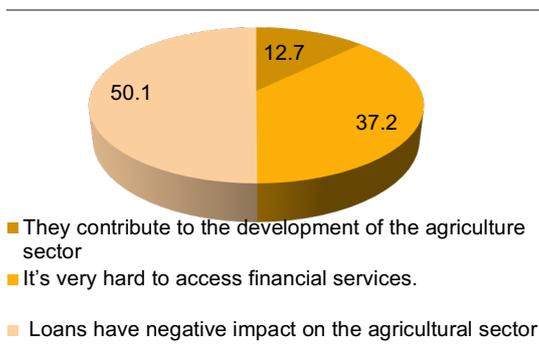
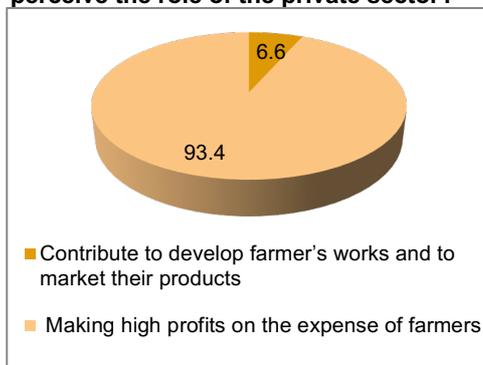


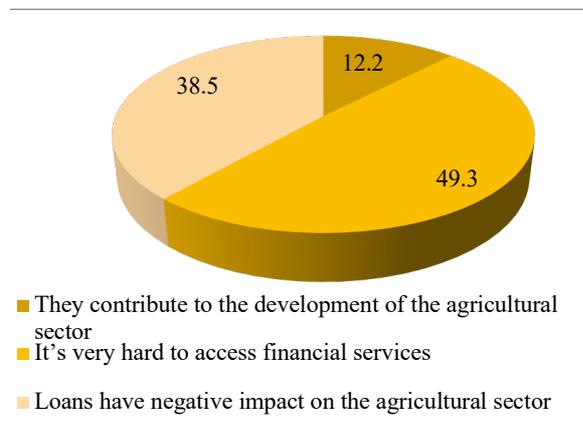
Figure 37: Vegetable farmers: How do you perceive the role of the private sector?



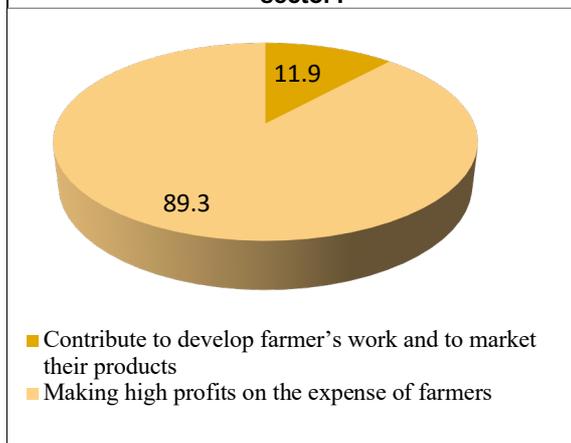
Dairy farmers also showed negative attitudes towards the private sector with 89.3% reporting that private sector actors are making high profits at their expense. Attitudes towards financial institutions were also mixed, with 49.3% reporting that financial institutions contribute to the development of the

agriculture sector, while the 50.7% of them reported that the loans provided by financial institutions are either very hard to access or have negative impact on the agriculture sector. The two figures below detail the findings in that regard...Figure 39: Dairy farmers

Figure 40: Dairy farmers: How do you perceive the role of financial institutions?



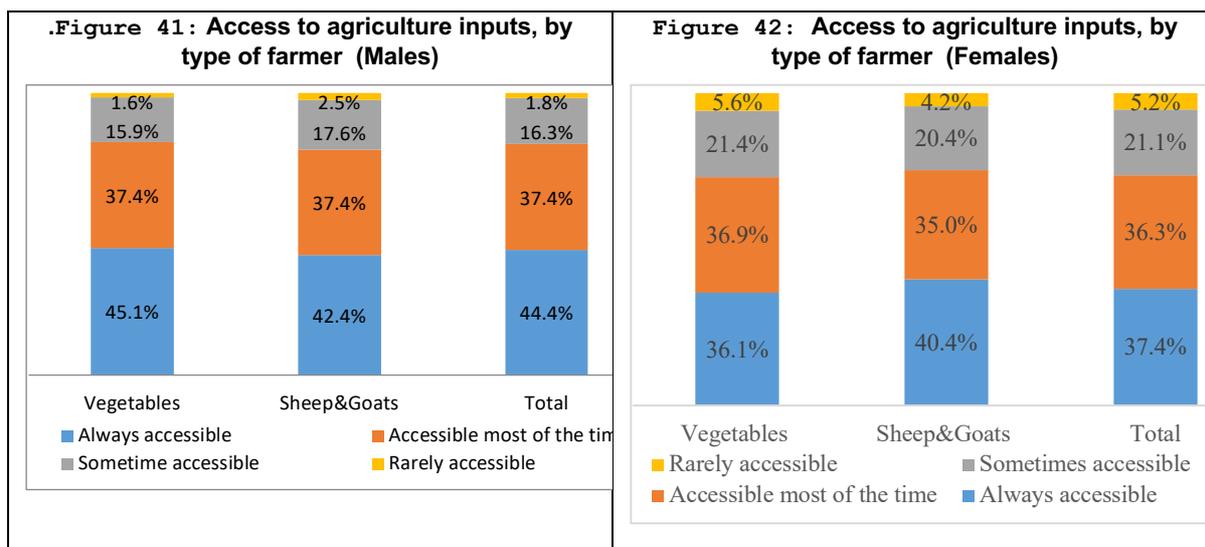
: How do you perceive the role of the private sector?



2.10 Access to agricultural inputs and services

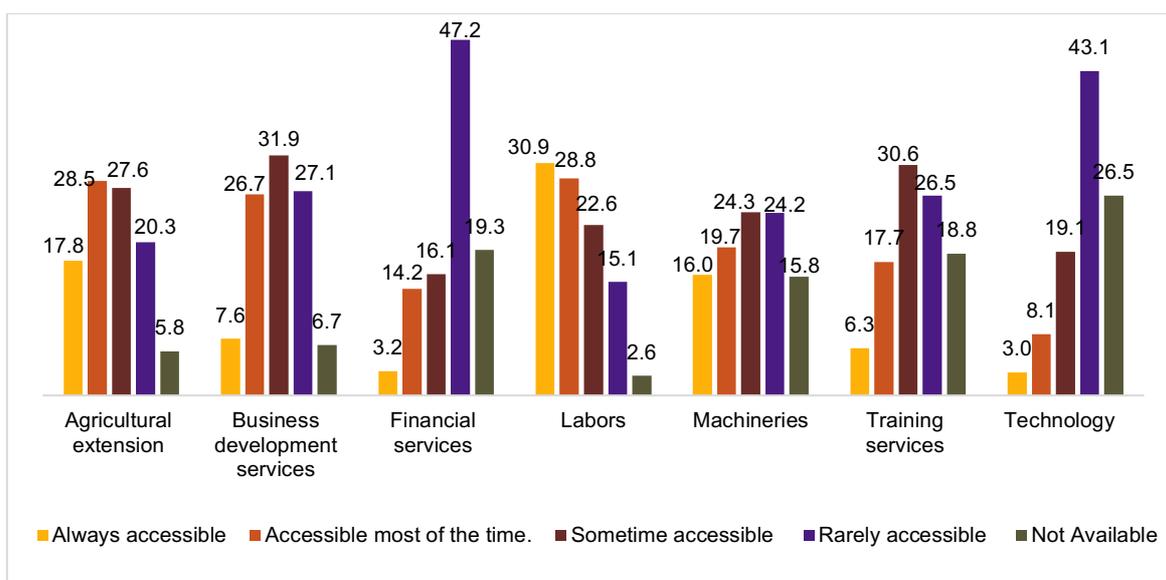
Intermediate Outcome Indicator 1.1: % of female & male farmers reporting improved access to affordable, quality inputs

The majority of male vegetable farmers (82.5 percent) and sheep/goat dairy farmers (79.8 percent) reported that agricultural inputs are always or most of the time accessible in term of quality, availability and prices. Minor percentages in the two groups reported that agriculture inputs are sometimes or rarely accessible,(Figure 42). Women also reported that agricultural inputs are always or most of the time accessible in term of quality, availability and prices as can be seen from figure 43 below



When both groups of farmers were asked about their access to different services, their answers were mixed. Financial services and technology were most prominently “rarely accessible” or “not available.” On the other hand, farmers reported improved access to agricultural services, labor, and machinery.

Figure 43: All farmers surveyed on access to different agriculture services



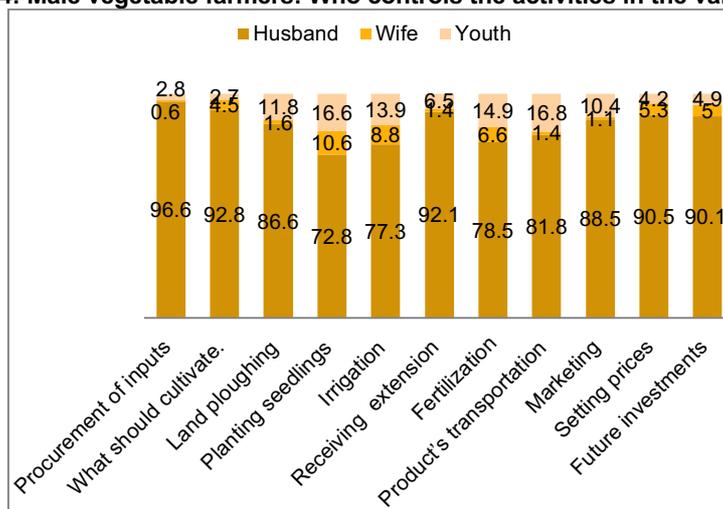
3 Social Inclusion of Women and Youth

EoP Outcome 3 indicator: Positive changes in attitudes and/or perceptions of women and men towards the economic and social roles of women and youth in agricultural work

3.1 Distribution of Value Chain Activities

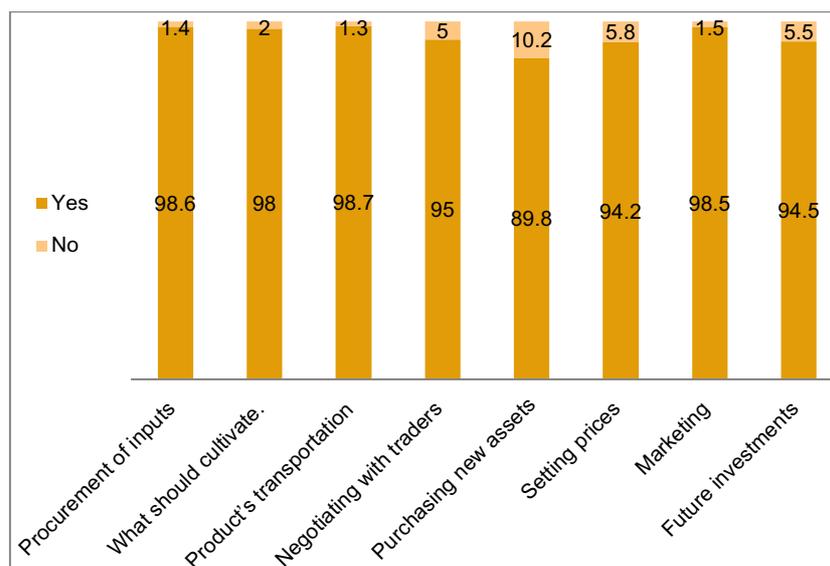
Discussions with vegetable farmers showed that men execute the vast majority of activities in the value chain, especially procurement of inputs, making decisions about what should be cultivated, receiving agriculture extension support, the products transportation, marketing, establishment of prices and future investment.

Figure 44: Male vegetable farmers: Who controls the activities in the value chain?



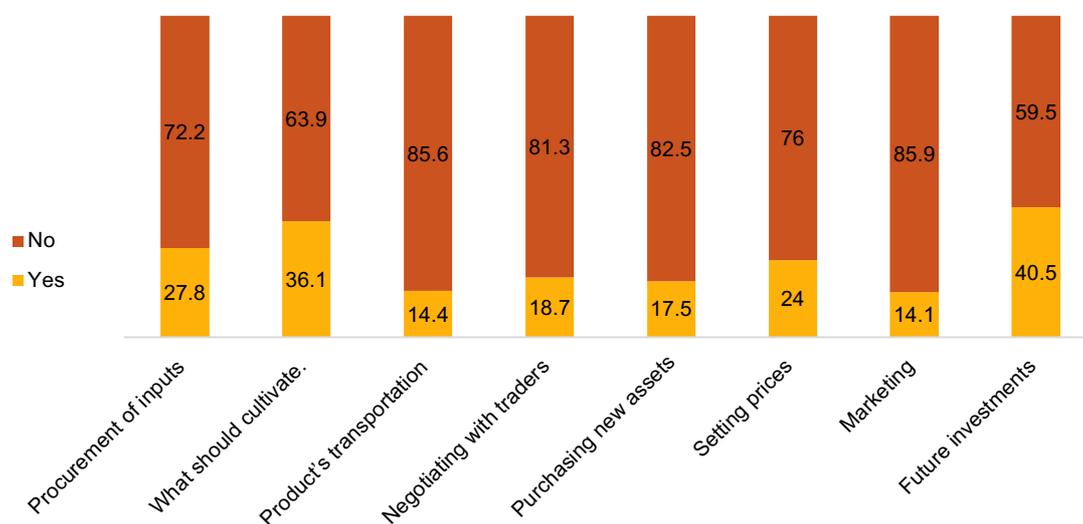
At least on the face of it, the targeted farmers of both groups had positive attitudes toward youth participation (for both males and females). Almost all of them reported that youth are able to be involved in all value chain activities, including negotiation with traders, procurement of inputs, decisions about what should be cultivated, product transportation and marketing, setting prices and future investments (Figure 26).

Figure 45: Male vegetable and dairy farmers Can “male” youth be involved in these activities in the value chain



When asked about women’s involvement, however, male farmers had comparatively negative attitudes. The vast majority of them reported that they don’t believe women can be involved in activities such as negotiating with traders, procuring inputs, making decisions about what should be cultivated, product transportation and marketing, setting prices and future investments. Women were seen to have the greatest possible role in future investments (40.5%) and planning cultivation (36.1%).

Figure 46: Male vegetable and dairy farmers: Can women be involved with these activities in the value chain?



As further elaborated in the report (see section 3), and base on women’s and youth’s perception, due to cultural norms, women’s role is often restricted within the farm’s sphere and rarely outside in connection with traders, wholesalers, etc. Women have minimum decision making opportunities, as often men (husbands, sons and brothers) dominate this area.

Case Study 3: Ahlam, Thyme Farmer, Defies Cultural Norms

“All my life as a child and adult, I have lived around farmers,” says Ahlam, a female 28-year-old organic thyme farmer from Beit Hassan. “My parents are farmers. I went to university and obtained a bachelor degree in Elementary Education. But I could not find any jobs nearby, and transportation to work in Ramallah, for example, is costly, given that my expected salary will be minimal. So I stopped searching for jobs in my field of study.

Three years ago, I decided one day that I needed to change my life. My only option was to work in agriculture. So I decided to rent two dunums of land on my own and start planting organic mountain thyme. The reason I chose to plant thyme was because it does not need a lot of care.

At the beginning, my parents refused the idea, but I insisted. I went into partnership with another friend, but after one year of work in the farm, she was unable to tolerate this kind of work. I was left alone. People in our village were also resisting my project. The society’s perception of women carrying out their own projects is negative, particularly as the land I have rented is in the mountains and I need to travel by transportation to reach it. My beginning was very difficult and I had to overcome many challenges.

Now, my farm is thriving. I expanded it to four dunums. During collection season, I hire ten female workers to help me collect the thyme. I have been able to market it to nearby local organizations, such as Akkrabanieh cooperative. I also heard from other women about private companies that assist farmers in marketing their produce, so I contacted them and established a contract with a marketing company. But my access to the market has been extremely challenging. Last year, I threw out all my produce because the company refused to take it, as they had large quantities of thyme. And I was unable to sell it in the local market nearby. Prices are very low. I usually sell one kilo of organic thyme for NIS 33, but local traders take it for NIS 15. Because I could not sell all of my usual produce, I reduced my production this summer.

As a woman in a conservative society, the main challenge I face is related to leaving early in the morning at dawn to irrigate the thyme because I am limited to the timing of the availability of water, which is generally at dawn and in the evening. Because my farm is far away from my residence, it is not socially accepted to travel alone during these times. In fact, to be able to move around I needed my parent’s approval.

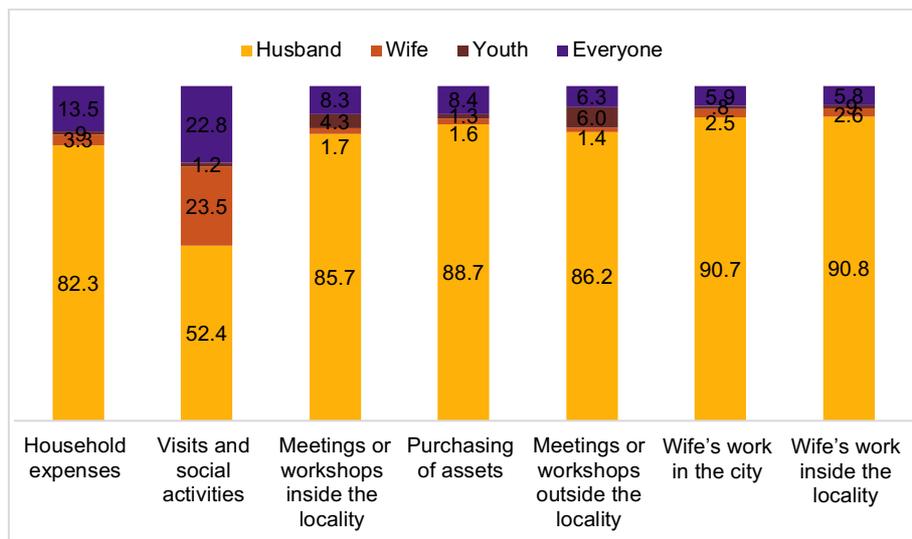
Despite these challenges, my dreams are enormous. I plan to expand my business. I want to install a water tank to be able to irrigate the thyme at my convenience. I want also to purchase a machine to collect the thyme and separate the leaves. I want to establish a brand name and labeling, venture into new markets and establish contract agreements with traders. I also plan to plant sesame. I need a global gap certificate, and assistance in registering my brand.”

3.2 Household Decision-making

EoP Outcome 3 Indicator: 10% of households that report joint decision making involving women and/or youth (% age)

Male farmers reported that men control most of the decisions related to household expenses, visits and social activities, purchasing of assets, meetings or workshops outside the locality, a wife's work in the city, and a wife's work inside the locality. Nearly one-fourth of respondents said that women could control visits and social activities, but this was an outlier compared to the rest of female decision-making. Youth, on the other hand, had even less agency, with only one to three percent of male farmers saying they could make solitary decisions about any of these subjects – even social activities.

Figure 47: Male Vegetable and dairy farmers: What type of decisions can each member of the household make?



Case Study 4: Mohammad Abandons His University Specialization in Telecommunication to Work in Agriculture



“Since I was a child, my parents were always engaged in agriculture,” says Mohammad Shaban. “I used to help them on the farm. Since 2015, I have been working completely in this field and taking care of 15 dunums that I plant with tomatoes, cucumber and pumpkins.

I studied Telecommunications Engineering at university. My parents never encouraged me to work in agriculture. In fact, they wanted me to have a job using my degree. My father and my brother no longer work in agriculture. They think it is a challenging domain and very tiring with very limited profits and great risks.

But I defied these perceptions, because I also saw many Palestinian youth with university degrees, either unemployed or employed at very low salaries. Job opportunities for young Palestinians are extremely limited. Agriculture is more secure and better than an office job. It is profitable if I work on my own project. The society, however, considers working in agriculture as a demeaning job.

After graduation, I rented the 15 dunums from my family. My brother is a wage employee and has no time to work in agriculture. And I wanted to be independent. This is why I rented the land. My monthly income is around NIS 5,000. Despite the various challenges young farmers face, including the lack of skills and knowledge in new agricultural practices, and the absence of governmental support to young farmers, I love working in agriculture. I have many ideas to develop my farm. I want to purchase new equipment to experiment with new agricultural technologies and practices.

3.3 Mobility within Value Chains

EoP Outcome 3 Indicator: 2,040 women reporting greater mobility within agricultural value chains

When the women farmers were asked if they face any difficulties in accessing the market or carrying out their work, 56.5% of female vegetable farmers and 43% of female dairy farmers responded affirmatively (Figure 40). A greater proportion of female vegetable farmers (56.5%) reported obstacles than did female sheep/goat dairy farmers (43%).

The hardship mentioned most frequently by female farmers (89.3%) is the long distance between their locality and the markets, and this was especially true for vegetable farmers. Another 66.6% indicated that there is a lack of public transportation, while 69.7% of the women referred to bad road conditions as a difficulty in accessing work and markets (Figure 41).

Figure 48: Female farmers: Do you face difficulties when accessing work or the market? by type of farmer

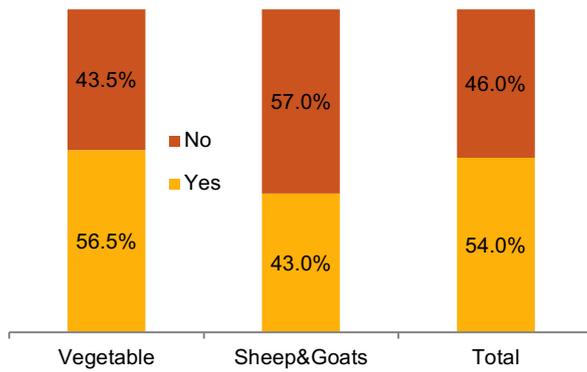
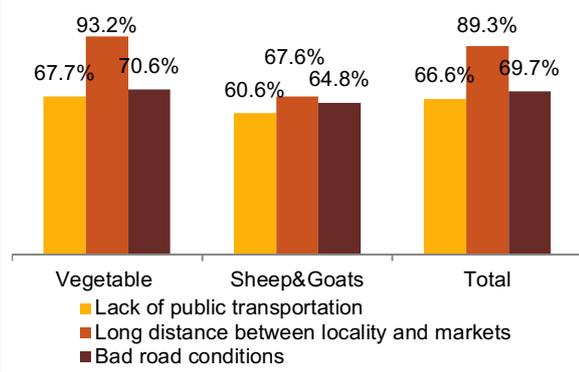


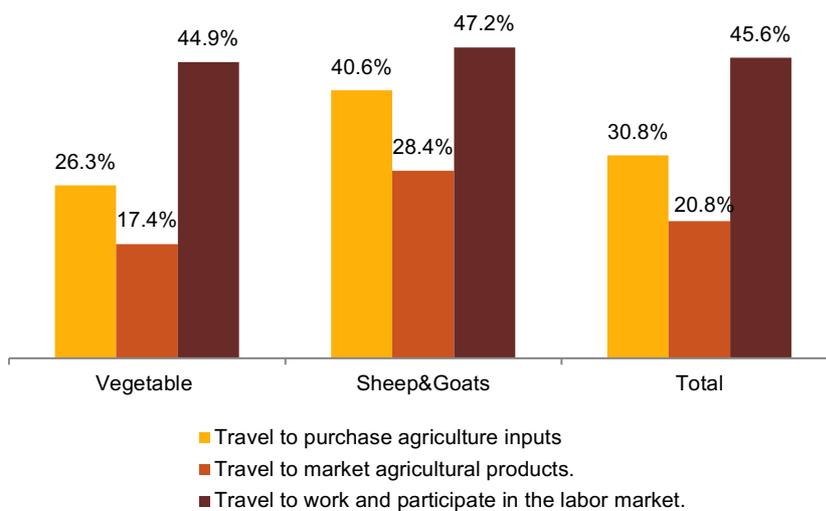
Figure 49: Female farmers: What type of difficulties do you face when accessing work or the market? by type of farmer



EoP Outcome 3 Indicator: 1,480 women and 1,250 youth able to report examples of economic empowerment

Only 20.8% of the women surveyed viewed it as socially acceptable for women to travel in order to market agricultural products, while only 30.8% of them accepted women's involvement in the purchasing of agricultural products, and not even half (45.6%) of the women surveyed indicated that it's acceptable for women to travel to work and to participate in the labor market. Figure 42 illustrates the survey's findings in that regard.

Figure 50: Female farmers: It is acceptable for women to be involved in the following activities, %



3.4 Division of Work between Men and Women

When female farmers were asked about their participation in different activities, they reported being engaged in housework and social activities over active wage labor and cultural and political activities. Table 5 below shows that 96.3% of the women surveyed reported high participation rates in housework, and close to two-thirds reported high participation in visits to friends and relatives. By comparison, only 5.1% of male farmers had high participation in housework. These findings were reflected in the focus groups with women (see Section 4.1). Much higher rates of females surveyed reported participation in unwaged labor than did male farmers, indicating one of the existing structural inequalities in the workforce.

Table 5: Farmers' participation rate in different activities, by gender

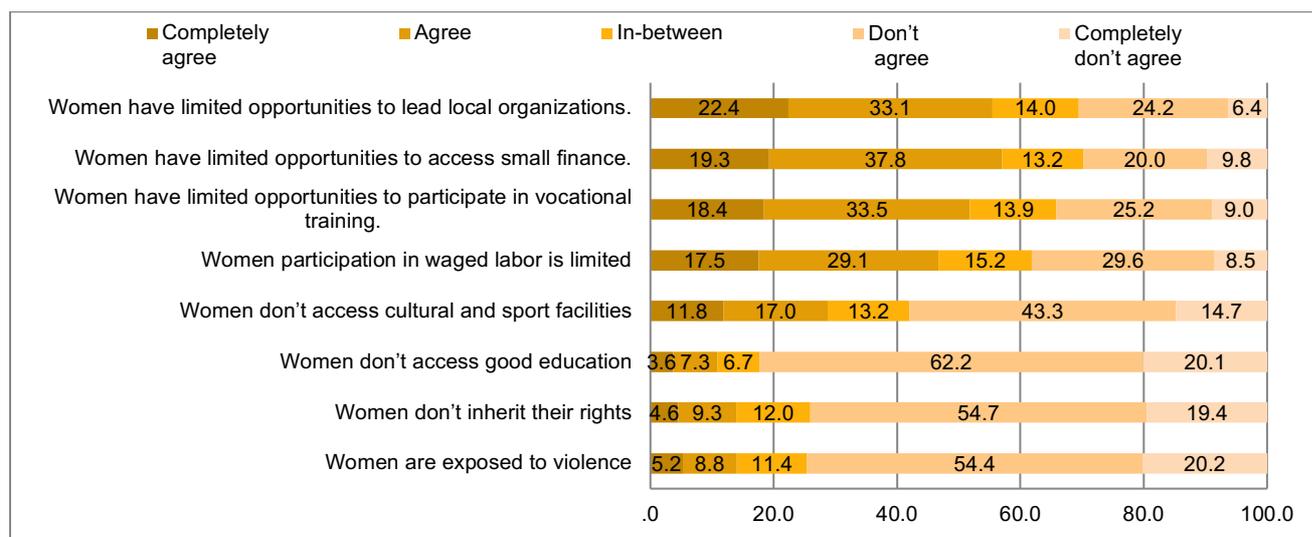
Area of participation	Female Participation Rate			Male Participation Rate		
	High	Medium	Low or very low	High	Medium	Low or very low
Participation in house chores	96.3	3	0.8	5.1	13.4	81.4
Participation in waged labor	12.3	20.4	67.3	87.5	7.7	4.8
Participation of unwaged labor	67.2	15.9	16.9	10.7	11.9	77.3
Visits to friends and relatives	63.7	28.9	7.5	50.5	30	19.5
Participation in cultural, social and political activities	7.9	10.5	81.6	28.8	23.1	48.1

Women were also asked if they have the opportunity to lead local organizations, access financial services and participate in vocational training.

- 55.5% of the female farmers surveyed “completely agree” or “agree” that they have limited opportunity to lead local organizations.
- 57.1% of female farmers “completely agree” or “agree” that they have limited opportunities to access micro-finance.
- 51.9% of female farmers “completely agree” or “agree” that they have limited opportunities to participate in vocational training.

On the other hand, most women “disagree” or “completely disagree” that they are exposed to violence (76.6%), or they don't access their right to inheritance (75.1%). Likewise, the majority of female farmers (82.3) “did not agree” or “completely did not agree” with the statement that women don't have access to good education.

Figure 51: Female farmers: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



In fact, focus group discussions with women have indicated that families often encourage young women to continue their higher education, in universities and colleges. These findings are also aligned with national trends as girls and boys are admitted to basic education at nearly equal rates, and more female students than males are admitted to secondary and higher education institutions, with no significant differences among geographic areas.⁴ Nevertheless, focus group discussion with women and youth have indicated that in cases of external shocks and poverty, parents delay their daughter's higher education or tend to encourage them to register in open universities that have lower costs, at the expense of the quality of their education.

Case Study 5: Meet Sadeqa Abu Jeish, Farm Manager



Sadeqa Abu Jeish, a 43-year-old married farmer from Froush Beit Dajan has worked on the farm since she married in 1996. She was then a young woman. "Because of the difficult economic situation, my husband had to quit working in the family's six-dunum vegetable farm and search for an additional source of income. He is a taxi driver. I am left to manage and operate the farm with my son and daughter. We plant, clean, and collect the produce. My son sends the produce to the local trader in the area. All farmers sell their produce to this trader. He takes one box of tomato from us at a cost of 20 NIS, and sells it at a cost of 30 NIS.

⁴⁴⁴ State of Palestine, Ministry of Women Affairs, Cross-Sectoral National Strategy for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (2017-2022), 2017, p.24.

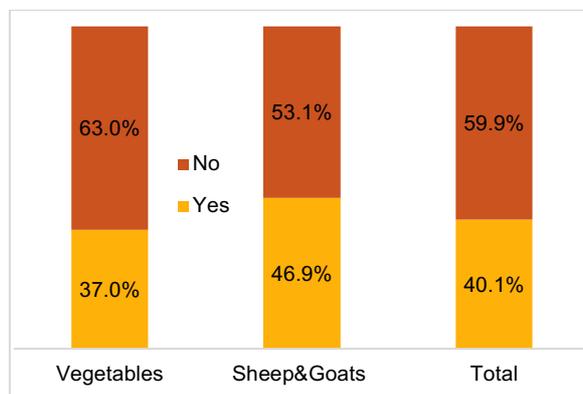
As a mother, I was not able to help my son register at the university to continue his studies, because our financial situation does not permit spending money on education at this time, particularly because my daughter is currently registered. We cannot afford paying costs for two.

Apart from working in the farm and at home, I don't participate in any activities. In any case, we lack recreational activities for women in our community. After I finish working on the farm, I clean, cook and prepare bread. My husband rests after his work. He never participates in the household chores. Honestly, I'm fed up, but I have no choice. As a woman, I deprive myself to cover the needs of my children. I feel this is my responsibility as a mother."

3.5 Youth

Young people ages 15-29 are one of the main target groups of this project. The survey found that they are represented among 40%⁵ of the farmer households, with a slightly higher percentage among sheep/goat dairy farmers.

Figure 44: Households with youth members, %



The majority of youth farmers surveyed (93 % of males and 84.1 % of females) reported that their participation in agriculture has contributed to improving their status and the livelihood of their household. It has also improved their status in the community. Moreover, 94% of the males and 79% of the females reported that they “completely agree” or “agree” that their participation in agriculture reduces unemployment and creates decent work for youth. Interviews with youth found numerous young people who had been unable to find work after attending university (or were unable to attend university) and were employed in the agricultural sector. More details about youth attitudes are shown in Table 6 below.

⁵ A total of 409 youth were interviewed of whom 233 were males and 176 were females.

Table 6: Youth farmers: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Activities	Females			Males		
	Agree/ Completely agree	In-Between	Don't agree /completely don't agree	Agree/ Completely agree	In-Between	Don't agree / Completely don't agree
Youth participation in agriculture contribute to improve their status and the livelihood of the household.	84.2	13.2%	2.6%	93	4.2%	2.8
Youth participation in agriculture improve their status in the community.	81.6	13.2%	5.3%	90.5	5.6%	3.9
Youth participation in agriculture reduce unemployment and creates decent work for youth	78.9	18.4%	2.6%	91.9	5.3%	2.8%
Youth participate in marketing related decision	50	28.9%	21.1%	77.8	16.5%	5.6%
Youth deal directly with traders	55.3	23.7%	21.1%	84.8	9.2%	6.0%
All decisions related to agriculture are equally taken by men, women and youth.	18.4	26.3%	55.3%	41	26.9%	32.2%
Men and women equally participate in agricultural work.	13.2	23.7%	63.2%	36.7	26.1%	37.1%
Youth are able to access agriculture extension and training services.	65.8	13.2%	21.1.	79.9	8.2%	11.9%
Youth are able to access agriculture inputs.	72.3	6.4%	21.3%	91.3	5.0%	3.6%
Youth are able to access financial services.	70.6	10.1%	19.3%	59.6	.0%	19.3%
Current situation suits youth to participate in agricultural work.	57.9	13.2%	28.9%	71.7	9.2%	19.1%

Many youth farmers had ideas about new projects that they would like to initiate, with 57% of the total already making plans. Only 14.6% of those were female, however.

Figure 45: Youth farmers: Do have any plans to start a new agricultural project?

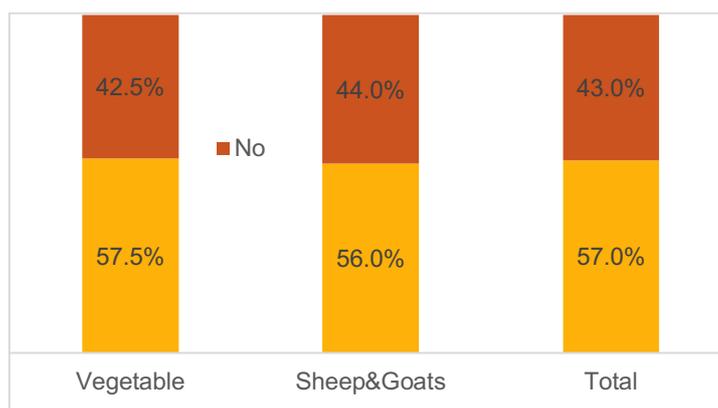


Table 7: Youth farmers: Do have plans to start a new agriculture project? By sex

	Yes	No	Total
Males	63.1%	36.9%	100.0%
Females	14.6%	85.4%	100.0%
Total	57.4%	42.6%	100.0%

4 Gender and Youth Dynamics

EoP Outcome 3 Indicator: 4,389 women and youth reporting improvements in the access they have to agricultural services

4.1 Gender Division of Labor Within the Household

The traditional gender division of labor and the resulting time poverty faced by rural women farmers emerged as a redundant topic in all three focus groups. Social norms shape gender roles and responsibilities, leading to a heavy work burden on women. Outside the sphere of farm production, for both value chains, women are responsible for providing care to their family members. This includes waking up as early as 4:00 a.m. or 5:00 a.m. and preparing breakfast for their husbands and children before going to school or work, cleaning the house, washing and cooking. In performing these roles within the household, women receive minimal assistance from men, whether their husbands or sons. It is often daughters who assist their mothers inside the house along sometimes with their tasks in the farm, and their studies. Furthermore, some women stated that in some households where a member is severely sick, or in case of the presence of a child with a disability, women are expected to provide care without overlooking the responsibilities of feeding the family, managing other household chores and working on the farm. Consequently, women felt the unequal division of labor between men and women and the resulting time constraints upon them.

A typical daily schedule for a Palestinian women farmer was described by Fatima, who has both livestock and a vegetable farm in Tamoun. Fatima says, **“I usually wake up at 4:00 a.m. I milk the cows for two hours in the morning, and then prepare breakfast for my children and husband, who is a laborer in agriculture in Israel. When I have to prepare cheese, I stay [at home] until 10:00 a.m. After that I go to work in the greenhouse. We have two dunums. I work there for two hours. At 12:00 p.m., I come back home to cook and clean the house, then I milk the cows again until 2:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. After we eat together, I clean and help the kids in their studies. I finish at around 6:00 p.m. Then I rest.”**

Fatima’s daily schedule illustrates the uneven division of labor between men and women expressed by all participants. In fact, classification of participants on time spent in taking care of the house, kids, and helping them in their studies shows that it’s mainly a woman’s role (see Table 8). And while women find no relief from their duties of household maintenance and farm work, husbands continue to enjoy the same amount of leisure in a day. Whether they work in the farm or not, men spend time in the afternoon resting, napping and watching TV. “Our husbands rarely assist our children in their studies or us in the housework. Their chores could include cleaning outside the house or taking care of the garden,” a woman in the focus group explained.

Table 8: Female focus group participants voting on women’s and men’s participation in different activities within the private and social sphere

Women	FG cluster 1			FG cluster 2			FG cluster 3			
	High	Medium	Low or very low	High	Medium	Low or very low	High	Medium	Low or very low	
Women’s participation										
Participation in house chores including taking care of kids and helping them in their studies	••••• ••••• •••		••	••••• ••••• ••••• ••	•••	•	••••• ••••• ••	•		•
Visits to friends and relatives	••	•••	••••• •••••	••••• •••••	•••••••• ••		••••• •	•••••		•
Participation in cultural, social and political activities	••••	•	••••• •••••	••••• ••	••••••••	••••• ••••	••••• •	•••••		•••
Men’s participation										
Participation in house chores including taking care of kids and helping them in their studies	••	•	••••• ••••• ••	••	•	••••• ••••• ••••• •	•	••		••••• •
Visits to friends and relatives	••••• •	•••	••••• •	•	•••••••• ••	••••	••	•••••		••
Participation in cultural, social and political activities	••••		••••• ••••• •		•••••	••••• ••••	••••	•		•••••

While many women recognize the burgeoning tasks they are performing inside the house and in the farm, they seem to accept this condition as a mandatory traditional social role they must perform. This attitude mainly appeared among older women, while female youth participating in the focus groups expressed a greater tendency to resist this uneven division of labor. One young female said, “I think young couples should agree to divide the house chores before marriage.” Several older women did not agree with this statement at all, as they consider this as unacceptable. It should be noted that women’s own perceptions of their role is mainly attributed to the social upbringing of women and girls that are often raised to take care of the needs of men (their fathers, brothers, sons, uncles, etc.).



4.2 Social Participation of Women and Youth

In general, women respond to the time constraints resulting from an unequal workload by reducing leisure or make difficult trade-offs between agricultural and household maintenance and care activities. Women's social participation in cultural, social and political activities or in visiting friends and relatives are minimal (see Table 10). This also varies between communities depending on the availability of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and their activities. In Cluster 1 (includes communities of Froush Beit Dajan, Beit Fourik, Nawajee, Ein Shibly, Nassariyyeh, Aqrabaneyye, and Beit Hasan), the majority of women describe a lack of social and political movement, as well as the dormant state of CBOs. They explained that there are no sports or cultural activities organized, restricting women's social participation to visiting family and friends, or participating in wedding and funerals. This situation applies also to men, due to the lack of social spaces.

On the other hand, women participating in the focus group in Cluster 3, which includes the communities Jdaydeh, Dair Abu Daif, Arraneh, Abba Sharqieh, Faquaa, and Al Jalameh, described stronger social participation for both men and women, as a result of the greater number of CBOs and activities in their area. Amal from Al-Jalameh explains, **“There is a gym for women in our village. When it was established, the community was not eager about women going to the gym. Despite its management by a woman, and that the gym is only for women, our husbands were reluctant to allow us to do sports there. Some even refused their wives’ participation. But now many women are enrolled in the gym and it is socially accepted.”** The availability of a women's cooperative in Al-Jalameh plays an important role in encouraging women's social participation, enhancing their opportunities to engage in non-reproductive roles outside the household. Manar explains, **“Because it is a women's cooperative, it is socially accepted and we gather here often. Having this cooperative in our village gives women the opportunity to belong to a community group. However, my husband refuses that my daughter participate, although he gives me total freedom to move and participate in meetings, and activities in the cooperative.”** Women refer to

Women in Jdaydeh have sadly articulated the absence of any CBOs, cultural centers, or youth clubs. In Arraneh, there are also no cultural or social activities organized for women and youth. Even in some communities where CBOs exist, many women and youth have expressed their frustration from CBO leadership and organized activities that do not fully reflect their needs and aspiration. They elaborated that the few activities organized are often short-term social events that are rarely sustained. In Al-Jalameh, Bahjat explains, **“The only youth club in our village is led and managed by old men. The space for youth to participate in the leadership of organizations is limited. Older men do not give us the opportunity to take lead in board members, local council elections or plan activities. Another issue is the case of corruption that occurred in the club, which led to its closing and currently it is inactive. We don't find the space or opportunities to effectively participate in social**



For women in communities that have CBOs, these structures are an opportunity to enhance social capital, particularly for women and young men. Young women, on the other hand, still face challenges in their ability to participate effectively in CBO activities, or freely move without any social constraints. Society restricts the movement and lives of young females, who are unable to make decisions on what to learn or to attend meetings in the cooperative, for example. At the exception of women in Cluster 3, both women and youth in all the remaining focus groups have expressed their dissatisfaction from the cultural, sports and economic activities in their communities (see Table 9).

Table 9: Women and youth’s satisfaction from cultural, social, sports and economic activities

Participation area	FG cluster 1		FG cluster 2		FG cluster 3	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Women’s perception						
We are satisfied with the available opportunities for women’s participation in cultural, sports and economic activities within the community, in comparison to men	•	••••••	•••••	••••••	•••••	••••
Youth’s perception						
We are satisfied with the available opportunities for our participation in cultural, sports and economic activities within the community.	••••	••••••	•••••	••••••	••••••	••••••

4.3 Participation in Waged and Unwaged Labor

Women participating in the focus group discussions indicated that the majority of rural women in the three targeted clusters perform agricultural work, for both vegetable and sheep/goat dairy value chains, within the family-related farm and business, often as unpaid labor, and as part of their domestic responsibilities (see Table 10). Some women work as agricultural laborers in Palestinian farms within their communities or in Israel. In contrast, men contribute to the household income as waged agricultural laborers on other farms, as construction workers in Israel, or by doing other jobs such as driving taxi.

Table 10: Female focus group participants’ on women’s and men’s participation in waged and unwaged labor

Women	FG cluster 1			FG cluster 2			FG cluster3		
	High	Medium	Low or very low	High	Medium	Low or very low	High	Medium	Low or very low
Women’s participation									
Participation in waged labor	•••••	••	•••••••	••••	••••	••••••	••••••	••••	•

Participation of unwaged labor	•••••• •	••••••••	•••••	•••	•••	••••••	•	•
Men's participation								
Participation in waged labor	••••••••	••••	•••••	••••••••		••••••	•	•
Participation of unwaged labor	••••••	•••	••••••••	•••••	••	••••••	••••••	••••••

Focus group discussions with women have indicated that this type of employment is their only option, particularly because the family works in agriculture, and/or because they live in agricultural areas, where other appropriate employment opportunities are lacking. A common theme appearing in the female focus groups is that the opportunity to work, even if unpaid, will eventually generate income for the household, and save unnecessary expenditure on external labor. In the women's perception, this undertaking earns women respect and recognition in the household and in the community.

Young females participating in the focus group in Tubas highlighted that women's participation in waged labor is restricted by cultural beliefs that hinder women's and youth's mobility, particularly outside their residence area, thereby limiting wage labor away from home, as well the types of jobs available to them. On the other hand, women highlighted gender disparities in salaries: salaries for female wage labor range from 600-700 NIS, while men are perceived as receiving more, particularly as they have greater mobility and are able to access employment opportunities in Israel.

Furthermore, it was reiterated in several focus group discussions that men's participation in waged labor outside their farms, during the past few years specifically, is a coping mechanism in the face of growing unemployment and rising levels of poverty, as expressed by both youth and women in the focus group. As more and more young female and male graduates are encountering difficulties finding suitable employment in other non-agricultural occupations, men's traditional role as the sole or main breadwinner is no longer guaranteed or sufficient. Hence, older men often search for more economically suitable and more sustainable job opportunities in Israel, while women, youth and children are left to manage and take care of the farm, solely in the absence of the husband.



"I have six children. My mother in law has a disability and cannot walk. I have to take care of her constantly. I only visit my family once every six months. We own a two Dunums greenhouse that I work in with my children. My husband works as a taxi driver"

- female farmer, Jenin



Table 11: Women's and youth's perceptions on their participation in agriculture

Participation areas	FG cluster 1		FG cluster 2		FG cluster3	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Women's perception						

1. Women's participation in agricultural work enhances their status in the family	●●●●●● ●● ●●●●●●	●●●● ● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●● ● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●● ●●●● ●
2. Women's participation in agricultural work enhances their status in the society	●●●●●● ●●●●●● ●●		●●●● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●● ●● ●●
3. Women's participation in agricultural work has a key role in enhancing the economic situation of the household	●●●●●● ● ●●●●●●		●●●● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●● ● ●●
Youth's perception				
1. Youth's participation in agricultural work enhances their status in the family	●●●●●● ●● ●●●●		●●●● ●●●● ●●●● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●● ● ●●
2. Youth's participation in agricultural work enhances their status in the society	●●●●●● ●●●● ●●●●		●●●● ● ●●●● ●●●● ●●●● ●	●●●● ●●●● ●●●●
3. Youth's participation in agricultural work reduces unemployment and creates appropriate job opportunities for youth.	●●●●●● ● ●●●●		●●●● ●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●●●● ●● ● ●●

There is a consensus amongst the majority of women and youth focus group participants that engagement in agricultural work, whether as waged or unwaged labor, and for both livestock and vegetable value chains, enhances their status in their family and the society (see Table 5). This general conviction emanates from the fact that women's and youth's engagement in agricultural work is often associated with helping the male breadwinner in ensuring the household's income. A woman explains, **"If I help my husband to sustain the household's income, then I participate in supporting the well-being of the household. This will create a good atmosphere in the family. My role is appreciated."**

In fact, most women and youth indicated that their unpaid labor subsidizes the cost of production and will enhance the economic situation of the household. Many of the young males and females participating in the focus groups worked with their families and few of them owned their farms. They articulated that engaging mostly in the family business is better than being unemployed. And only very few women disagreed that women's involvement in agricultural work enhances their status in the family. One woman from Nablus explains, **"Engaging in the family farm, especially if she is unpaid, only adds up more burden on a woman, along with her other tasks at home."**

Nevertheless, this engagement is more valued by older women than young men and women. Participants also expressed that more recently more middle-aged and older women work in agriculture than younger women. If they do not own their own businesses, youth feel that they are obliged to support their family, by -- as many have expressed, particularly young women -- finding "office jobs." Interestingly, some of the older women also expressed that they discouraged their children from engaging in agriculture, as it is "dirty, strenuous, challenging and highly unprofitable." In addition, some young women stated that young men thinking about marriage prefer employed women in stable non-agricultural jobs. There seems to be a negative perception by youth towards agriculture. Their involvement is often out of need and obligation, rather than passion for this type of work.

Case Study 6: Arwa Sacrifices her Academic Dream to help Her Family



With a big smile, Arwa Abu Haneesh, a 26-year-old Palestinian farmer from Froush Beit Dajan tells us about her lost dream of pursuing her studies. Two years ago, Arwa's parents established a small vegetable greenhouse, as part of a project supported by MA'AN Development Centre.

"I finished school with a good grade of 88, and I always wanted to study law. However, my older brothers were studying at the university and because of my parents' dire financial situation I was asked to wait until my brothers' graduation. So I waited for six years and when they graduated, they could not find any jobs. I didn't want to work in agriculture like my parents. So I registered in Al-Quds Open University, because it is cheaper than other universities, and studied Information

Technology for one year, but I didn't like it so I quit. I also applied to the Police Academy but was not accepted. In 2014, I was enrolled in Ramallah's Community Health College that is run by PMRS. I graduated with honors. After that, I started working in a hospital in Nablus, but the [weekly?] salary of NIS 320 was barely enough to cover my expected daily transportation fees of NIS 35. I used to leave the house to work at 5:00 a.m and arrive home exhausted at 5:00 p.m. So I also quit this job.

The only choice left was to work with my family in the greenhouse, which my parents established two years ago to bring in income for our family. My mother is sick and we are a big family of ten. I have a brother, who works as an engineer in Nablus making NIS 1,500. My older brother finished medicine but he immigrated to Germany. One of my brothers wants to get married but he postponed it until he finishes his house. My other brother, who has a university degree in Economics, manages the greenhouse with my father. I gave my only savings to my family to help them with my brother's tuition fees.

My family recently took out a loan from a trader to expand the greenhouse. We cover the loan by selling him the produce. But he controls the prices and we cannot negotiate. Last season, we lost our produce as a result of a virus. We haven't received any assistance from extension service employees to guide us on how to protect the cucumber.

I have been assisting my family in the greenhouse, but I don't make any decisions related to the greenhouse management or what we plant or how to sell the produce. My brother and father make all the decisions. I never interact with traders. My father recently decided to give me compensation for my contribution to the greenhouse. He gives me 50 NIS a month, and 50 NIS a week during cucumber collection season.

4.4 Gender and youth division of labor on the farm

In all focus groups, participants asserted that women and youth contribute significantly to the farm work, with a larger responsibility in on-farm chores and agricultural production activities, such as preparing the ground for planting, planting, weeding and harvesting for vegetable value chains. In livestock value chains, women also tend to perform tasks done on a daily basis such as milking, feeding, cleaning and watering. They also practice herding close to the household's boundaries. If employed in non-agricultural jobs, men are mainly involved in tasks performed weekly or seasonally, such as land preparation, spraying or planting.

In off-farm activities, women reported often being engaged in cleaning, cutting, sorting, packaging, labeling, and dairy processing. These activities are mostly restricted to women or female youth, as generally young men assisting their families in their farms are less engaged in such activities (see Table 12). Also, dairy processing is often performed by older women. In Cluster 3, the high results indicating youth participation in dairy production is due to the fact that many of them were females.



Table 12: Women’s and youth’s perception on the division of labor in the farm production and work conditions

Women’s participation areas	FG cluster 1		FG cluster 2		FG cluster3	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Women’s perception						
1. Women participate in taking care of the farm and sheep/goat	●●●●● ●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●		●●●●●	●
2. Women participate in dairy production	●●●●● ●●●●●	●●●●	●●●●●●● ●●		●●●●	●●●
3. Women participate in vegetable production	●●●●● ●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●		●●●●●	●●
4. There is equality in the participation of both men and women in agricultural work.	●●●●● ●●	●●●●●●●		●	●●●●●	●●
4. Women’s labor conditions in agriculture are good.	●●●●● ●●●●● ●	●●●●●●●● ●●	●●●●●	●●●●	●●●	●●●
5. The current situation suits women to work in agriculture	●●●●●	●●●●●●●	●	●●●●●	●●●	●●●●
Youths’ perception						
1. Youth participate in taking care of the farm and sheep/goat	●●●●● ●●●●● ●	●	●●●●●●● ●●●●●	●●	●●●●●●● ●	
2. Youth participate in dairy production	●●●●● ●●	●●●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●●● ●●	●●●●	●●●●
3. Youth participate in vegetable production	●●●●	●●●●●●●● ●	●●●●●●● ●●●●	●●●	●●●●●●●	
4. There is equality in the participation of both men and women in agricultural work.	●●●●●	●●●●●●●		●●●●●●● ●●●●●●● ●	●●●●●●● ●	
4. Youth labor conditions in agriculture are good.	●●●●● ●	●●●●●●●	●●●●	●●●●●●● ●●●●		
5. The current situation suits youth to work in agriculture	●●●●● ●	●●●●●●●	●●●	●●●●●●● ●●●●●●●	●●●	●●●●●●

As per the remarks of women and youth participating in the focus group discussions, gender roles in taking care of the farm and undertaking various agricultural chores are often based on physical strength (ability to carry heavy equipment), access or ability to use transportation, access to capital and -- most importantly -- cultural norms of accepted roles for women. One young male Palestinian from Jalameh explains, **“Women cannot carry heavy equipment or operate some machines. They cannot carry the fertilizer machine. It’s a man’s job!”**

4.5 Work conditions

Participants expressed that in general the work conditions in agriculture are difficult for both men and women, as farmers have to work under the hot sun and in cold weather. Focus groups results indicate that women and youth were divided when it came to assessing that the labor conditions in agriculture are good, and that the current situation suits women and youth working in agriculture (see Table 12). When further investigating this area, dissatisfaction appeared mainly in women’s and youth’s unpaid engagement. Furthermore, when asked about conditions that women have to work in, women

expressed that they are often obliged to take their little newborn babies with them, in the cold and hot weather, or leave them at a relatives' house. The majority lack access to toilet facilities, forcing them to work the whole day without going to the bathroom. Women also suffer from health impacts, such as back pain.

Even when remunerated, women receive salaries well below those of men. Arwa, a 26-year-old who works with her family in a vegetable farm in Froush Beit Dajan, indicated that recently her father started giving her remuneration of NIS 50 per month. During the harvest season, she receives NIS 50 on a weekly basis.

Dissatisfaction of youth from Cluster 2 and Cluster 3 was mainly attributed to the significant risks farmers face when working in agriculture. They referred to the lack of governmental support for farmers, particularly when facing natural disasters or loss of produce. They believe that they are not protected from exploitation of traders, and price fluctuations. Some expressed that the Ministry of Agriculture often registers those with damages, but farmers have rarely been compensated. In case of assistance, it is generally a modest amount that remains insufficient to improve their farms. Some women, on the other hand, expressed their limited financial independence as a main concern of their current involvement in agriculture.

4.6 Leading farm management and production, as well as participating in the decision making process

Several women participating in the focus groups indicated that they alone manage and take care of the farm in the absence of their husbands, who work as laborers in Israel. During the absence of their husbands, women are often assisted by their daughters and sons. During weekends, the husband participates in the farm's chores, assisting his wife and children. It is rare that women own farms.

Unfortunately, when women lead or participate in the farm's management it is less likely to indicate a shift towards greater engagement in decision-making and leadership, but rather a sign of households' coping mechanisms in the face of the growing unemployment and rising levels of poverty, said both men and women. As more young female and male graduates are encountering difficulties finding suitable employment in non-agricultural occupations, men's traditional role as the sole or main breadwinner is no longer guaranteed or sufficient. Hence, older men often search for more economically suitable job opportunities in Israel, while women, youth and children are left to manage and take care of the farm in the absence of the husband. When the husband is around during low work seasons in Israel, he takes over the management, as well as market relations with traders.

When asked about their participation in the decision making process in the two value chains, women in Cluster 1 and 2 indicated that they rarely participate in decisions related to marketing, or the purchase of agricultural inputs. They feel that women, men and youth do not participate equally in agricultural decisions (see Table 13). Women from Cluster 3 attribute their participation in decision making related to marketing as a result of the husbands' absence, which consequently, obliges women to negotiate with traders and sell their produce directly to traders.

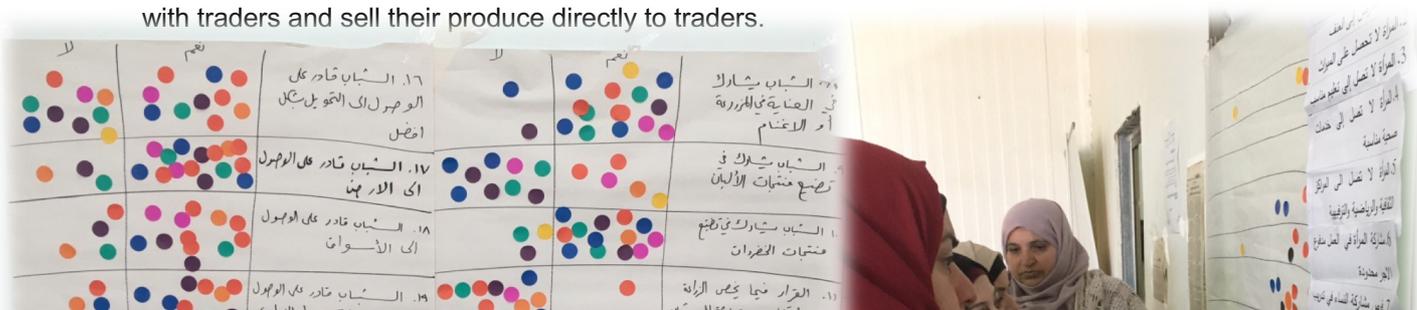


Table 13: Women and youth perceptions on their participation in the decisionmaking process

Participation areas	FG cluster 1		FG cluster 2		FG cluster3	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Women's perception						
1. Women participate in decision related to marketing	•	•••••• •••••• •	•••	•••••• •	•••• ••	••
2. Women participate in decisions related to the purchase of agricultural input		•••••• •••••• ••	••••	••••••	•••	•••••
3. Women, men and youth participate equally in agricultural decisions	•••••	•••••• ••••	••	•••••• •	•••• ••	••
Youth's perception						
1. Youth participate in decisions related to marketing	••	•••••• •	•••• •••	•••••• •••	••••	•••••
2. Youth participate in decisions related to the purchase of agricultural input	••••• •••	•••••	•••• ••••	•••••• ••••	•••• •	••••
3. Women, men and youth participate equally in agricultural decisions	••••• •••	••••••	•	•••••• •••••• ••••	••••	••••

The majority of women said that they do not control the farm's revenue, which marginalizes their role in the production and decision-making processes, which are highly gendered. Women articulate that men often consult them in issues related to what to plant and prices of products, for example. But they explain that consultation does not indicate that their opinion matters, as often men have the final decision-making power and disregard women's opinions. It is often men who take all decisions and control resources, even if they are not managing the farm. Men also assume the management roles of trading and selling products, in turn, entitling them the control of the proceeds. Youth working with their fathers seem to encounter the same challenges and have limited power over decision making in the farm management, production and marketing.

Across the three clusters, it was confirmed that even when women access the farm's income, they do not have much leeway in deciding how to spend it. Nevertheless, when financially independent and leading their own projects and farms, mothers spend a larger share of their own resources on girls than fathers do. Manar from Al-Jalameh explains, **"My daughter wanted to register in college, but her father and uncle refused. Because I have my own small project in selling accessories, I had saved some money and I paid the fees for the first semester. Although I have access to the farm's profits [because] the bank account is in my name and I manage the money, my husband still controls all decision. I cannot spend without first his approval."**

4.7 Access to credit and finance

Women and youth in all focus groups were relatively uniform in describing the resources needed to start and maintain their farm operations. Capital was identified as a key prerequisite for starting up and owning a farm, particularly for youth who seem to venture more in this area. Capital is also needed to offset profit losses resulting from products' damages from diseases, price fluctuation and losses occurring from natural adversities (storms, wind, snow, etc.). Both men and women have expressed

facing complications to access personal credit/loans from banks, which they attribute to very high interest rates and the strict conditions necessitating sponsors' support and other requirements, such as mortgaging assets. And because often women own limited assets, their ability to obtain credit is very restricted.

Table 14: Women and youth perceptions on their access to funding

Participation areas	FG cluster 1		FG cluster 2		FG cluster3	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
1. Women are able to access funding effectively	•••	•••••••••• ••	••		•••••	•••••
2. Youth are able to access funding effectively	•••••••• •	••	•••••••• ••	•••••••• ••	•••••	•••••

Youth were more likely to be able to access funding (see Table 14) and apply for loans from banks than women. None of the women participating in any of the focus groups have ever taken a loan from a bank. In almost all focus groups, many women expressed their refusal even to obtain credit financing due to their belief that it is prohibited in Islam. This was not the case for young male farmers, who never said they rejected loans for religious reasons. In fact, some of them have taken loans from banks.

Furthermore, women stated that even accessing credit from micro-finance organizations that support women was also challenging; none of the women participating in the focus groups have had the opportunity to try such services. Notwithstanding, women were more likely than men to be involved in group/cooperative saving agreements, whereby each member makes an initial investment to serve as collateral against the total loan amount and pays monthly installments to pay off the loan in a predetermined number of months.

Wasfieh from Al-Jalameh narrates her experience as part of such groups, **“My children and myself are part of a women’s saving group. We have been saving for two years. This enabled us to save around 100,000 NIS that we used in building our privately owned house. We haven’t finished it yet.”**

4.8 Access to land and water

Very few women participating in the focus groups were small producers managing their own businesses or holding land. Women in Cluster 1 and 2 indicated their inability to access land effectively (see Table 16). Lack of assets, access to finance, and the limited availability of land in some communities, all result in diminishing women’s ability to own or rent land for agricultural use. In Al-Jalameh, for example, land ownership is very limited for both men and women, as a result of annexation of the village’s land by the Israeli occupation, as well as the increased transformation of land from agricultural to residential and industrial areas. Very few women indicated that they exercise their inheritance rights. Even if women inherit land, it is often the husband who works on it, or controls farm decisions.

Furthermore, it is very customary across the three clusters to rent agricultural land. This requires capital that women often lack, despite the success of some women managers. To rent one dunum in Al-Jalameh, for example, NIS 2,000 are needed for a greenhouse and JD 100 for open land areas.

Table 15: Women and youth perceptions on access to land and water

Participation areas	FG cluster 1		FG cluster 2		FG cluster3	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
6. Women are able to access water	••••••	•••••••• •	•••	••	••••••	••••
7. Women are able to access land effectively	••••	•••••••• •••	••••••	••	••••••	••
6. Youth are able to access water	•••	••••••••	••••••	•••••••• •	••••••	••
7. Youth are able to access land effectively	•••	••••••	•••••••••• ••••	•••	•••••••• •	••

Access to water for agricultural use seems also a challenge for both youth and women farmers in Cluster 1 and 2 (see Table 15), as it is often purchased. This varies from one community to another, even in Cluster 3. Some communities still have no water networks. Farmers are forced to rely on cisterns or purchase expensive water delivered by private water tankers. Prices of a cubic meter of water also vary across governorate and communities, and ranges from NIS 5 (in Jenin for example) to NIS 13 in communities such as Aqaba. These prices are considered a heavy cost on both vegetable and livestock farmers.

4.9 Access to markets

Across all three clusters, women focus group results revealed that they are generally excluded from accessing markets and directly contacting traders. This is mainly a male role (carried out by husband, son, brother, etc.). Usually, connections with small traders are already established through the man, and in case of his absence, women interact with traders who come directly to the farm. Across all three clusters, women never purchase agricultural inputs directly, except if it's from a close relative who sell these inputs. This role, too, is also restricted to men. Women have limited mobility out of the farm and household sphere. This limited role in purchasing agricultural inputs, distributing products and accessing markets, as women explain, is a cultural norm, and is often done by men.

Table 16: Women and youth perceptions on their access to markets

Participation areas	FG cluster 1		FG cluster 2		FG cluster3	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
8. Women deal directly with traders (for marketing or purchasing agricultural input)	••	•••••••• ••••••••	••••	••••••••	••••••	••••••
9. Women are able to access agricultural inputs effectively		•••••••• ••	••••			•••
10. Women are able to access markets effectively	•	•••••••• •••••••• •	••••••	••	•••	•••
8. Youth deal directly with traders (for marketing or purchasing agricultural input)	••••	•••••••• ••••••	•••••• ••	••••••••	••••	••••••

9. Youth are able to access agricultural inputs effectively		•••••• ••	••	•••••• ••••••	••••• •	••
10. Youth are able to access markets effectively	•••••• ••	•••	•••••• •••••• ••	••••	••••	•••

Some women stated that their direct access to local and national markets happens when developmental projects incorporate components to connect women with traders and exhibitions. On the other hand, some women who own and manage their farms and production indicated having direct connections with traders and companies. Ahlam Turkman, a 28-year-old farmer from Beit Hassan, owns her own land where she plants thyme. She has also established connections with traders and private companies to sell her produce. She explains, **“This is not a culturally normal practice expected from women. But, I defied my family and society. At the beginning, I encountered resistance from my parents and community, but I didn’t surrender and proved to them that women are capable of doing anything a man can in agriculture!”**

Women also indicated that even if they are willing to defy these cultural norms and establish more connection with traders, they often lack the needed information and connections to sell their produce. There are some cases of successful initiatives undertaken by women to access markets, mainly as a result of their personal and family connections. Saeda, a farmer from Aqqaba, is a widow and has six children. She was able to access markets in Emirates to sell honey through her personal connections. She has nine beehives, and works as a waged laborer in others’ farms.

Case Study 5: Um Huzaifa Dreams of Starting Something Small



Um Huzaifa Al-Mouhr is the mother of eight children from Nassarieh. Two of her children have graduated from university, and two were unable to continue because of limited financial resources. Another finished from college and is a university employee receiving a salary of NIS 1,000. Another daughter is currently completing her 12th grade year. She took out a loan to cover the costs of her children’s education.

“My husband works as an agricultural laborer on other vegetable farms. His income is around NIS 3,000 a month. My family is involved in farming. I help them in olive picking and planting wheat and lentils. But on my own, I have a small greenhouse where I grow cactus plants. I started this in 1995 as a hobby and I have currently 120 varieties. I dream of establishing a small project that I manage alone, through which I sell my plants in the local market. I need, however, help to start this project and access markets, because I have no knowledge on how to do it on my own.

Women in our community face social restrictions. They are not free to travel and move. It is also difficult for women to work as agricultural laborers on other farms. Some work in Israeli settlements.

While male youth do not encounter the same challenges and often deal with traders directly when the father is not carrying out this responsibility, both women and men highlighted that the main challenge to access markets effectively is the “exploitation” of middlemen traders, who often purchase their produce at very low prices, while farmers are forced to sell. This is mostly the case for all vegetable produce, at the exception of baby cucumber produce, as women and youth indicated the steady and good prices they obtain for baby cucumber, as well as stable agreements with traders and companies.

1.1. Access to agricultural extension services, knowledge and capacity building

With the exception of the focus group in Cluster 3 (see Table 17), women farmers stated that they had limited access to agricultural extension services. They explain that the availability of such services is mainly through project based activities, implemented by Palestinian and international NGOs, and through private agricultural engineers. NGOs that have worked in the three targeted areas have been providing as part of their project implementation technical advice, support and training to beneficiaries. But this varies from one community to another. Some participants from Cluster 3, for example, have received various trainings in food processing, compost, marketing, enhancing quality of products, label development and packaging, safe and organic agricultural practices, soap manufacturing, determining prices of products, and global gap. Um Bahjat from Al-Jalameh says, **“I participated in a training course in Nablus for six months with Youth for Tomorrow. As part of the training, we had to develop a label for our products. I developed a label with the name of the farm and contact information that I can stick on each pumpkin produced from our farm. And I won the competition as part of this training. However, I rarely use the label when marketing my vegetable produce in local markets. I only use it when I sell in national exhibitions.”**

Table 17: Women’s perceptions about their access to agricultural extension services, knowledge, and capacity building

Participation areas	FG cluster 1		FG cluster 2		FG cluster3	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Women’s perception						
1. Women are able to access agricultural extension services and trainings		●●●●●● ●●●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●	●●●●●●	●
2. Women are able to access agricultural knowledge and feasibility	●●●●● ●	●●●●●●● ●●	●●●●●● ●●	●●●	●●	●●
3. We have previously participated in activities related to developing our capacities in agricultural fields	●●●●● ●●●●● ●●	●●●●	●●●●●● ●●	●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●●
Youth’s perception						
1. Youth are able to access agricultural extension services and trainings	●●●●●	●●●●	●●●●●● ●	●●●●●● ●	●●●●●● ●●	●
2. Youth are able to access agricultural knowledge and feasibility	●●●●	●●●●●●● ●	●●●●●● ●●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●● ●	●
3. We have previously participated in activities related to developing our capacities in agricultural fields	●●●●● ●●	●●●●●●●	●●●	●	●●	●●●●●●●

Access to extension services and trainings varies from one community to another, depending on the opportunities that women and youth receive in this area. It seems that youth in particular in Cluster 2

were more pessimistic about the availability of agricultural services and trainings, particularly as they have received minimal support from developmental organizations in this area. Youth from the various focus groups stated that they often refer to the internet for knowledge about agricultural practices and how to protect plants and livestock from diseases and treat them. Youth farmers explained that they often lack knowledge on plant protection, and that they learn from their experience.

Women, on the other hand, rely on their husbands to search for assistance when faced with diseases that threaten their livestock or vegetable plantation. Men seek out other farmers that have better knowledge and more experience. Several women have highlighted that they lost their livestock or their vegetable production in certain seasons as a result of diseases that they could not cure. Um Ahmad from Faqoua tells her story, **“A few years ago, we owned seven cows. Three of them died by a disease and we referred to several private veterinarians, but with no success. We had to sell the rest so as not to lose all our assets. Our project failed. It was very profitable for us. I used to produce two large containers of cheese. Now, we have 24 goats that I am responsible for. My husband is a construction worker in Israel. I wake up at 5:00 am, pray, then prepare breakfast for my children. At 7:00 am, I milk the goats. Then at 8:00, I clean the house, wash and cook. I also have a small supermarket that I usually spend four hours working in. At 4:00 p.m. I take care of the goats. When it’s time to make the cheese, it takes some of my time. In the past, my husband used to help me in taking care of the goats and cows. Not anymore.”**

When asked about the Ministry of Agriculture, the majority of women and youth participants from all areas indicated that extension service employees visit their farms once or twice a year at best. Some youth participants also noted the weak knowledge of the Ministry’s extension service employees. Private agricultural engineers and traders appear to be a significant source of referrals for farmers. To access such services, it is mainly the male – the husband or son - who refers to and contacts these sources. Women are rarely put in contact with extension service providers or veterinarians, unless she is the sole breadwinner of her household and owns the farm. In other cases, women have expressed that in some projects direct training is addressed to the household head, who is often a man, and women’s needs are hence not addressed unless interventions target women directly, or if there is a women’s cooperative in the community.

5 Validation of the Terms of Reference

The data presented above presents a variety of baseline data for achieving the project indicators and marking achievements. Using them as a guide, the following table provides a detailed accounting of the projected project outputs and outcomes and any comments that relate to them

Table 18: Project indicators

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Goal: Increased income, agency, and market opportunity for Palestinian farmers through growth in pro-poor agribusiness and market development</i>	<i>13,551 farmers (including women and youth) report increased income from Souqona interventions</i>	<i>Targeted number seems a bit high, as total farmers (daily and vegetables) is estimated at 3,500 farmers or around 17,500 household members. If we exclude children under 18 years total number of farmers may not exceed 11,000 farmers in all communities. To achieve target, project must consider how to crowding in actors from outside the targeted localities, as well as take measures to ensure that farmers outside the target areas copy farming practices introduced by Souqona to enhance farmers incomes. Short of this, the target should be brought down.</i>
	<i>AUD 15,394,166 additional agricultural production is generated from Souqona</i>	<i>Target needs to be revised downwards. Assuming based on baseline findings that the value of total production by targeted farmers is anywhere between USD 35-40 million, the target means commitment to at least 50% increase in production. This is too ambitious given the relatively high-base production figures claimed by targeted farmers. Achieving this target requires considerable transformations in production processes, which may be quite difficult to achieve within the remaining lifetime of the project.</i>
<i>Purpose: Women and men Palestinian vegetable, dairy and seed farmers are better connected to markets</i>	<i>70% of the interventions developed include improved opportunities for women and youth</i>	<i>Target seems feasible based on the high proportion of women and youth</i>
	<i>AUD 6,583,582 of private sector investment leveraged</i>	<i>This could be achieved, given the AMENCA definition. Nonetheless, it will require a very well designed scalable interventions, with well executed incentive schemes. A robust</i>

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Comments</i>
		<i>measurement system is also needed to quantify investments made by the farmers and enterprise directly targeted by the projects different interventions.</i>
	<i>AUD 33,923,889 of additional domestic sales facilitated</i>	<i>This means an increase of 82% of domestic sales. (total production value in targeted localities is estimated to be in the realm of USD 40 million). We suggest to revise downward.</i>
	<i>AUD 19,650,320 of additional exports facilitated, including new exports</i>	<i>The baseline found that about 35-45% of the total vegetable production (cucumber and tomato) is exported. The total value of exports is around USD 20 million in the targeted communities. This target assumes increasing export by 100% of their current value. We suggest to revise downwards.</i>
	<i>70% of the interventions developed include improved opportunities for women and youth</i>	<i>Target seems feasible based on the high proportion of women and youth</i>
	<i>1,480 women and 1,250 youth able to report examples of economic empowerment</i>	<i>Target seems feasible based on the high proportion of women and youth. It is particularly so if interventions get designed with this target in mind.</i>
	<i>1,000 women & 270 youth reporting more active or equitable roles in agricultural value chains as a result of AMENCA 3.</i>	<i>Target seems feasible based on the high proportion of women and youth. It is particularly so if interventions get designed with this target in mind.</i>
<i>EoP Outcome 1: Women & men farmers are market ready – producing quality,</i>	<i>17 kms of feeder roads rehabilitated</i>	<i>Feasible.</i>
	<i>6,800 dunums of farm land with enhanced access as a result of</i>	<i>That means each km of open roads will contribute to enhance access to 400 dunums of land. We suggest to check basis for calculation and revalidate, taking into consideration the typology and land use patterns in the areas where the feeder roads are planned.</i>

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>quantity and reliable produce</i>	<i>roads rehabilitated through AMENCA 3</i>	
	<i>3,060 farmers with improved access to agricultural infrastructure as a result of rehabilitated roads.</i>	<i>This assumes that each kilometre of agricultural roads rehabilitated will serve 180 farmers. Target seems high as farmers we have met indicated that each kilometre benefits, on average, 40-50 farm holdings.</i>
	<i>3,900 farmers have access to improved water management systems</i>	<i>Feasibility of achieving target cannot be assessed without having a clear definition of the interventions that will be carried out to meet it, or the specific target areas.</i>
	<i>1,359 dunums Increase in area of irrigated land as a result of AMENCA 3 water management interventions reported by farmers</i>	<i>As previous.</i>
	<i>3,510 farmers reporting that improved water management systems are still functional</i>	<i>This means that 90% of the farmers in the targeted area will benefit from water management systems introduced or facilitated by the project. This seems excessive given that adoption rates cannot be expected to be near this high level within the lifetime of the project, even in the best of scenarios.</i>
	<i>4,200 farmers adopt innovative agricultural practices</i>	<i>Target is achievable only if interventions are scaled up and copied by farmers outside target area. This will need measurement.</i>
<i>EoP Outcome 2: Women & men engage more sustainably &</i>	<i>AUD 6,583,582 of private sector investment leveraged</i>	<i>This could be achieved, given the AMENCA definition. Nonetheless, it will require a very well designed scalable interventions, with well executed incentive schemes. A robust measurement system is also needed to quantify investments made by the farmers and enterprise directly targeted by the projects different interventions.</i>

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>profitably in value chains</i>	<i>AUD 33,923,889 of additional domestic sales facilitated</i>	<i>This means an increase of 82% of domestic sales. (total production value in targeted localities is estimated to be in the realm of USD 40 million). We suggest to revise downward.</i>
	<i>1% change in the domestic market attributable to AMENCA3</i>	<i>This is feasible as farmers in the targeted communities are the prime actors in the domestic market for vegetables.</i>
	<i>AUD 19,650,320 of additional exports facilitated, including new exports</i>	<i>The baseline found that about 35-45% of the total vegetable production (cucumber and tomato) is exported. The total value of exports is around USD 20 million in the targeted communities. This target assumes increasing export by 100% of their current value. We suggest to revise downwards.</i>
	<i>574 participating farmers reporting that some of their produce is being exported</i>	<i>Seems feasible, especially with interventions focusing on improving export linkages.</i>
	<i>1% change in the export market attributable to AMENCA 3</i>	<i>Same as previous,</i>
	<i>At least two agricultural value chains functioning better as a result of AMENCA 3 interventions</i>	<i>Target seems feasible based on the high proportion of women and youth. It is particularly so if interventions get designed with this target in mind.</i>
<i>EoP Outcome 3: Women & youth more economically empowered</i>	<i>70% of the interventions developed include improved opportunities for women and youth</i>	<i>Feasible as all interventions are being developed in an inclusive manner.</i>
	<i>Positive changes in attitudes and/or perceptions of women and men towards the</i>	<i>-</i>

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Comments</i>
	<i>economic and social roles of women and youth in agricultural work</i>	
	<i>2,040 Women reporting greater mobility within agricultural value chains</i>	<i>Mobility was reported as a significant constrained by interviewed women producers. However, target seems ambitious as it implies that changes in mobility will affect nearly all women producers in the target area, and this is somewhat unlikely.</i>
	<i>1,480 women and 1,250 youth able to report examples of economic empowerment</i>	<i>Feasible given broad definition of indicator.</i>
	<i>10% of households that report joint decision making involving women and/or youth (% age)</i>	<i>Feasible though needs careful measurement and validation of attribution of results..</i>
	<i>1000 women & 270 youth reporting more active or equitable roles in agricultural value chains as a result of AMENCA 3.</i>	<i>Same a previous</i>
	<i>Communities and families actively supporting enterprises established with women and youth as main players</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>4389 Women and youths reporting improvements in the access they have to agricultural services</i>	<i>This number represent around 50% of the total number of youth and women farmers in targeted localities. Reaching this target will depend on allocated resources and activities</i>

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Comments</i>
	<i>Women and youth reporting improvements to the terms and conditions to their work in agricultural value chains</i>	-

Annex 1: Additional Tables Disaggregated by Sex

Table A: Youth participation rates in agriculture activities, by sex

Activities	Females			Males		
	High	Medium	Low or very low	High	Medium	Low or very low
Procurement of agriculture inputs	2.1%	4.3%	93.6	16.8%	28.8%	54.5%
What should be cultivated?	2.1%	4.3%	93.6	14.2%	29.1%	56.7%
Land ploughing	2.1%	2.1%	95.7	20.1%	27.7%	52.2
Land sterilization	2.1%	2.1%	95.7	20.1%	27.9%	52
Planting seedlings	4.3%	2.1%	93.6	21.8%	32.4%	45.8
Irrigation	4.3%	4.3%	91.5	23.5%	32.2%	44.3
Receiving extension	2.1%	4.3%	93.6	13.4%	22.9%	63.7
Negotiating with traders.	.0%	2.6%	97.4	16.5%	26.4%	57
Procurement of assets	2.6%	2.6%	97.3	10.2%	16.2%	73.6
Fertilization	0	4.8%	95.2	22.2%	35.2%	42.2
Pruning	2.1%	6.4%	91.5	24.0%	35.2%	40.8
Product's transportation	4.3%	2.1%	93.6%	29.6%	28.2%	42.2
Marketing	4.3%	2.1%	93.6%	24.4%	27.7%	47.9
Setting prices	4.3%	2.1%	93.6%	12.9%	22.1%	65
Future investment	4.4%	2.2%	93.3	13.4%	28.9%	57.7

Table B: Youth: Did you receive any of the following agricultural services during the last season? % by sex

Activities	Females		Males	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agriculture extension	4.3	95.7	19	81
Business development services	0	100	10.6	89.4
Agriculture demonstrations	2.1	97.9	20.4	79.6
Workshop or training	2.1	97.9	19.3	80.7
Financial services	0	100	4.5	95.5

Table C: Youth: Indicate your level of acceptance of the following statements, % by sex

Activities	Females			Males		
	Agree/ Completely agree	In- Between	Don't agree /completely don't agree	Agree/ Completely agree	In- Between	Don't agree / Completely don't agree
Youth participation in agriculture contribute to improve their status and the livelihood of the household.	84.2	13.2%	2.6%	93	4.2%	2.8
Youth participation in agriculture improve their status in the community.	81.6	13.2%	5.3%	90.5	5.6%	3.9
Youth participation in agriculture reduce unemployment and creates decent work for youth	78.9	18.4%	2.6%	91.9	5.3%	2.8%
Youth participate in marketing related decision	50	28.9%	21.1%	77.8	16.5%	5.6%
Youth deal directly with traders	55.3	23.7%	21.1%	84.8	9.2%	6.0%
All decisions related to agriculture are equally taken by men, women and youth.	18.4	26.3%	55.3%	41	26.9%	32.2%
Men and women equally participate in agricultural work.	13.2	23.7%	63.2%	36.7	26.1%	37.1%
Youth are able to access agriculture extension and training services.	65.8	13.2%	21.1.	79.9	8.2%	11.9%
Youth are able to access agriculture inputs.	72.3	6.4%	21.3%	91.3	5.0%	3.6%
Youth are able to access financial services.	70.6	10.1%	19.3%	59.6	.0%	19.3%
Current situation suits youth to participate in agricultural work.	57.9	13.2%	28.9%	71.7	9.2%	19.1%

Table D: Farmers: Do you have a direct relationship with the following value chain actors? By sex

Activities	Females		Males	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Wholesalers	16.9	83.1	85.4	14.6
Factories	4.7	95.3	11	89
Customers	24.5	75.5	65.5	34.5
Input provides	10.8	89.2	35.9	64.1
Exporters	6	94	11.7	88.3

Table E: Farmers: Do you have access to these agriculture inputs, by sex

Sex	Always accessible	Accessible most of the time	Sometime accessible	Rarely accessible
Males	44.4	37.4	16.3	1.8
Females	37.4	36.3	21.1	5.2

Table F: Farmers' participation rates in different activities, by sex

Area of participation	Women Participation rate			Men Participation rate		
	High	Medium	Low or very low	High	Medium	Low or very low
Participation in house chores	96.3	3	0.8	5.1	13.4	81.4
Participation in waged labor	12.3	20.4	67.3	87.5	7.7	4.8
Participation of unwaged labor	67.2	15.9	16.9	10.7	11.9	77.3
Visits to friends and relatives	63.7	28.9	7.5	50.5	30	19.5
Participation in cultural, social and political activities	7.9	10.5	81.6	28.8	23.1	48.1

Table G: Farmers: Indicate your level of acceptance of the following statements, %

Activities	Females			Males		
	Agree/Completely agree	In-Between	Don't agree/completely don't agree	Agree/Completely agree	In-Between	Don't agree/completely don't agree
Women's participation in agriculture contributes to improve their status and the livelihood of the household.	52.6	32.0	11.5	3.4	.6	52.6
Women's participation in agriculture improve their status in the community.	49.2	32.9	14.7	2.8	.4	49.2
Women's participation in agriculture reduces unemployment and creates decent work for youth	55.2	31.7	11.6	1.1	.4	55.2
Women participates in marketing related decision	9.3	16.6	13.6	48.8	11.6	9.3
Women deal directly with traders	6.1	5.7	5.0	61.4	21.9	6.1
All decisions related to agriculture are equally taken by men, women and youth.	13.2	21.1	29.0	27.6	9.1	13.2
Men and women equally participate in agricultural work.	8.4	15.2	30.7	36.1	9.5	8.4
Women are able to access agriculture extension and training services.	12.9	26.5	21.2	31.9	7.5	12.9
Women are able to access agriculture inputs.	12.6	13.0	16.7	47.3	10.4	12.6
Women are able to access financial services.	8.6	14.1	15.4	51.8	10.2	8.6
Current situation suits youth to participate in agricultural work.	15.2	38.9	20.9	19.9	5.2	15.2

Annex 2: List of Participants in Focus Group Discussions

Name	Locality	Name	Locality
<i>Women focus group Cluster 1</i>		<i>Youth Focus Group Cluster 1</i>	
1. Mariam Moubarak	Aqrabanieh	2. Aseel Abu Aqel	Aqrabanieh
3. Salma Musleh	Aqrabanieh	4. Jehan Abu Aqel	Aqrabanieh
5. Mariam Mouhr	Aqrabanieh	6. Faren Mahmoud	Beit Fourik
7. Lina Jihad	Aqrabanieh	8. Tahreer Khatata	Beit Fourik
9. Faima Ghawi	Beit Fourik	10. Isra Housni	Beit Fourik
11. Basma Abu Ali	Beit Fourik	12. Zikra Khatata	Beit Fourik
13. Lina Abdel Qader	Beit Fourik	14. Hanadi Turkman	Beit Hassan
15. Nida Shami	Beit Fourik	16. Aysam Saleh	Beit Hassan
17. Huda Abu Sada	Beit Hassan	18. Mohammad Ibrahim	Beit Hassan
19. Husnieh Abu Sada	Beit Hassan	20. Ahlam Turkman	Beit Hassan
21. Arwa Abu Jeish	Froush Beit Dajan	22. Wesal Hisham	Froush Beit Dajan
23. Wasfieh Abu Jeish	Froush Beit Dajan	24. Bara' Abu Jeish	Froush Beit Dajan
25. Sadiqa Abu Jeish	Froush Beit Dajan	26. Rashad Mohamad	Froush Beit Dajan
27. Wafiqa Abu Jeish	Froush Beit Dajan	28. Ayman Haneenee	Froush Beit Dajan
29. Ashwaq Abu Jeish	Froush Beit Dajan	30. Aysar Haneenee	Froush Beit Dajan
31. Narmeen Silwani	Nawajee	32. Alla Salameh	Froush Beit Dajan
33. Fatheiya Balawneh	Nasarieh	34. Inas Abu Jeish	Froush Beit Dajan
35. Saleha Al-Muhr	Nasarieh	36. Hanan Malaha	Nasarieh
37. Hanan Malaha	Nasarieh	38. Mohammad Wahidi	Nasarieh
39. Fatima Khalil	Nawajee	40. Arwa Abu Jeish	Nasarieh
41. Maysoun Malaha	Nasarieh	42. Azhar Waheedee	Nasarieh
43. Saeda Jamil	Nasarieh	44. Areej Malah	Nasarieh
45. Zouhour Khaled	Nasarieh	46. Halam Malah	Nasarieh
47. Fayza Dabas	Nasarieh	48. Nervana Waheede	Nasarieh
<i>Women focus group Cluster 2</i>		49. Neven Shehadeh	Nawajee
50. Lena Besharat	Tamoun	51. Salam Wakhman	Nasarieh
52. Muheiba Bani Odeh	Tamoun	53. Asma Wakhman	Nasarieh
54. Afaf Bani Odeh	Tamoun	<i>Youth Focus Group Cluster 2</i>	
55. Najah Bani Odeh	Tamoun	56. Zekrayat Sawafta	Bardala
57. Badima Abu Juma	Wadi Fara	58. Dua Sawafta	Bardala
59. Faeda Ahmad	Tayaseer	60. Ayat Faqha	Kardala
61. Nada Sawafta	Bardala	62. Heba Sawafta	Bardala
63. Brehan Sawafta	Bardala	64. Hana Bani Odeh	Tammoun

Name	Locality	Name	Locality
65. Aya Abdallah	Bardala	66. Shereen Bani Odeh	Tammoun
67. Nadia Jaber	Tayaseer	68. Ammar Faqha	Kardala
69. Khitam Jaber	Tayaseer	70. Maher Faqha	Kardala
71. Aeda Shehade	Tayaseer	72. Yaseen Bani Odeh	Atouf
73. Hayfa Jaber	Wadi Fara	74. Moumen Bsharat	Tammoun
75. Isra Abu Mouhsen	Tayaseer	76. Oday Bsharat	Atouf
77. Rasha Yaseen	Tayaeer	78. Sameh Odeh	Tammoun
79. Fatima Bani Odeh	Tayaseer	80. Amjad Farhan	Al-Fara
81. Sara Sbeih	Atouf	82. Isra Abu Mheisen	Tayaseer
83. Amena Khader	Atouf	84. Ayyat Balata	Al-Fara
85. Iman Bsharat	Atouf	86. Izdehar Awaysa	Al-Fara
87. Nima Khader	Atouf	88. Najah Awaysa	Al-Fara
89. Yasmeen Faqha	Ein Baida	90. Safa Jaber	Tayaseer
91. Abeer Faqha	Ein Baida	<i>Women Focus Group Cluster 3</i>	
92. Leena Faqha	Ein Baida	93. Shadiya Qalaweh	Al-Jdeideh
94. Faeda Faqha	Kardala	95. Lana Abu Salah	Al-Jdeideh
96. Itedal Faqha	Kardala	97. Wasfieh Shaban	Al-Jalameh
98. Rema Faqha	Kardala	99. Wala Zeidat	Faqoua
100. Hayfa Faqha	Ein Baida	101. Hanan Othman	Abba
102. Heba Abu	Aqqaba	103. Manal Ahmad	Abba
104. Amal Adnan	Aqqaba	105. Zaheda Abu Khamis	Faqoua
106. Saeda Masree	Aqqaba	107. Nehal Nassar	Faqoua
108. Intisar Masree	Aqqaba	109. Helweh Mohammad	Deir Abu Deif
110. Shaheera Masree	Tayaseer	111. Raghda Jamal	Deir Abu Deif
112. Samah Sbeih	Al-Aqaba	113. Hanan Salah	Faqoua
114. Sahera Abdel Kareem	Al-Aqaba	115. Manar Shaban	Al-Jalameh
116. Itedal Faqha	Kardala	117. Amal Shaban	Al-Jalameh
118. Hejar Sbeih	Tayaseer	<i>Youth Focus Group Cluster 3</i>	
119. Sabra Jaber	Tayaseer	120. Mohammad Shaban	Al-Jalameh
121. Amneh Jaber	Tayaseer	122. Moumen Abu Issa	Al-Jalameh
123. Insaf Hani	Al-Aqaba	124. Sahel Azmouti	Abba
		125. Mouqbel Azmout	Abba
		126. Shouja Yaseen	Deir Abu Deif
		127. Jihad Qalaweh	Al-Jdeideh
		128. Waheeb Waheeb	Al-Jdeideh
		129. Samah Awwad	Deir Abu Deif
		130. Salam Nasahreh	Deir Abu Deif
		131. Amjad Mahmoud	Faqoua

Annex 3: List of Market Actors Interviewed.

List of market actors interviewed	
Name	Location
Al Meqdadi company for agricultural inputs	Jenin
Mawasem company	Jenin
New farm company for marketing and distribution food products	Ramallah
Al Themar company for distribution of processed food products	Jenin
Al Qaisi company is a medium scale dairy factory	Tulkarem
Al Waha Al Akhdra' is a fodders factory	Jenin
Al-Jalaman Women Society	Jenin
Tamoun Charitable society	Tubas
Al Fara'a is a fodders factory	Tubas
Al-Junidee seedlings company	Nablus

Annex 4: Baseline findings against project indicators

Indicators	BLS Results
<p>Goal level indicator: 13,551 farmers (including women Youth) report increased income from Souqona interventions</p>	<p>Vegetable Producers</p> <p>Average household monthly income: NIS 3,513</p> <p>Agriculture contribution to household income: 92%</p> <p>Net income per dunum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cucumber: NIS 11,741 • Tomatoes: NIS 19,708 • Eggplants: NIS 7,433 <p>Sheep and goats producers</p> <p>Average household monthly income: NIS 2,671</p> <p>Agriculture contribution to household income: 65.9%</p> <p>Average net income from the sale of milk and sheep and goats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep: NIS 618 • Goats: NIS 615
<p>Purpose level indicator: AUD 15,394,166 additional agricultural production is generated from Souqona</p>	<p>Area of land (dunums) cultivated with targeted crops:</p> <p>Survey findings indicated that vegetable farmers surveyed have more than 3,000 dunums of land cultivated with cucumber, tomato and eggplants, with tomato and cucumber comprising 95% of the cultivated areas</p> <p>% of total production lost pre- and post-harvest per dunum (by crop):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cucumber: 5.2% • Tomatoes: 6.7% • Eggplants: 3.7% <p>Total holding of sheep and goats</p> <p>On average, each Sheep/goat dairy farmer has 43 ewes</p>

Indicators	BLS Results
	<p>Quantities of milk produced</p> <p>Each ewe produces an average of 79 liters of milk while each nanny produces an average of 67 liters of milk annually</p> <p>Dairy farmer reported that they lose an average of 6% of sheep milk and 3% of goat milk every season</p>
<p>EoP Outcome 1 Indicator: 3,900 farmers have access to improved water management systems</p>	<p>Vegetable farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water wells: 70.3% • Public network: 26.1% • Public network&water wells: 3.6% <p>Water problems encountered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Water disconnection: 54.5% •Limited supply of water amounts: 58.1% •Long distance between land and water source: 44.5% •High water prices: 52.4% •Problems related to water quality: 5.6% <p>Irrigation networks used: The vast majority of vegetable farmers surveyed in the clusters use drip networks (40 cm) to irrigate their crops. Only 2.8% of vegetable farmers are using balanced pressure networks that can be used to preserve water and reduce production cost</p> <p>Sheep and goats farmers. Sources of water used for agricultural purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water wells: 50.1% • Public network: 35.1% • Public network&water wells: 12.2.% • Tankers: 2.5%
<p>EoP Outcome 2 Indicator: AUD 19,650,320 of additional exports facilitated, including new exports</p>	<p>About 30% of vegetable farmers (29.3%) reported, on the other hand, that some of their produce had been exported, with the highest proportion of these found in Jenin cluster</p> <p>Of the vegetable farmers who reported that they had exported produce, each farmer reported exporting an average of 14.5 tons of cucumber, 28.2 tons of tomato and 5.6 tons of eggplant</p> <p>Almost all sheep/goat dairy farmers surveyed (99.2 percent) reported that they had not exported their milk or milk products to Israel or to international markets</p>

Indicators	BLS Results
<p>EoP Outcome 2 Indicator: 574 participating farmers reporting that some of their produce is being exported</p>	<p>About 30% of vegetable farmers (29.3%) reported, on the other hand, that some of their produce had been exported, with the highest proportion of these found in Jenin cluster</p> <p>Of the vegetable farmers who reported that they had exported produce, each farmer reported exporting an average of 14.5 tons of cucumber, 28.2 tons of tomato and 5.6 tons of eggplant</p> <p>Almost all sheep/goat dairy farmers surveyed (99.2 percent) reported that they had not exported their milk or milk products to Israel or to international markets</p>
<p>EoP Outcome 3 indicator: Positive changes in attitudes and/or perceptions of women and men towards the economic and social roles of women and youth in agricultural work</p>	<p>Discussions with vegetable farmers showed that men execute the vast majority of activities in the value chain, especially procurement of inputs, making decisions about what should be cultivated, receiving agriculture extension support, the products transportation, marketing, establishment of prices and future investment</p> <p>When asked about women’s involvement, however, male farmers had comparatively negative attitudes. The vast majority of them reported that they don’t believe women can be involved in activities such as negotiating with traders, procuring inputs, making decisions about what should be cultivated, product transportation and marketing, setting prices and future investments. Women were seen to have the greatest possible role in future investments (40.5%) and planning cultivation (36.1%).</p> <p>When female farmers were asked about their participation in different activities, they reported being engaged in housework and social activities over active wage labor and cultural and political activities</p> <p>96.3% of the women surveyed reported high participation rates in housework, and close to two-thirds reported high participation in visits to friends and relatives. By comparison, only 5.1% of male farmers had high participation in housework. These findings were reflected in the focus groups with women. Much higher rates of females surveyed reported participation in unwaged labor than did male farmers, indicating one of the existing structural inequalities in the workforce</p>
<p>EoP Outcome 3 Indicator: 2,040 Women reporting greater mobility within agricultural value chains</p>	<p>When the women farmers were asked if they face any difficulties in accessing the market or carrying out their work, 56.5% of female vegetable farmers and 43% of female dairy farmers responded affirmatively. A greater proportion of female vegetable farmers (56.5%) reported obstacles than did female sheep/goat dairy farmers (43%).</p> <p>The hardship mentioned most frequently by female farmers (89.3%) is the long distance between their locality and the markets, and this was especially true for vegetable farmers. Another 66.6% indicated that there is a lack of public transportation, while 69.7% of the women referred to bad road conditions as a difficulty in accessing work and markets</p>
<p>EoP Outcome 3 Indicator: 1,480 women and 1,250 youth able to report examples of economic empowerment</p>	<p>Only 20.8% of the women surveyed viewed it as socially acceptable for women to travel in order to market agricultural products, while only 30.8% of them accepted women’s involvement in the purchasing of agricultural products, and not even half (45.6%) of the women surveyed indicated that its acceptable for women to travel to work and to participate in the labor market.</p>

Indicators	BLS Results
	<p>The majority of youth farmers surveyed (93 % of males and 84.1 % of females) reported that their participation in agriculture has contributed to improving their status and the livelihood of their household. It has also improved their status in the community. Moreover, 94% of the males and 79% of the females reported that they “completely agree” or “agree” that their participation in agriculture reduces unemployment and creates decent work for youth. Interviews with youth found numerous young people who had been unable to find work after attending university (or were unable to attend university) and were employed in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>These findings should be offset with the focus group findings in Section 4, where more negative views about youth employment in agriculture were apparent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55.5% of the female farmers surveyed “completely agree” or “agree” that they have limited opportunity to lead local organizations. • 57.1% of female farmers “completely agree” or “agree” that they have limited opportunities to access micro-finance. • 51.9% of female farmers “completely agree” or “agree” that they have limited opportunities to participate in vocational training. <p>On the other hand, most women “disagree” or “completely disagree” that they are exposed to violence (76.6%), or they don’t access their right to inheritance (75.1%). Likewise, the majority of female farmers (82.3) “did not agree” or “completely did not agree” with the statement that women don’t have access to good education.</p>
<p>EoP Outcome 3 Indicator: 10% of households that report joint decision making involving women and/or youth (%age)</p>	<p>Male farmers reported that men control most of the decisions related to household expenses, visits and social activities, purchasing of assets, meetings or workshops outside the locality, a wife’s work in the city, and a wife’s work inside the locality. Nearly one-fourth of respondents said that women could control visits and social activities, but this was an outlier compared to the rest of female decision-making. Youth, on the other hand, had even less agency, with only one to three percent of male farmers saying they could make solitary decisions about any of these subjects – even social activities</p> <p>Several women participating in the focus groups indicated that they alone manage and take care of the farm in the absence of their husbands, who work as laborers in Israel. During the absence of their husbands, women are often assisted by their daughters and sons. During weekends, the husband participates in the farm’s chores, assisting his wife and children. It is rare that women own farms.</p> <p>Unfortunately, when women lead or participate in the farm’s management it is less likely to indicate a shift towards greater engagement in decision-making and leadership, but rather a sign of households’ coping mechanisms in the face of the growing unemployment and rising levels of poverty, said both men and women. As more young female and male graduates are encountering difficulties finding suitable employment in non-agricultural occupations, men’s traditional role as the sole or main breadwinner is no longer guaranteed or sufficient. Hence, older men often search for more economically suitable job opportunities</p>

Indicators	BLS Results
	<p>in Israel, while women, youth and children are left to manage and take care of the farm in the absence of the husband. When the husband is around during low work seasons in Israel, he takes over the management, as well as market relations with traders.</p> <p>When asked about their participation in the decision making process in the two value chains, women in Cluster 1 and 2 indicated that they rarely participate in decisions related to marketing, or the purchase of agricultural inputs. They feel that women, men and youth do not participate equally in agricultural decisions</p> <p>The majority of women said that they do not control the farm's revenue, which marginalizes their role in the production and decision-making processes, which are highly gendered. Women articulate that men often consult them in issues related to what to plant and prices of products, for example. But they explain that consultation does not indicate that their opinion matters. It is often men who take all decisions and control resources, even if they are not managing the farm. Men also assume the management roles of trading and selling products, in turn, entitling them the control of the proceeds. Youth working with their fathers seem to encounter the same challenges and have limited power over decision making in the farm management, production and marketing</p>
<p>EoP Outcome 3 Indicator: 1000 women & 270 youth reporting more active or equitable roles in agricultural value chains as a result of AMENCA 3.</p>	<p>In all focus groups, participants asserted that women and youth contribute significantly to the farm work, with a larger responsibility in on-farm chores and agricultural production activities, such as preparing the ground for planting, planting, weeding and harvesting for vegetable value chains. In livestock value chains, women also tend to perform tasks done on a daily basis such as milking, feeding, cleaning and watering. They also practice herding close to the household's boundaries. If employed in non-agricultural jobs, men are mainly involved in tasks performed weekly or seasonally, such as land preparation, spraying or planting.</p> <p>In off-farm activities, women reported often being engaged in cleaning, cutting, sorting, packaging, labeling, and dairy processing. These activities are mostly restricted to women or female youth, as generally young men assisting their families in their farms are less engaged in such activities (see Table 12). Also, dairy processing is often performed by older women. In Cluster 3, the high results indicating youth participation in dairy production is due to the fact that many of them were females.</p>
<p>EoP Outcome 3 Indicator: Communities and families actively supporting enterprises established with women and youth as main players</p>	<p>The targeted farmers of both groups had positive attitudes toward youth participation. Almost all of them reported that youth are able to be involved in all value chain activities, including negotiation with traders, procurement of inputs, decisions about what should be cultivated, product transportation and marketing, setting prices and future investments</p> <p>When asked about women's involvement, , male farmers had comparatively negative attitudes. The vast majority of them reported that they don't believe women can be involved in activities such as negotiating with traders, procuring inputs, making decisions about what should be cultivated, product transportation and marketing, setting prices and future investments. Women were seen to have the greatest possible role in future investments (40.5%) and planning cultivation (36.1%).</p>
<p>EoP Outcome 3 Indicator: 4389 Women and youths reporting improvements in the access they have to agricultural services</p>	<p>Farmers were asked if they had access to information about the market. Most (97.4% of the vegetable farmers and 90.6% of the sheep/goat dairy farmers) reported having access to market information, as well as product specifications</p> <p>Unlike men, most women reported that they don't have access to information about the market. (97.4% of the vegetable farmers and 90.6% of the sheep/goat dairy farmers) or to access information about product specifications</p>

Indicators	BLS Results
	<p>When both groups of farmers were asked about their access to different services, their answers were mixed. Financial services and technology were most prominently “rarely accessible” or “not available.” On the other hand, farmers reported improved access to agricultural services, labor, and machinery.</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcome Indicator 1.1: % of female & male farmers reporting improved access to affordable, quality inputs</p>	<p>The majority of male vegetable farmers (82.5 percent) and sheep/goat dairy farmers (79.8 percent) reported that agricultural inputs are always or most of the time accessible in term of quality, availability and prices. Minorities in the two groups reported that agriculture inputs are sometimes or rarely accessible</p> <p>Women also reported that agricultural inputs are always or most of the time accessible in term of quality, availability and prices</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcome Indicator 1.2: # of female & male farmers demonstrate better agricultural skills & practices and higher value or more profitable production</p>	<p>When asked about their commitment to using best agricultural practices on their farms, vegetable farmers responded with mixed feelings. The majority of them reported they are committed always or most of the time to using organic fertilization, disinfecting the soil, removing previous crops and using the suitable pesticides. On the other hand, most vegetable farmers reported that they aren't using farm records or applying new technology on their farms. It is important to note that the survey results reflect the perceptions of vegetable farmers, and not necessarily their actual practices.</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcome 2.1 Indicator: % female & male farmers reporting improvement in their linkages with other VC actors</p>	<p>Male vegetable farmers and sheep/goat dairy farmers have direct relationships with several actors across the value chain, including exporters, traders, intermediaries, wholesalers, and retailers in rural or urban retail markets. Transporters, who own trucks and transport produce from farms to destination markets, also play a significant role in the market, as many of them act as collectors. Based on the survey results, 85.4% of the farmers have direct relationships with wholesalers, 11% with factories, 65.5% with clients, and 35.9% with input providers</p> <p>On the other hand, minor percentage of women reported that they have relationships with several actors across the value chain, including exporters, traders, intermediaries, wholesalers, and retailers in rural or urban retail markets</p> <p>Most vegetable farmers have negative attitudes towards the private sector, with 93.4% reporting that private sector actors are making high profits at their expense. A minority believed that the private sector is contributing to the development of their work or to facilitating the marketing of their products</p> <p>Attitudes towards financial institutions were more mixed, with 50.1% reporting that financial institutions contribute to the development of the agriculture sector, while the 49.9% of them reported that the loans provided by financial institutions are either very hard to access or have negative impact on the agriculture sector</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcome 3.1 Indicator: % of targeted women & youth reporting improved engagement/role and/or participation in value chain</p>	<p>Discussions with vegetable farmers showed that men execute the vast majority of activities in the value chain, especially procurement of inputs, making decisions about what should be cultivated, receiving agriculture extension support, the products transportation, marketing, establishment of prices and future investment.</p> <p>The targeted farmers of both groups had positive attitudes toward youth participation. Almost all of them reported that youth are able to be involved in all value chain activities, including negotiation with traders, procurement of inputs, decisions about what should be cultivated, product transportation and marketing, setting prices and future investments</p>

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	<p>Several women participating in the focus groups indicated that they alone manage and take care of the farm in the absence of their husbands, who work as laborers in Israel. During the absence of their husbands, women are often assisted by their daughters and sons. During weekends, the husband participates in the farm's chores, assisting his wife and children. It is rare that women own farms.</p> <p>Unfortunately, when women lead or participate in the farm's management it is less likely to indicate a shift towards greater engagement in decision-making and leadership, but rather a sign of households' coping mechanisms in the face of the growing unemployment and rising levels of poverty, said both men and women. As more young female and male graduates are encountering difficulties finding suitable employment in non-agricultural occupations, men's traditional role as the sole or main breadwinner is no longer guaranteed or sufficient. Hence, older men often search for more economically suitable job opportunities in Israel, while women, youth and children are left to manage and take care of the farm in the absence of the husband. When the husband is around during low work seasons in Israel, he takes over the management, as well as market relations with traders</p> <p>When asked about their participation in the decision making process in the two value chains, women in Cluster 1 and 2 indicated that they rarely participate in decisions related to marketing, or the purchase of agricultural inputs. They feel that women, men and youth do not participate equally in agricultural decisions</p> <p>The majority of women said that they do not control the farm's revenue, which marginalizes their role in the production and decision-making processes, which are highly gendered. Women articulate that men often consult them in issues related to what to plant and prices of products, for example. But they explain that consultation does not indicate that their opinion matters. It is often men who take all decisions and control resources, even if they are not managing the farm. Men also assume the management roles of trading and selling products, in turn, entitling them the control of the proceeds. Youth working with their fathers seem to encounter the same challenges and have limited power over decision making in the farm management, production and marketing.</p>

