



**Country case Study –  
CFS 36<sup>th</sup> Session 11-14  
and 16 October 2010**

**National Initiatives for Food  
Security and Nutrition**

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- Jordan is among the world's five most water-deficit countries, even in the best seasons, producing no more than 8-10% of its cereal requirements.
- In addition the Kingdom's annual fodder requirements are estimated at around 1.7 million tonnes, although the country only produces 21% of these needs.
- The agriculture sector, which represents sources of income for more than 15% of the population, is currently struggling to cope with a global rise in grain prices, and continues to grapple with challenges of scarce water, recurrent drought, urbanisation and desertification



# Introduction on Jordan Economy

Jordan is a resource poor country with no oil, and limited land and water resources.

It has a population of 6.00 million, about 80% of whom are urban.

The major cereals consumed are wheat, maize and barley, the last being used as fodder.

Jordan is self-sufficient in vegetables, poultry, eggs and fruits and 50% of milk and dairy, however it relies mostly on imports of wheat, cereals and fodder.

There is no domestic production of some other items like oil seeds and rice.



The natural consequence of this situation is that Jordan is a net food importing country, with large amounts of cereal imports.

Since the 1990s, Jordan has taken significant steps to reform its economy, and accordingly embarked on a comprehensive political, social and economic reform agenda with the aim of building a modern state, based on economic vitality with substantial potential for growth and prosperity, political inclusion and social stability.



Improvement in the business environment, both on the public and private sector level, has been on Jordan's top priority to unlock the growth potential without any conflict with the food security issues which is of the highest concern for the government strategy

## **Role of Agriculture in Jordan**

Although the average contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP is only 4%, but it is as one of the most important economic sectors; it is the nucleus of income and development of the rural areas where approximately one-fifth of the Jordanian population resides.



The Government has made significant efforts in the last years, on the one hand, to raise the productivity of agricultural production, mostly by improving the profitability of investments in the agricultural sector. On the other hand, it has cut its trade-distorting subsidies in line with its WTO obligations. Notwithstanding Jordan's international trade obligations, maintaining a healthy and productive agricultural sector is a core political aim not only for economic but also for social reasons



Several initiatives are implemented by the government, namely by MOA for purpose of food security

Initiatives include agricultural resources management for stopping degradation and restoring soil fertility for sustainable use of land and water resources.

Support to increase cereal production in rainfed areas-Project





Water harvesting technologies in the rangelands-project,

Improving machinery services for small farmers

Shifting from opened cropping systems to protected production system

Coordination with many supporting international and national agencies to improve the productivity and protection of the agricultural sector to ensure protection for the food security goals



## Ministry of Agriculture programs Enhancing Food Security

The strategic plan goals of the ministry of agriculture are directed towards organizing and developing the agricultural sector to achieve the objectives in cooperation with the relevant authorities which concentrates on the following:

Taking in consideration that Gender equality is a cross-cutting issue and the Ministry aims at ensuring that gender perspectives and attention to the goal of gender equality are central to all activities.



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- Increasing the production of food and agricultural products.
- The sustainability of the agricultural use of natural resources without harming the environment.
- Creating the appropriate atmosphere for investment in the agricultural sector.
- Developing rural areas and raising production capacity.
- Increasing the income of farmers and improve their living standards.
- Improving the efficiency of the use of irrigation water at the farm.



**Through the Administration of Projects and Rural Development in the Ministry of Agriculture** , there are several ongoing projects all aiming to sustain the food security issues, these projects are successful and some considered to be as a story of success in sustaining their goals, following are some of these projects:-





# Home Gardening & Poverty Alleviation Project

## Objectives:

- Diversifying sources of income for poor families through the integration of animal and plant production
- Training target farmers and households on home gardening techniques, post-harvest technology and fruit/vegetable consumption for better nutrition.



- Promote awareness of the rural woman regarding her role in managing small enterprises
- Emphasize self-reliance and participatory approach to alleviate poverty and to improve the living conditions in rural areas.



- **Project component:**
- Poultry breeding, providing the family with 50 egg laying chickens and feed for three months at the beginning.
- Cultivation of medicinal plants and vegetable crops, providing with plastic house
- Beekeeping and honey production, providing with 3 hives with the bees and queens





- Establishing water harvesting wells for use of home garden
- Goat raisings, providing with 3 goats with their offspring if the goats where pregnant and cows providing with 1 cow for milk production and feed for 3 months at the beginning.

- Targeted group: Poor households in rural areas
- Duration of the project: five years
- Estimated project cost: five million DinarsThe





Positive impact of the project on the targeted group:-

- The project supported 3890 family during 2008-2010 and rose in their income up to 12%.
- Infrastructure for food sufficiency established, Emphasize self-reliance and participatory approach to alleviate poverty and to improve the living conditions in rural areas



- Increase in their living standards, by increasing the daily intake of milk and dairy products, and meat, particularly by children and women,
- Promote the managerial capacity of rural women in chicken and goat- raising and dairy processing.
- Promote awareness of the rural woman regarding her role in managing small enterprises
- Strengthen the participation of rural woman in development plans, as she bears the major consequences of poverty



To sustain this positive impact ministry of agriculture has several measures as follows:-

- Provide the rural families with veterinary and extension services.
- Provide a package of technical information on the raising of cross- bred goats and chickens and cows.
- Periodic field visits to supervise and follow up the implementation of project activities.





## **The introduction of the harvesting water techniques in the Badia area and highlands**

- **Project Targets**
- To introduce water harvesting techniques in grazing lands in order to increase the production of pasture and to preserve the biodiversity
- To introduce water harvesting techniques in the private farmers land for supplementary irrigation of orchards



- **Targeted groups:**
- Livestock breeders in the badia and small farmers owned land in rural areas.
- **Project Activities:**
  1. Establishments of earth dams.
  2. Establishment of water collection wells





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