

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Issues a Press Release on the Occasion of Land Day, March 30, 2008

24.6% of the Area of the Palestinian Territory is Agricultural Land

The area of the Palestinian Territory is 6,020 km² of which 24.6% (1,481.5 km²) was agricultural land during the year 2006, the highest percentage of agricultural land was in Tulkarem Governorate which represents 53.4% of the Governorate area, while the lowest percentage of agricultural land was in Jericho & Al-Aghwar Governorate which represents 4.3% of the Governorate area, 76.7% of the total agricultural land was permanent agricultural land and 88.9% was rainfed agricultural land.

In 2006, the yield of irrigated and rain-fed agricultural land in the Palestinian Territory was 4,950.5 tons/km² and 256.6 tons/km², respectively. The value of the agricultural land production in the Palestinian Territory in 2006 was US\$/km² 405.4 thousand and the value added was US\$/km² 315.7 thousand.

The area of forests and woodland in the Palestinian Territory in 2006 was 91.7 km² which represents 1.5% of the Palestinian Territory, while the area of natural reserves was 55.4 km² which represents 0.92% of the Palestinian Territory.

625 Persons/km² in the Palestinian Territory at end of Year 2007

Population density in the Palestinian Territory reached 625 persons/km² at the end of Year 2007, while it was 415 persons/km² in the West Bank and 3,881 persons/km² in Gaza Strip. Gaza governorate was considered as the most densely populated governorate with a population density of 6,708 persons/km². On the other hand, Jericho & Al-Aghwar governorate was considered as the least densely populated governorate with a population density of 121 persons/km².

Preliminary data shows that the area of permanent agricultural land per capita in the Palestinian Territory for the year 2007 was 302.2 m²/capita, while it was 460.3 m²/capita in the West Bank and 40.4 m²/capita in Gaza Strip.

54.6% of the total settlers in the West Bank were in Jerusalem Governorate

According to 2006 data, the number of Israeli settlements in the West Bank was 144 settlements; most of them (26 settlements) were in Jerusalem Governorate then Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate with (24 settlements).

Data indicate that the number of settlers in the West Bank reached 475,760 settlers at the end of Year 2006; most of the 259,712 settlers live in Jerusalem Governorate. The figure represents 54.6% of the total settlers in the West Bank (201,139 settlers in the part of Jerusalem which was annexed by Israel in 1967, and 58,573 settlers in the rest of the Governorate). In demographic terms, the percentage of settlers in the Palestinian Territory, according to 2006 data, equaled 16.1% of the total persons living in the West Bank; the highest percentage was in the Jerusalem Governorate where settlers represent 38.7% of the total population.

The regional councils of Israeli Settlements controlled about 42.0% of the West Bank area (except that part of Jerusalem, which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967) at the end of year 2006, regarding to Jerusalem J1, area designated to Israeli Settlements reached About 53% of the total area of this region.

The area of built-up land in Israeli settlements in the West Bank totaled 187.1 thousand dunums (187.1 km²) in August 2005. The largest area was in Jerusalem Governorate with 44.4 km², representing 12.9% of the total area of the Governorate.

The bypass roads that serve basically the movement of settlers and the occupation army has a total length of about 764.4 km, which destroyed about 80 km² of the Palestinian land at the end of year 2005.

Agricultural Sector Suffered from A Heavy Losses During Al-Aqsa Intifada

The agricultural sector suffered from heavy losses during Al-Aqsa Intifada, as a result of bulldozing cultivated land and uprooting of trees, estimated at a value of about US\$ 339.1 million during the period from 29/09/2000 to 30/04/2006. The estimated area of land planted with trees, which had been cleared was about 70.4 thousand dunums. The estimated costs due to bulldozed trees was about US\$ 314.3 million, of which US\$ 77.9 million was in the West Bank and US\$ 236.4 million in Gaza Strip. The destroyed area of vegetables, field crops and green houses was about 28.6 thousand dunums of which 15.1 thousand dunums in the West Bank and 13.5 thousand dunums in the Gaza Strip, in addition to the total cost estimated for destroying vegetables, field crops and greenhouses was about US\$ 24.8 million of which US\$ 3.9 million was in the West Bank and US\$ 20.7 million was in Gaza Strip.

47.9 Thousand Dunums Confiscated to Construct the Expansion and Annexation Wall

Data showed that the area confiscated by Israel to construct the Expansion and Annexation Wall reached about 47,900 dunums until June 2005, while the isolated area between the wall and the green line amounted to almost 301,100 dunums, where 44,273 Palestinians live.