

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## **Agriculture Resilience, Value chain Development and Innovation (ARDI) Program – Jordan (The World Bank)**

### **Project Brief**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

[The Agriculture Resilience, Value Chain Development and Innovation Program in Jordan](#) -Project ID P167946- is part of the USD 762.5 million Jordan National Sustainable Agriculture Plan 2022-2025 (JAP). The World Bank is funding this project, through a combination of grants and a loan, for a total of USD125 million loan to the Government of Jordan (GoJ) <sup>1</sup>. This funding comes from a World Bank's financial instrument a Program for Results (P4R) which means that disbursements to the GoJ are linked to specific results indicators that should comply with the set of the World Bank's policies applicable to this type of loans.

The Project was approved in September 2022 and is currently being implemented. The estimated closing date of this project is in June 2029.

## **II. THE PROJECT**

**The objective of the Project is *“To strengthen the climate resilience and enabling environment for agriculture development in selected value chains in Jordan.”***

This would be achieved through five activity areas/ 5 Components:

- **Component 1 – Strengthen Agriculture Climate Resilience through JAP Systems Building and Implementation Support**

The Project Delivery Unit (DU) will provide expertise and support to implementing agencies of the JAP to work on the following:

- Farming households to respond to climatic changes and weather-related shocks through better adaptation strategies that are based on rainwater harvesting technologies.
- Financing the installation and use of water harvesting technologies at landscape and farm level: dams and ponds, and tanks and cisterns – based on a watershed-level rainwater harvesting strategy.
- Resilience of farm households, of which a significant share are refugees, by strengthening the adaptive capacity in selecting and applying on-farm technologies that enable more

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<sup>1</sup> US\$ 29.4 million is a grant from different Bank's managed funds and the rest- US\$95.6 million- is a loan from the Bank.

water-saving production practices and effective participation in climate smart agri-food value chains.

Under this component, specific gaps in implementing agencies' social safeguards capacities will be filled through the recruitment of specialized and adequately qualified technical staff to strengthen capacity in refugee inclusion on the short and medium term.

- **Component 2 – Enable Agriculture Development through Inter-Ministerial Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement**

This component will support Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in:

- Establishing mechanisms of inter-ministerial and agency coordination at technical level, including Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO), Ministry of Labor (MoL), Agriculture Credit Corporation (ACC), etc.
- Establishing Stakeholder engagement mechanisms, including on-the-job training of (semi-skilled) workers and professionals (in particular women, youth and refugees) to fill skills gaps and labor capacity across the agri-food sector.
- Strengthening the overall agri-food environment in Jordan, with focus on selected agri-food value chain of commodities with competitive potential and climate-resilient profiles: **horticulture, rainfed olives, dates, sheep and goats.**

- **Component 3 – Capacity Development for Implementing Agencies**

- The DU will mobilize, on an as-needed basis, targeted technical assistance in support of skills development efforts for employees of the implementing agencies of JAP, as well as other relevant parties.
- Areas identified for capacity building include strategic planning, project management, procurement, safeguards, inclusion, private sector collaboration as well as technical aspects related to agricultural development and value chains.

- **Component 4 – Contingent Emergency Response Component**

This component has zero allocation of funding at the onset and would only be triggered in emergency circumstances. Following an eligible crisis or emergency, the Borrower may request the World Bank to reallocate funds to support emergency response and reconstruction.

- **Component 5 – Fast-tracked enabling activities for Project Delivery**

This component would support the financing of enabling activities to accelerate the Project implementation and remove initial bottlenecks. Below are the activities that will be performed under component 5:

- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System for the Agriculture Credit Corporation (ACC): This will include the purchase of software, related equipment (servers) and training of staff.
- Upgrading veterinary service centers.
- Automation and refurbishment of tree nurseries:
  - Faisal Nursery in Jerash
  - Alwalah Nursery in Madaba
  - Al Hussein Nursery in Al Balqa
- Automation and modernization of public food testing laboratories
- Digital Farmer Extension Services Platform
- Refurbishment of Seed Testing Laboratories at the National Agriculture Research Center (NARC)

**Disbursement of the WB loan is done through installments that are linked to the following indicators<sup>2</sup>:**

**No. 1: Adoption of sustainable rainwater harvesting practices:** Measures expansion of the rainwater harvesting capacity for use in rainfed agriculture and pastoral livestock systems at both farm and landscape (Badia) level to boost resilience to climate change.

**No. 2: Innovation and improved performance of crop extension and animal health services:** Measures performance upgrades in the MoA's advisory support functions for crop and livestock farmers, including the deployment of digital extension tools.

**No. 3: Improved public service delivery for value chain development and export promotion:** Measures improvements to the enabling environment for private sector-led value chain development and export, including financing focused on stimulating investments in water productivity technologies to enhance sustainable competitiveness.

**No. 4: On and off farm employment skills improved including women and refugees:** Measures skill development of youth, women and refugees and their successful employment on the agri-food labor market.

**No. 5: MoA Delivery Capacity Secured:** Ensures that GoJ allocates the required resources for the transformation of the sector.

**The Project's Results are measured by<sup>3</sup>:**

- i. Sustainable agricultural rainwater harvesting capacity at household and communal levels (in m3);

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<sup>2</sup> Environmental and Social Systems Assessment (ESSA), 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Project Appraisal Document (PAD), 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

- ii. Number of farmers completing Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) training courses (crops and livestock) (share of which women, youth, and refugees);
- iii. Value of agri-food exports covered by a traceability system (US\$);
- iv. Share of trainees supported by the Program retained by employers after completion of training (share of which women, youth, and refugees);
- v. Number of beneficiaries reached with assets and services (percentage of which women, youth, and refugees).

### III. DOCUMENTS

As of the date of this brief, [a substantial number of documents](#), produced by the Bank and the Government of Jordan (GoJ), have been posted on the World Bank's website.

These documents include the [Project Appraisal Document](#) (PAD), the [Stakeholders Engagement Plan](#) (SEP), the Project's [Environmental and Social Systems Assessment](#) (ESSA), the [Loan Agreement](#) and the [Implementation Status and Results Report](#).

The PAD is the document produced by the Bank's management to be submitted to the Board for their decision on the loan. The document cumulates all the data included in the different documents that the government has produced throughout the preparation phase as per the Bank's policies.

The SEP, a document produced by the government, usually lists the Stakeholders to the Project and mentions the actions done to engage them in its preparation. The SEP also mentions how the Stakeholders listed are to be engaged throughout the implementation of the Project and after its conclusion. Per the Bank's policies, it is required to have consultations with different stakeholders including impacted communities and thus relevant documents should be translated into the local language. Therefore, the SEP should also be posted in Arabic; however, the Arabic translation hasn't yet been posted.

According to the SEP, four consultation meetings with stakeholders were done so far, mentioned as the following: Farmers' Organizations Meeting (March 31st, 2022), Agriculture Sector Donors Meeting (April 5th, 2022), Civil Society Women Focus Group (April 11th, 2022) and Gender and Women Focus Group (April 11th, 2022). No Stakeholder Consultation Meeting is mentioned to have been done after the start of the Project.

It is worth noting here, that the last version of the SEP was posted in September 2023 and, so far, no updated SEP has been posted.

The ESSA is a document produced by the World Bank when the concept of a project is approved to identify the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the project, assess the potential risks, and assess the capacity of the national systems to deal with these effects and potential risks/challenges that might be associated with the implementation of the project. The borrower government should address each of these identified risks during the preparation and implementation phases.

You can keep checking for new posted documents by visiting the [main project page](#) and clicking on “DOCUMENTS” at the top of the page.