

Jordan

Al Rwahnih M., Al Khasawneh M.

in

Myrta A. (ed.), Di Terlizzi B. (ed.), Savino V. (ed.).
Production and exchange of virus-free plant propagating material in the Mediterranean region

Bari : CIHEAM

Options Méditerranéennes : Série B. Etudes et Recherches; n. 35

2001

pages 83-85

Article available on line / Article disponible en ligne à l'adresse :

<http://om.ciheam.org/article.php?IDPDF=2002223>

To cite this article / Pour citer cet article

Al Rwahnih M., Al Khasawneh M. **Jordan**. In : Myrta A. (ed.), Di Terlizzi B. (ed.), Savino V. (ed.). *Production and exchange of virus-free plant propagating material in the Mediterranean region*. Bari : CIHEAM, 2001. p. 83-85 (Options Méditerranéennes : Série B. Etudes et Recherches; n. 35)



<http://www.ciheam.org/>
<http://om.ciheam.org/>

JORDAN

*Mazen Al-Khasawneh and Maher Al Rwahnih*¹

Agriculture position in the overall economy

Agriculture accounts for 3% of GDP. Agriculture contributed 15-20% of the total exports value. 7 % of the Jordanian labor force work in agriculture. The agribusiness accounts for some 25% of the Jordanian economy. Arable land represents only 380,000 ha because the majority of the national surface is under different conditions. Fruit trees cover about 157,000ha with a total production of 658,400 tons. Irrigated agriculture is concentrated in the Jordan valley , producing the most valuable fruits and its vegetables due to its unique conditions. The rain-fed highlands were traditionally devoted to cereals. The higher rainfed areas have recently experienced a significant conversion from cereals into fruits trees, largely olives.

Fruit tree industry: production, trade flows and germplasm

Olive. Olive trees in the country are nearly 11 millions (110,350 ha). This represents about 70% of the total horticulture surface area, producing about 184 thousand tons in 2000. Most of the olive area is rainfed. The majority of the crops grown in the country are native and used for the oil production.

Grapevine. It is the second important fruit after olive. It covers about 9 thousand hectares, and represents about 14.5% of the total horticulture surface area. The total production of the crop was estimated in 2000 to about 67 thousand tons. This production is not sufficient and we cover the local demand by importing. The destination of grapes is for fresh consumption. There are no grape varieties

¹ Ministry of Agriculture, Amman (Jordan)

specialized for wine production. The local germ-plasm is very rich and economically important for the national production, beside that some imported varieties are also cultivated.

Fruit trees. The fruit trees in Jordan count about 6.2 millions of trees. The total production of the crop was estimated in 2000 to 225 thousand tons. The limited water resources are the main limiting factor for the production. Most of the orchards are planted in the rainfed conditions and this is mostly in the highlands, but some commercial orchards in arid and semiarid areas are also irrigated. Stone fruits are cultivated in a total surface area of about 24,860 ha, and the total production about 225,000 tons in 2000. The domestic production supplies about 80 % of the local demand. There are a few important local varieties of stone fruits, specially in almond and apricot.

Citrus. Citrus cultivation is concentrated in the Jordan valley, an area ranging from 300 to 400 m below sea level. Due to the favourable climatic conditions the trees grow very fast and vigorously, and fruits are of excellent quality. Citrus trees in the country are nearly 2.6 million; their production was about 181.6 thousand tons in 2000. Each year some citrus is exported, but importation is necessary outside picking seasons, to meet the local demand.

Sanitary status of the crops with particular reference to the viral diseases

Several research and studies were carried out to evaluate the phytosanitary status in the country ,but these studies are still limited and insufficient to give a clear idea about the situation.

Olive. The presence of the viral infection was reported in some olive trees showing the syndromes named bark cracking. Olive latent virus 1 also had been reported for the first time in the country. Anyway this still needs more investigation and surveys in the future.

Grapevine. Studies carried out in Jordan have showed a high degradation of the sanitary status of grapevine due the presence of many virus diseases. Fanleaf and rugose wood symptoms were observed in Jordan more than 20 years ago, from which GFLV was isolated. Also Rugose wood symptoms were consistently observed in Jordanian grapevine cv. Recently the MOA started to use the result of one study done at IAM - Bari to establish mother plot as clean stock sources .

Citrus. Virus and virus-like diseases significantly limit fruit productivity in the orchards of Jordan valley. Diseases such as Psorosis and Cachexia- xylopsorosis are debilitating many of the older orchards. Citrus growers in Jordan are very concerned with the introduction into the country of two particularly damaging diseases- namely Tristeza and Greening, specially because the tristeza had been reported in all neighbouring countries.

Stone fruits. Fruit production is affected locally by many pests and pathogens in terms of quantity and quality. There was only one report about the sanitary status of stone fruits in Jordan in terms of virus and virus-like diseases, a limited survey, carried out by Dunez (1986). To see the true situation of the sanitary status of stone fruit, a representative study was carried out in 1999-2000. The viruses reported are ACLSV, PNRSV, PDV, ApMV and for the first time PPV was reported by this study.

Nursery activities

The production of trustable seedlings is controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture. It doesn't cover the overall national demand; so the increasing demand for grafted plants has encouraged the production in private nurseries.

Agricultural Policy

The present status of Jordanian agriculture underlines the necessity to formulate a comprehensive agricultural policy which would constitute an integral part of an overall policy for the development of Jordan 's society, and would recognize the interdependence, and yet polarity, of rural and urban development. The expansion of olive, deciduous fruit and grapevine production will be encouraged in the highlands, especially on land with slopes greater than 8 %. In addition , increasing the production of stone fruit would enhance the export of vegetables to certain markets.

The government fully recognized the importance of effective legislation and law enforcement related to the agriculture and agricultural sector institutions. In particular, Agriculture Law No. 20. of 1973, will be reviewed and amended to meet actual and anticipated needs.

Agricultural institutions available

The National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) has been endowed with special managerial and financial autonomy within the Ministry of Agriculture. A national strategy for agriculture research and technology transfer has been adopted. Technically, the NCARTT is directly responsible for following all research and developing new techniques which are necessary to the agricultural development. It has six branches which are distributed all over Jordan with highly qualified candidates, Ph.D., Ma, B.Sc. Universities too are playing an important role through many agricultural faculties which consist of laboratories and experimental farms also with highly qualified researchers.