

STATE OF PALESTINE

Palestinian Agriculture under Climate and Occupation Pressures

Agriculture Sector in Palestine

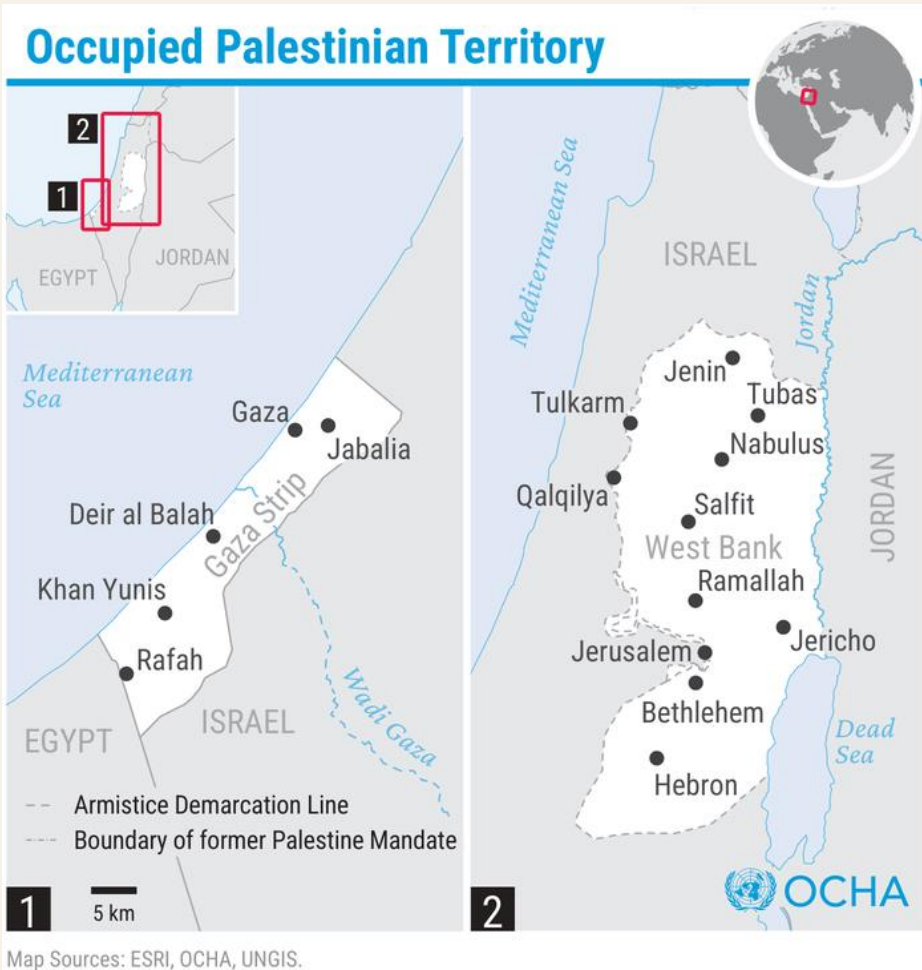
Resilience, Urgent Needs and Policy Priorities

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Agriculture across the West Bank and Gaza Strip



1.21 million dunums

Agricultural holdings, with about 94% cultivated

138,000 holders

Most are smallholders. Agriculture supported 59,600 workers in 2021.

WEST BANK

About 90% of agricultural land

Olives and rainfed crops dominate the highlands. Irrigated vegetables and dates concentrate in the Jordan Valley. Livestock and rangelands support rural communities.

GAZA STRIP BEFORE 7 OCTOBER

94,000 dunums in agricultural holdings

Agriculture in Palestine is of paramount importance. It is not just an economic sector; it is an integral part of Palestinian national identity and cultural heritage. Food supply, jobs and exports.

It is a simple of resilience

Gaza's Agrifood System Before and After 7 October

BEFORE



A productive but already constrained system

94,000 dunums of holdings
15,600 agricultural workers
USD 260.4 million added value

Photo: Gaza strawberry greenhouse, 2020

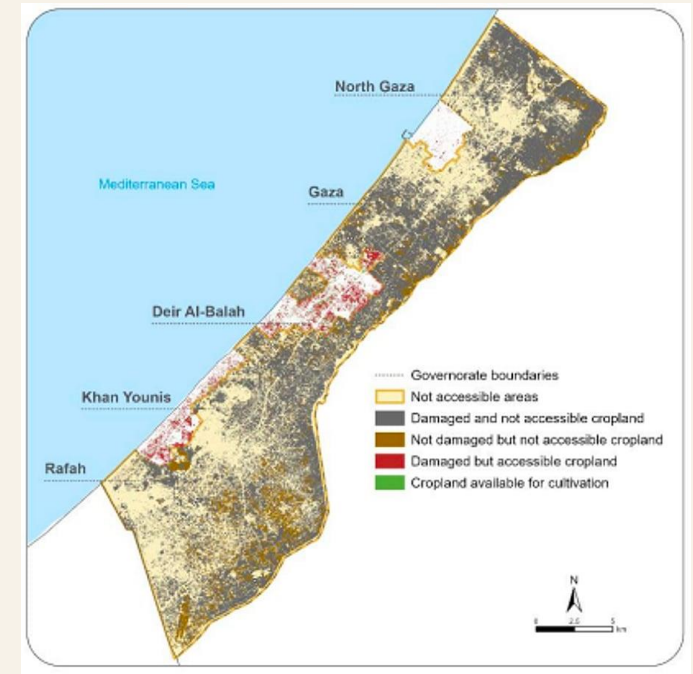
AFTER



Production assets and access collapsed

Fields, wells, greenhouses, livestock facilities, roads and markets suffered widespread damage, while border restrictions disrupted inputs and humanitarian access.

Photo: WAFA, Gaza agricultural damage



86.1% of cropland damaged

Only 3% remained undamaged and accessible for cultivation. Separate FAO analysis found 67.7% of agricultural wells damaged.

Settler attacks and violence against Agricultural Livelihoods in The West Bank



Olive trees cut and uprooted

Masafer Yatta, Anadolu Agency, 2025



Livestock stolen and grazing disrupted

Einabus, Local-Report, 2026



Greenhouses and farm assets demolished

Tulkarm, UN OCHA, 2024



Land and water infrastructure destroyed

Land Research Center documentation

The damage reduces production today and weakens the ability of farmers to adapt tomorrow

Settlers Attacks and Violence against Agricultural Livelihoods in The West Bank



Damage to irrigation networks

Hebron, Local-Report, 2026



Flooding agricultural lands with wastewater

Beit Ummar, Local-Report 2026



Burning of agricultural greenhouses

As-Samou, Local-Report, 2026

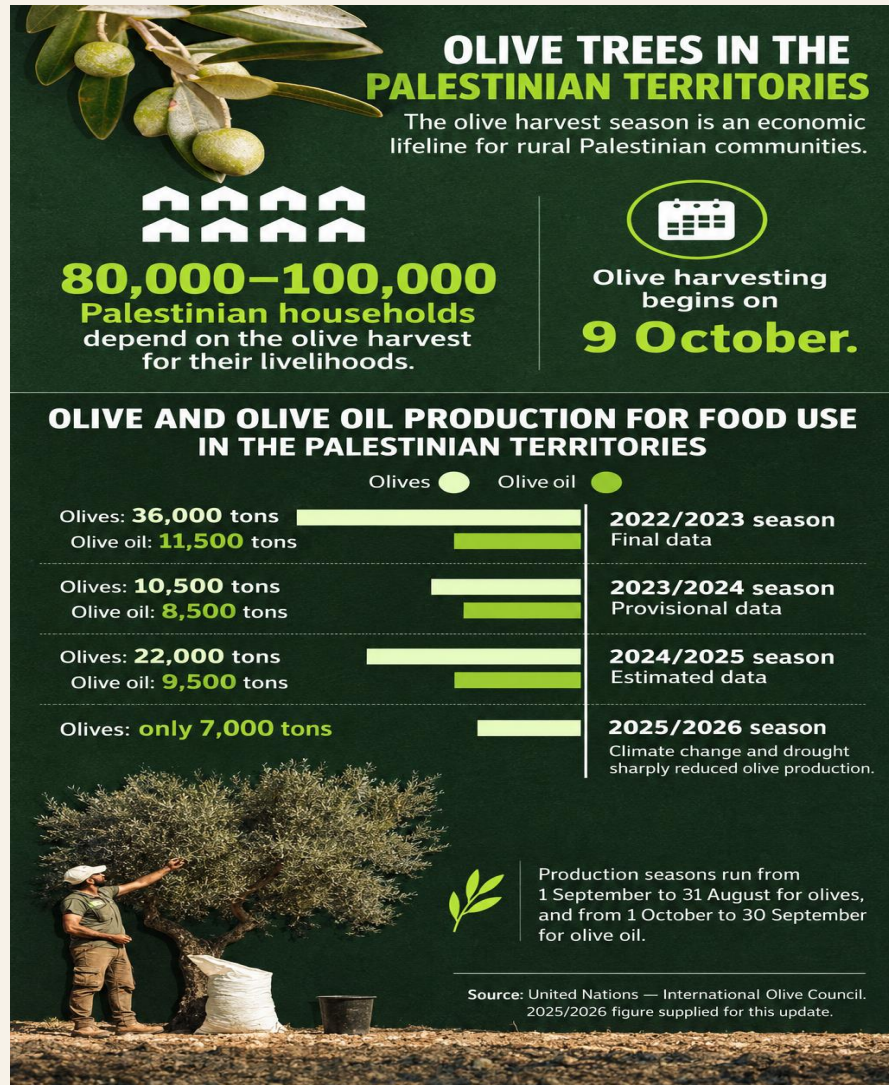


Burning of agricultural plains

Jenin, Local-Report 2026

These attacks destroy agricultural production today and threaten farmers' livelihoods and resilience tomorrow.

Climate Change is Already Affecting Palestinian Agriculture



Hotter conditions

Heatwaves reduce crop performance and increase heat stress in livestock, poultry and bees.

Less reliable rainfall

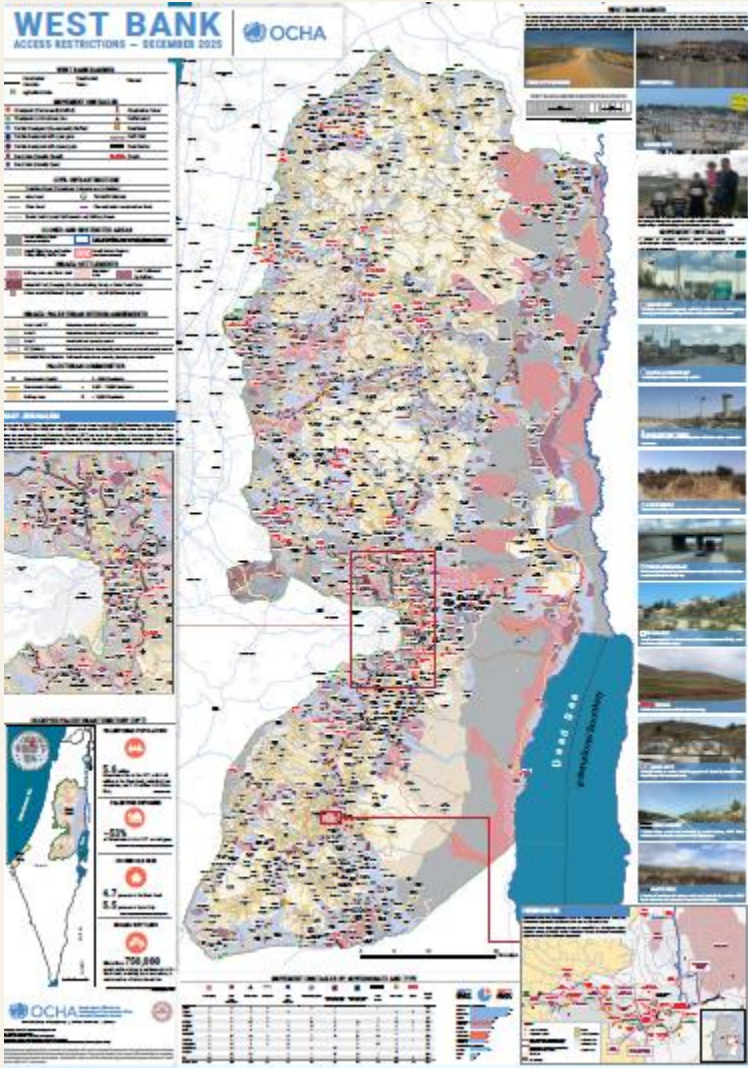
Long dry periods and poor rainfall distribution reduce rainfed yields and pasture productivity.

More damaging extremes

Flash floods, frost, strong winds and unseasonal weather damage crops, soil and agricultural infrastructure.

Palestine faces the same climate hazards as other countries, but its capacity to respond is far more constrained
Israeli occupation reduced our adaptive capacity.

Occupation Restrictions Multiply Climate Losses



CLIMATE HAZARD

Drought, heat, floods or frost

RESTRICTIONS

+ Land, water, movement and borders

LAND

62.9% of the West Bank is Area C, including much agricultural land and key natural resources. Permits and access restrictions limit development.

WATER

Control over water resources constrains irrigation expansion, water harvesting, well rehabilitation and drought response. 85% of water resources not under our control.

MOVEMENT

Checkpoints, road closures and settler violence delay access to farms, extension services, veterinary care and markets. More than 1000 checkpoints and gates

BORDERS

Control of crossings restricts machinery, spare parts, seeds, veterinary inputs, exports and recovery materials. Restrictions on import agriculture inputs and export agricultural products

Result: Greater Losses, Slower Recovery And Less Room to Adapt

Early Warning Moves Agriculture from Reaction to Proaction



FAO-supported agricultural weather station

GCF Project

7 new stations and 2 rehabilitated stations, We have now 25 Metrological stations

- Combines meteorological, satellite and agricultural information.
- Covers drought, heatwaves, frost, floods, wind, khamasin and hail.
- Converts data into practical advice for crops, livestock, bees and rangelands.
- Disseminates warnings through the platform, SMS, extension services and directorates.

Operational priority

Complete an automatic and sustainable connection to official Palestinian Meteorological Department data.

We can forecast climate hazards. No weather model can forecast when settlers will attack a farm

Government Priorities: Agriculture strategy and Seeds of Change initiative

- 1 Food security**
Strategic crops, fodder, livestock productivity and farmer seed capacity.
- 2 Water security (Sustainable irrigation)**
Water harvesting, well rehabilitation, treated water, efficient irrigation and solar pumping. (81% rainfed, 19% irrigated)
- 3 Greening Palestine (Environmental agriculture)**
Land rehabilitation, forests, rangelands, biodiversity and agricultural roads.
- 4 QUICK RESPONSE Urgent farmer protection**
Emergency inputs, seedlings, equipment, storage, transport and support to affected farmers.
- 5 Gaza Recovery**



Renewable energy for irrigation



Water harvesting and soil conservation



Climate services and early warning

WEFE nexus in practice

Solar energy pumps harvested or stored water through efficient irrigation to produce food, while land rehabilitation and water controls protect soil, groundwater and rural livelihoods.

Palestinian Priorities Align Closely with The COMCEC Proposals

COMCEC draft recommendation	Palestinian policy and action	Alignment
Early warning and disaster risk management	Agricultural early warning platform, agromet stations, extension and SMS advisories	Strong
Climate-responsive agricultural planning	Climate-smart agriculture, natural resource management and Seeds of Change	Strong
Water-energy-food interconnection	Solar pumping, treated wastewater, water harvesting and efficient irrigation TARABOT programme in Jayyus, Qalqilya About USD 1.5 million supported 2,000 dunums through solar-powered water pumping, irrigation, land rehabilitation, agricultural roads and a farmers' cooperative.	Strong
Agricultural risk protection	Agricultural Risk Mitigation and Insurance Fund and emergency response mechanisms	Strong / scale up
Climate-resilient incentives	Concessional finance and targeted grants require stronger performance criteria	Develop

RECOMMENDATIONS

State of Palestine: Priorities for Collective Action (What we Need from OIC?):

- 01 Create an OIC emergency mechanism to restore Gaza's land, wells, greenhouses, livestock, fisheries and agricultural markets.
- 02 Finance government-owned agricultural early warning systems connected to official national data. (regional EWS).
- 03 Protect Palestinian farmers and ensure safe access to land, water, inputs, markets and border crossings.
- 04 Prioritize WEF E investments that combine water efficiency, renewable energy and ecosystem protection.
- 05 Expand climate finance, agricultural insurance and concessional support for smallholders.
- 06 Establish an OIC platform for rapid response, technical exchange and joint resilient-agriculture projects.



**Protect the farmer
Restore Gaza
Invest in resilience**



We can forecast climate hazards, but no weather model can forecast when settlers will attack a farm.

Therefore, agricultural resilience in Palestine requires both climate investment and effective protection of farmers, their livelihoods and their access to natural resources.

Resilient agriculture protects food security, rural livelihoods and the right of farmers to remain on their land.

Thank you

