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## WG descriptive paper - Palestine

**PONZA PRIMA MED**

**October 2020 – August 2021**

## Deliverable 2. Capitalization and visibility actions<sup>1</sup>

To ensure the proper development of the project's specific objectives

*The selection and promotion of at least 3 best practices that can be easily carried out in the Mediterranean region in the following areas: circular water management, agro-food and farming.*

the partners are invited to take capitalization and visibility actions; therefore, they should draft a descriptive paper in which they define and explicate the best practices individuated on their territory.

### Guidelines for the descriptive paper

Each Partner is required to fill in the following descriptive paper, paying a particular attention to the description of the source of such practices, providing as detailed information as to making the practices replicable.

#### Partners (please choose one):

- **JERUSALEM CENTER FOR WOMEN**

#### Best practice

Name of the best practice

Ecological Agriculture.

#### Scope

1. Which of the following areas, namely circular water management, agro-food and farming does the best practice (1) refer to?

It refers to agro-food.

2. Description / summarization / information of the content of the best practice (1)

Definition of Eco-Agriculture.

Importance, methods, components, concepts of ecological farming agriculture.

Approaches of ecological farming, sustainability, soil health, examples of eco-Agriculture, field visiting, and practical training.

Managing soil nutrients, maintaining biological diversity, producing healthy food, and reducing production costs. Around the spring, there is an area of 7 dunums, there is a source for irrigation as well (about a cubic metre of water in 48 hours). In addition to the introducing the cultivation of medicinal plants such as rosemary, thyme, among others. The target group is going to buy such plants and extract essential oils from them. This project will reduce production costs by growing these plants.

3. Description / summarization / information of the approach of the best practice (1). Is there used a bottom-up or a top-down approach? Why?

The approach of the Eco-Agriculture is a top-down approach.

Since it is easier to explain the approach and provide participants (target group) with the needed information from general concepts to specific.

The importance and role of agriculture in the Palestinian home will be explained in general. Then the types of farming used; environmental and intensive farming, and the difference between them will be addressed.

<sup>1</sup> The deliverable's number refers to the activities set out in the project's full documents.

4. Description / summarization / information of the traditional and historical references. How long has the practice been in force?

Some of the farmers in this area are still using the traditional tools and methods to grow and harvest the plants, this might help to attract participants. Regarding the historical references, our grandparents and the older generation, who lived in east Jerusalem, used the Eco-farming spontaneously and unintentionally since ancient times.

The target area is a historical area that Jesus visited, it had a religious and historical value since the Roman and Turkish eras, as it was a place where pilgrims and tourists coming to visit the Holy Land used to rest. Therefore, farmers of the area were dependent on agriculture since ancient times, they used to sell their products to pilgrims and tourists. They used the traditional agriculture to maintain the quality of the soil and the organic products.

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### Target group

1. Who is your main target group?

The target group is women and men living in Al-Eizariya town, people with special needs, and women beneficiaries of the medicinal plants cultivation.

2. Do you plan to involve any precise ethnic subgroup?

There are no ethnic subgroups.

3. Do you wish to address any specific vulnerable group (e.g., elderly, youth with disabilities, women in rural areas, etc.)?

Women of all ages in rural areas.

4. Description / summarization / information of the features of the target group (gender, age, and type of education)

The feature of the target group: preferably women who are ready to work on eco-farming.

### Stakeholders

5. How many stakeholders the WG intends to involve in the best practice (1)?

Municipality of Al-Eizariya. In addition to the related organizations and communities in Al-Eizariya town.

### Representative organizer

6. Who is the main person/representative or organizer who takes decisions and oversees the best practice (1)?

Fadwah Khawaja, Mohammad Alqurneh.

7. How were the rules of maintaining the practice defined? Who defined them and how?

The rules for preserving environmental agriculture depend on the availability, preservation, utilization and sustainability of the main elements, namely: the source of water, people, and land.

These elements are linked to the development of ecological agriculture. The experts have already visited the site, conducted the study there, and talked to the farmers there for a better comprehension.

There is a land of seven dunums, there are unused lands that need rehabilitation, there are sources of water (Ain Al-Hodh and Ain Al-Muhandis), and there are women and farmers who work in the production of medicinal plants, as we need to practice environmental agriculture to obtain a natural, chemical-free, organic product.

Representative of a vulnerable group

8. Is there a representative of a vulnerable group? Please explain the role.

Yes, women are the vulnerable group and their role is to implement the project.

Representative of the Municipality

9. Is there a key person from Municipality/decision-maker, who is taking decisions and care for the practice at the Municipality level? Please explain the role.

The key person is from the engineering and projects unit in the municipality. The role is technical; following up, monitoring, and supervising.

Other stakeholders

10. Is there a person from the most relevant other stakeholders (Universities, Consortium, NOGs)? Please explain the role.

Universities, their role is to conduct researches and provide laboratories.

Location

11. In which part of the country the best practice (1) will be adopted? Are there any specific geographical characteristics needed?

South East Jerusalem - Al-Eizariya - Wadi Al-Hodh (spring)

There are natural areas, water resources for irrigation, rich agricultural land, and an ancient pond, it's close to Jordan valley climate.

12. Description / summarization / information of the place, explain if there is any cultural, historical, social connection to the main aim of the best practice (1)

In the Wadi Al-Hodh area, there are natural springs, an ancient pond, and agricultural lands which correlated with the roots of peoples in this land, i.e. farmers have been planting this land for decades. These elements will support our aims to introduce Eco-Agriculture, and promote this practice among women-farmers.

13. How is Climate Change predicted to modify the context of the practice? Will this affect the best practice (1)?

Due to the reduced rainfall and hot weather conditions in the last few years, there aren't enough water resources to irrigate the crops. Therefore, we predict that this practice will enhance climate change mitigation, as it doesn't require much water.

### Period

14. How much time is necessary for the implementation of the best practice (1)? When will the benefits (in terms of sustainability and development) start appearing?

Five working days.  
After around one year.

15. How does the WG see the future of the best practice (1)?

The WG believes that this practice will be useful for families, and it will encourage them to consume healthy food.

It will increase their income.

It will save their lands from the Israeli occupation.

Growing medicinal plants saves water and reduces production costs.

### Methods

16. Description / summarization / information of the roots of the best practice (1), please explain how the WG is planned to develop the practice and if any explain the methodology

- Training course for the target group
- Visiting Eco-Agro farms
- Practical training in the field.

17. What means would be necessary for its replicability (natural capital, human capital, social capital, manufactured capital, and financial capital)

We believe that needs natural capital, human capital, social capital and financial capital for replicability.

18. What difficulties could be encountered during its implementation?

New lockdowns due to the Corona Pandemic.  
Israeli Occupation and settlements.  
Climate change.

## Motive

19. Why do you think your practice is good? What does it bring (e.g., local development, social cohesion, feeling of belonging, economic benefits, tourism development, networking, sustainable development, circular economy, etc.)? Why is it considered to be relevant?

It is healthy and safe for our life and environment, as we will reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, which harms the soil and human health. The project will also support families, and give women the chance to help their families. It will also promote sustainability and develop tourism.

Our target women are experienced in extracting essential oils from medicinal plants such as thyme, aloysia, and rosemary, as well as manufacturing cream, soaps and perfumes for medicinal use. They also manufacture soaps from honey.

The availability of the main project components, namely: a source of water, agricultural land and women, will lead to the success and continuity of the project.

20. Why do you think your practice is replicable and sustainable? Can the best practice be considered an adaptation or mitigation strategy?

It is replicable and sustainable, as farmers and women will replant these lands after discovering the benefits of this practice. We believe that this practice will support the mitigation strategy, for growing more trees and using appropriate agricultural land management mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases.

## Best practice (2)

Name of the best practice (2)

Creating a deep connection between people and the land inherited from their ancestors.

## Scope

5. Which of the following areas, namely circular water management, agro-food and farming does the best practice (2) refer to?

It refers to farming.

6. Description / summarization / information of the content of the best practice (2)

Connecting local people with the land to promote sustainability in terms of linking the generations together, going back to the ancestors' occupation, and realizing the land's value in economic, political and social terms. In Arabic, there's a proverb that says: Land is dignity.

7. Description / summarization / information of the approach of the best practice (2). Is there used a bottom-up or a top-down approach? Why?

The approach is a top-down approach, as it is easier to explain the approach and provide the target group with the needed information from general concepts to specific.

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<sup>1</sup> The deliverable's number refers to the activities set out in the project's full documents.

8. Description / summarization / information of the traditional and historical references. How long has the practice been in force?

The land is our inheritance from parents and grandparents. Therefore, we must adhere to this heritage to save the land.

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### Target group

21. Who is your main target group?

The target group is women and men living in Al-Eizariya town.

22. Do you plan to involve any precise ethnic subgroup?

There are no ethnic subgroups.

23. Do you wish to address any specific vulnerable group (e.g., elderly, youth with disabilities, women in rural areas, etc.)?

Women of all ages in rural areas.

24. Description / summarization / information of the features of the target group (gender, age, and type of education)

The feature of the target group: preferably women who are ready to work on eco-farming.

### Stakeholders

25. How many stakeholders the WG intends to involve in the best practice (2)?

Municipality of Al-Eizariya. In addition to the related organizations and communities in Al-Eizariya town.

### Representative organizer

26. Who is the main person/representative or organizer who takes decisions and oversees the best practice (2)?

Fadwah Khawaja, Haroon Atawnah.

27. How were the rules of maintaining the practice defined? Who defined them and how?

Practicing agriculture to connect farmers with their land, cultivating the land to provide food for their families and increase their income.

#### Representative of a vulnerable group

28. Is there a representative of a vulnerable group? Please explain the role.

Yes, women are the vulnerable group and their role is to implement the project.

#### Representative of the Municipality

29. Is there a key person from Municipality/decision-maker, who is taking decisions and care for the practice at the Municipality level? Please explain the role.

The key person is from the engineering and projects unit in the municipality. The role is technical; following up, monitoring, and supervising.

#### Other stakeholders

30. Is there a person from the most relevant other stakeholders (Universities, Consortium, NOGs)? Please explain the role.

Universities, their role is to conduct researches and provide laboratories.  
Land Authority.

#### Location

31. In which part of the country the best practice (2) will be adopted? Are there any specific geographical characteristics needed?

South East Jerusalem - Al-Eizariya - Wadi Al-Hodh (spring)

There are natural areas, water resources for irrigation, rich agricultural land, and an ancient pond, it's close to Jordan valley climate.

32. Description / summarization / information of the place, explain if there is any cultural, historical, social connection to the main aim of the best practice (2)

In the Wadi Al-Hodh area, there are natural springs, an ancient pond, and agricultural lands which correlated with the roots of peoples in this land, i.e. farmers have been planting this land for decades. These elements will support our aims to introduce Eco-Agriculture, and promote this practice among women-farmers.

33. How is Climate Change predicted to modify the context of the practice? Will this affect the best practice (2)?

Climate change contributes to global warming, leads to a decrease in crop production, and thus affects crops' quality, quantity and economic viability, which weakens farmers and as a result they abstain from cultivation in the region.

### Period

34. How much time is necessary for the implementation of the best practice (2)? When will the benefits (in terms of sustainability and development) start appearing?

Five working days.  
After around one year.

35. How does the WG see the future of the best practice (2)?

The WG believes that this practice will be useful for families, and it will encourage them to consume healthy food.

It will increase their income.

It will save their lands from the Israeli occupation.

Keeping farmers planting their lands.

### Methods

36. Description / summarization / information of the roots of the best practice (2), please explain how the WG is planned to develop the practice and if any explain the methodology

- Providing a training course for the target group.
- Providing practical training in the field.
- Providing brochures about taking care of the land.
- Planting forest trees on Earth Day.

37. What means would be necessary for its replicability (natural capital, human capital, social capital, manufactured capital, and financial capital)

We believe that needs natural capital, human capital, social capital and financial capital for replicability.

38. What difficulties could be encountered during its implementation?

New lockdowns due to the Corona Pandemic.  
Israeli Occupation and settlements.  
Climate change.

### Motive

39. Why do you think your practice is good? What does it bring (e.g., local development, social cohesion, feeling of belonging, economic benefits, tourism development, networking, sustainable development, circular economy, etc.)? Why is it considered to be relevant?

It is healthy and safe for our life and environment, as we will reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, which harms the soil and human health. The project will also support families, and give women the chance to help their families. It will also promote sustainability and develop tourism.

40. Why do you think your practice is replicable and sustainable? Can the best practice be considered an adaptation or mitigation strategy?

It is replicable and sustainable, as farmers and women will replant these lands after discovering the benefits of this practice. We believe that this practice will support the mitigation strategy, for growing more trees and using appropriate agricultural land management mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases.

### Best practice (3)

Name of the best practice (3)

Optimal use of Ain Al-Hodh water.

### Scope

9. Which of the following areas, namely circular water management, agro-food and farming does the best practice (3) refer to?

It refers to circular water management.

10. Description / summarization / information of the content of the best practice (3)

Flood irrigation method, which has been used since ancient times.

Introducing the participants to the ancient and modern irrigation systems, rehabilitating the ancient Roman aqueduct that feeds the spring. Rehabilitating the source of the spring, rehabilitating the existing pond and preserving the water, using the pond for fish farming. As well as rationalizing irrigation water consumption, using solar-powered water pump systems, and using drinking water treatment for human consumption in order to utilize the spring's water.

11. Description / summarization / information of the approach of the best practice (3). Is there used a bottom-up or a top-down approach? Why?

It's a top-down approach.

As it is easier to explain the approach and provide participants (target group) with the needed information from general concepts to specific.

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12. Description / summarization / information of the traditional and historical references. How long has the practice been in force?

The flood irrigation method has been used for hundreds of years.  
The sprinkler method was used from 1960 to 1990.

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### Target group

41. Who is your main target group?

The target group is women and men living in Al-Eizariya town.

42. Do you plan to involve any precise ethnic subgroup?

There are no ethnic subgroups.

43. Do you wish to address any specific vulnerable group (e.g., elderly, youth with disabilities, women in rural areas, etc.)?

Women of all ages in rural areas.

44. Description / summarization / information of the features of the target group (gender, age, and type of education)

The feature of the target group: preferably women who are ready to work on eco-farming.

### Stakeholders

45. How many stakeholders the WG intends to involve in the best practice (3)?

Municipality of Al-Eizariya. In addition to the related organizations and communities in Al-Eizariya town.

### Representative organizer

46. Who is the main person/representative or organizer who takes decisions and oversees the best practice (3)?

Fadwah Khawaja, Fatima Faroun.

47. How were the rules of maintaining the practice defined? Who defined them and how?

Agricultural lands and sources of water are available, where about 1 cubic metre of water is pumped from the spring within 48 hours.

### Representative of a vulnerable group

48. Is there a representative of a vulnerable group? Please explain the role.

Yes, women are the vulnerable group and their role is to implement the project.

### Representative of the Municipality

49. Is there a key person from Municipality/decision-maker, who is taking decisions and care for the practice at the Municipality level? Please explain the role.

The key person is from the engineering and projects unit in the municipality. The role is technical; following up, monitoring, and supervising.

### Other stakeholders

50. Is there a person from the most relevant other stakeholders (Universities, Consortium, NOGs)? Please explain the role.

Universities, their role is to conduct researches and provide laboratories.

### Location

51. In which part of the country the best practice (3) will be adopted? Are there any specific geographical characteristics needed?

South East Jerusalem - Al-Eizariya - Wadi Al-Hodh (spring)

There are natural areas, water resources for irrigation, rich agricultural land, and an ancient pond, it's close to Jordan valley climate.

52. Description / summarization / information of the place, explain if there is any cultural, historical, social connection to the main aim of the best practice (3)

In the Wadi Al-Hodh area, there are natural springs, an ancient pond, and agricultural lands which correlated with the roots of peoples in this land, i.e. farmers have been planting this land for decades. These elements will support our aims to introduce Eco-Agriculture, and promote this practice among women-farmers.

53. How is Climate Change predicted to modify the context of the practice? Will this affect the best practice (3)?

Due to the reduced rainfall and hot weather conditions in the last few years, there aren't enough water resources to irrigate the crops. Therefore, we predict that this practice will enhance climate change mitigation, as it doesn't require much water.

#### Period

54. How much time is necessary for the implementation of the best practice (3)? When will the benefits (in terms of sustainability and development) start appearing?

Five working days.  
After around one year.

55. How does the WG see the future of the best practice (3)?

Starting to use a moisture meter to detect plants' need for irrigation.

#### Methods

56. Description / summarization / information of the roots of the best practice (3), please explain how the WG is planned to develop the practice and if any explain the methodology

- 1- Water consumption rationalization
- 2- Types of irrigation systems
- 3- Using the irrigation systems device

57. What means would be necessary for its replicability (natural capital, human capital, social capital, manufactured capital, and financial capital)

We believe that needs natural capital, human capital, social capital and financial capital for replicability.

58. What difficulties could be encountered during its implementation?

New lockdowns due to the Corona Pandemic.  
Israeli Occupation and settlements.  
Climate change.

### Motive

59. Why do you think your practice is good? What does it bring (e.g., local development, social cohesion, feeling of belonging, economic benefits, tourism development, networking, sustainable development, circular economy, etc.)? Why is it considered to be relevant?

Optimal use of water leads to the development of the agricultural sector, and increases human belonging to the land.

60. Why do you think your practice is replicable and sustainable? Can the best practice be considered an adaptation or mitigation strategy?

It is replicable and sustainable, as farmers and women will replant these lands after discovering the benefits of this practice. We believe that this practice will support the mitigation strategy, for growing more trees and using appropriate agricultural land management mitigate the emission of greenhouse gasses.