



Palestine Fair Trade Association
Trees for Life Program 2020

Introduction

The Trees for Life Program, which is implemented by the Palestine Fair Trade Association (PFTA) www.palestinefairtrade.org, provides olive & almond seedlings to Palestinian farmers. While the program covers the majority of the cost of the seedlings, the farmers pay a symbolic percentage as a demonstration of their commitment.

PFTA General Assembly, which is composed of elected representatives of 51 farmer co-ops, elects a committee of farmers called the Trees for Life Committee.

This committee is responsible for identifying sapling recipients, distribution, and implementation. The Trees for Life Committee works within the priorities set by PFTA and targets young families, starter farmers, small farmers, women farmers, and farmers who have recently cultivated lands that have been impacted by the Israeli Wall or have been subject to field or tree destruction by the Israeli military.






Insisting on Life

Palestinian farmers insist on a culture of life. They are committed to sustaining and enhancing the living environment even as they produce a living for their families and increase the economic viability of the larger community. In all their practices they promote a respectful, sustainable relationship with the land with an eye to the future. Through fair trade, they form great relationships with partners and customers throughout the world who appreciate their high-quality products.



In the past decade, much of the land of Palestine has been made inaccessible to them. Farmers have been particularly hurt as their crops have been demolished and their land taken for Israeli settlements, by-pass roads, security zones, and the Wall. Often farmers are forced to watch without recourse as their olive trees are uprooted, and often they stand at a gate in the Wall hoping for access to plant, tend, and harvest crops on their land on the other side. Young and small farmers have found it particularly difficult to establish and expand their operations. PFTA and solidarity groups have, however, found creative ways to restore production and hope for such farmers.

This program helps to connect Palestinian farmers and producers in the fair trade movement in Palestine to the grassroots fair trade movement around the world in a meaningful way. In solidarity with olive farmers denied their livelihood, grassroots solidarity organizations abroad have raised funds for the purchase of thousands of seedlings since 2006.



History of the Program

Since the program started in 2006, the number of participating farmers has increased. While the trees have provided significant financial benefits to the farmers and their families, perhaps the most important contribution has been the renewed sense of hope and commitment to the land.

<i>Year/Season</i>	<i>No. of Targeted Locations</i>	<i>Total No. of Distributed Saplings</i>	<i>Total No. of Beneficiaries</i>
2006	6	3,600	129
2007	21	12,096	279
2008	16	7,374	207
2009	12	6,843	358
2010	8	9,071	255
2011	14	9,660	257
2012	21	10,560	377
2013	13	8,000	560
2014	14	13,865	230
2015	20	16,700	328
2016	20	13,542	250
2017	21	14,063	252
2018	22	22,646	257
2019	20	25,352	318
2020	20	21,940	300
	Total	19,5312	4,029

Source: Trees for Life Historical Data 2006-2020.



2020 Planting Season

During the **2020** planting season more than **21,900** saplings have been distributed to more than **300** farmers in **20** villages in Palestine.

Contributions and Donations Collected for 2020 Planting Season:

Zaytoun CIC, UK	44,000 £
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, USA	22,900 \$
Zatoun, Canada	10,636 \$
Land of Canaan Foundation, USA	10,000 \$
Solivr, France	850 €
Green Palestine, Taiwan	1,700 \$

PFTA farmers extend sincere thanks and gratitude to these organizations and individuals who contributed through them to the livelihood and sustainability of Palestinian farmers.

Regenerative Farming and Land Race Seeds Program (Phase 3)

For the third year, PFTA includes Regenerative Agriculture and land race seeds within the Trees for Life Program which aims to enhance and sustain the health of top soil by keeping an active biological ecosystem year round.



Regenerative Agriculture increases the soil capacity to store carbon, which in turn allows for better moisture retention. Also Regenerative Agriculture calls for farm management that increases biodiversity, composting, cover cropping, inter-cropping and the integration of animals to the farm (dairy animals, chickens and beekeeping) that improve and enrich the food type and quality for the farmers.



PFTA encourages the farmers to implement all the needed RA practices through:

- Capacity Building Training
- Agricultural extension and field visits
- Providing original landrace seeds:

Collecting (purchasing) native seeds from our organic farmers own production, then circulating and distributing the seeds to new farmers (for free) according to a number of criteria such as topography of the targeted area, type of the soil and the major crop in the targeted area. PFTA collects part of the produced and harvested seeds from the farmers who were targeted in the first phase of the program and re-circulate these seeds to other farmers this planting season.

Totals from Phase 3 of landrace seeds program:

- Total cultivated area: 350 Donums (35 Hectares)
- Total number of beneficiaries: 60 farmers
- Total distributed quantity of seeds: 3600 kg



Irrigated Soft Shell Almonds

During the last couple of years, the Trees for Life Program has distributed thousands of rain-fed soft shell almond trees to a large number of Palestinian farmers. The rain-fed almonds produce high quality nuts but with lower yield in comparison to irrigated almonds.

In order to increase the almond production (both quality and quantity), PFTA decided to start distributing irrigated soft shell almonds as a part of the Trees for Life Program, whereby a group of farmers receive capacity building training by an expert

agronomist about the needed practices and regulations for irrigated almond farming.

This planting season around 3000 irrigated almond seedlings were distributed to the farmers and planted in an area of 110 Donums (11 Hectares).

The next planting season a new group of farmers will be targeted to receive trees. The Phase 1 farmers will play an important role in helping and training these farmers in the implementation of Phase 2.





Trees for Life 2020

Jenin, Palestine