

## **PRICING THE IRRIGATION WATER IN THE JORDAN VALLEY AS A MEAN OF WATER SAVING IN Palestine**

**By:**

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**Abstract: Palestine consists of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The proclaimed state of Palestine has a land area of 6,657km<sup>3</sup>.**

Water is always considered as an essential factor of life and development in arid and semi-arid countries. In Palestine the total per capita water consumption is 139m<sup>3</sup>.

The total available water for Irrigation is 239 MCM which is responsible for irrigating only 330,000 dunums out of 2,314,000 dunums cultivated that can be irrigated if water is available i.e. 5% of the total cultivated land.

The average rainfall is 450mm and unfortunately there isn't any water harvesting structures i.e. dams, most of this rainwater flowing towards the Dead Sea or the Mediterranean Sea as waste. So harvesting this water in individual farmer land and using this water for supplementary irrigation to irrigate olive trees, almonds, grapes and cereals will be of a great impact on the Palestinian land for feed production. It should be noted that there are few farmers who practice supplementary irrigation for production of vegetables that are planted in summer as individual initiative. The quantity and quality of production that they have is extremely tangible.

Irrigated area in the Jordan valley constitutes of more than half of the irrigated area in the whole country Palestine. In addition to that more than of 50% of the irrigation water in west bank is consumed in the Jordan valley.

Most of the irrigation water in the Jordan valley is due to springs where the water is flowing by gravity and the farmers have access to this water free of charge, so farmers irrigate his crop without taking into consideration the value of the water where they add water as well as they want and they select any crops such as banana (the most water consumption plant) without taking into consideration the amount of water needed especially the evapotranspiration in Jordan valley is the biggest in the world since the location of the Jordan valley (Jericho) is the lowest point in elevation in the world.