



EcoPeace
Middle East



Model Farm Project

Agricultural Cross-Border Cooperation

Third Annual Workshop:
Israel, Sustainable Agriculture and the Developing World
July 13th, 2016

Shelly Lev-Sherman, Adv.
Good Water Neighbors Israeli Coordinator, EcoPeace

About EcoPeace Middle East – who we are



- **EcoPeace is an environmental peacemaking** organization working in Jordan, Palestine, and Israel with offices in Amman, Bethlehem, and Tel-Aviv
- We are the **only regional organization** operating jointly in Israel, Jordan and Palestine – on any issue
- We employ more than 80 people in the 3 countries
- Our **primary objective** is to promote cooperative efforts to protect our environment and advance sustainable development in the region
- **EcoPeace's focus** is on transboundary water resources, including the Jordan River, Dead Sea, cross-border streams, and Mountain and Coastal Aquifers
- EcoPeace is **change oriented**; we seek to shift the status quo

The Model Farm Project



- **Objective:** serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and strengthening connections between Israeli and Jordanians farmers and researchers, in order to promote sanitation and crop management
- **Why? Mutual interest**
 - The Israeli side wants to eliminate the housefly nuisance and the Jordanian side wants to learn and adopt economically-efficient agriculture practices
- **How?**
 - Joint project of Tamar RC and South Ghour Council who signed an MoU, with support from Israeli and Jordanian governments
 - A local farmer in Safi allocated a plot to demonstrate modern agricultural practices
 - The farm is currently under construction by the Israeli team headed by Arava R&D Center

The Model Farm Project – Future



- First stage: semi-commercial scale modern agriculture
 - Tomatoes and melons, each crop 50% of the plot
- Second stage: chosen varieties will be grown in a large scale (a packing house with sorting machines and storage will be built)
- Third stage: Training for other farmers in the region
- Establishment of a joint Israeli-Jordanian steering committee

The Model Farm Project – Desired Outcomes



- Increase cooperation between Israel and Jordan
- Strengthen economic ties between the communities
- Develop and strengthen cooperation for crop protection to reduce pressure from harmful pests on both sides of the border
- Solve the shared housefly problem
- Develop a joint marketing brand for export of agricultural products
- Promote the establishment of an additional border crossing between Tamar RC in Israel and South Ghour Municipality in Jordan

Thank you for listening!

