



Palestine Fair Trade Association

Trees for Life Program 2016

“They planted so we ate. We plant so they eat.”

Arabic Proverb

Introduction:

The Trees for Life Program, which is implemented by the Palestine Fair Trade Association (PFTA) www.palestinefairtrade.org, provides olive & almond saplings to Palestinian farmers. While the program covers the majority of the cost of the saplings, the farmers pay a symbolic percentage as a demonstration of their commitment. PFTA General Assembly, which is composed of elected representatives of 52 farmer's coops, elects a committee of farmers called 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 trees destruction by the Israeli military. This year "2016" more than **13,542** saplings have been distributed to more than **250** farmers in **20** various villages in the west bank.





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 in which to restore production and hope for such farmers.

This program helps to connect the Palestinian farmers and producers in the fair trade movement in Palestine to the grassroots fair trade movement in 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.

The 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	3600	129
2007	21	12096	279
2008	16	7374	207
2009	12	6843	358
2010	8	9071	255
2011	14	9660	257
2012	21	10560	377
2013	13	8000	560
2014	14	13865	230
2015	20	16700	328
2016	20	13542	250
Totals		<i>111,311</i>	<i>2902</i>

Trees for life Historical Data 2006-2016.



2016 Planting season

During "2016" planting season more than **13542** saplings have been distributed to more than **250** farmers in **20** various villages in the west bank

Contributions and Donations collected for 2016 planting Season:

Zaytoun, UK -----	20,423 £
Zatoun, Canada -----	11,232 \$
U S Campaign to end Israeli occupation, USA -----	6,826 \$
Canaan Fair Trade, USA -----	2,731 \$
Martaret misch, USA -----	400 \$
Land of Canaan Foundation, USA-----	8,180 \$
SOLIVR, France-----	7,693 €
Hajra, UK-----	200 £

Trees for Life program is funded by PFTA's olive oil buyers, and a network of solidarity organizations in Europe, UK, USA and Canada. PFTA farmers extend sincere thanks and gratitude to these organizations and individuals who contributed through them to the livelihood sustainability of Palestinian farmers



Highlight Farmers Stories:

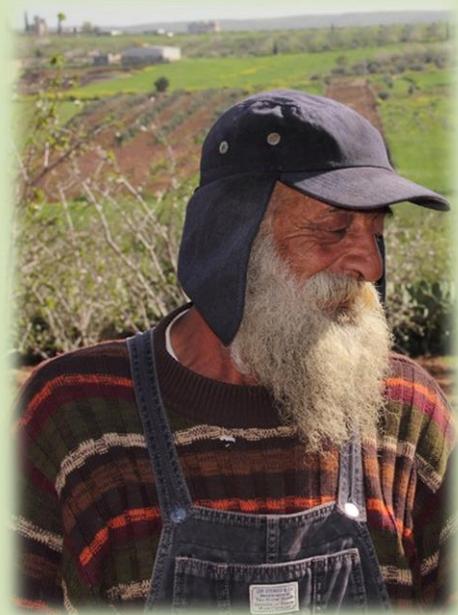
Adnan Massad (Abu Annor)

a farmer from the village of Faqou'ah near Jenin, used to work in the land with his family since he was very young.

Abu Annor start his life working in constructions and building houses in his village and nearby villages, In 2005, building the Israeli separation wall between West Bank and Israel make the local economical situation is more difficult and many of the men of the village stop working inside Israel due to the difficulties to get a permits for working inside Israel, as a result many of them starts working in the constructions in the village and other nearby villages, this reduce the chances for Adnan to continue his work, he decide to starts working in his land considering it as the major source for living.

Adnan establish a small nursery in his land in order to supply the farmers in his village with different types of saplings such as olives, grapes, Almond, pomegranate... Etc.

Abu Annor join the fair-trade program in 2006 as an Olive farmer, and now he is one of the most active farmers in PFTA programs and he is A fully organic farmer producing Almond, Olive Oil, Tomato and Wheat selling them through Canaan FT to the Fair Trade Markets.





In January 2016 and after applying for the Trees for Life Program; Abu Annor plant all the saplings he received from the PFTA, he visits His land daily to serve his young olive trees which is very important for the trees specially in the first 3 years after planting.

during his life Adnan Believe that he Plants more Than 1300 olive & Almond trees in his



Land and he describes his work in the land as an important kind for the non-violent resistance against the Israeli occupation and a way to verify his rights in the ownership of the land, which builds the soul of attachment to the land in the coming generations.

Ahmad Abdolhafeeth:

A farmer from the village of Anin 17 km from the city of Jenin, like most farmers in his town, suffers from continuous crop loss due to inability of access to his own olive fields because of the Israeli separation wall that imprisons the whole



village, separating farmers from their own lands and their own trees. Ahmad has more than 365 productive olive trees in his own land, every day he brings his tools and visit his farm doing the daily agricultural practices such as weeding, pruning and plowing, since 2008 after he join the Fair-trade program, Ahmad sell his



organic certified olive oil through PFTA to Canaan fair trade company CFT and he believes that all the Palestinian farmers even the farmers who are not registered in the PFTA programs benefit from the fair trade; he said “ simply every year CFT export large quantities of our olive oil to the international fair trade markets and so the farmers of the PFTA have a direct benefit from this because they market their production, and also this process give a better opportunities for the other farmers who are not registered in the PFTA to market their production in the local Palestinian market with a better prices”

In this planting season Ahmad received olive saplings from the PFTA after he apply to the trees for life program, he hope these trees will start producing in the coming couple of years which means increasing in the money income and also this will help in insisting on his attachment to his land, while Israel tries to uproot this attachment.



Established in 2006, Anin cooperative is one of the biggest olive oil producing cooperative due to its large membership of over 70 farmers selling the majority of their productions to Canaan Fair Trade.

Trees for Life 2016.

Jenin, Palestine