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Olive Cultivation Development Project in Iraq.
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Intruduction



Iraq is very ancient agriculture country but a part of its land suffered from desertification, and arid condition ,Despite it has a huge amount of under-ground water even in the deserted region in different depth ,so that we can use this water in the areas which has not revers that's lead to the olive cultivation succeed in all Iraqi area and that's we try to do in our olive project .

Why olive tree?



- The olive tree is a perennial evergreen tree and thus has an important role in improving the ecosystem
- Have economic importance of food and thus contribute to the improvement of the economy and achieve food security
- Olive trees are astoundingly tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions

Why olive tree?



- Olive is a major tree crop in the Mediterranean region and is moderately salt tolerant.
- Also, climate in the Iraq generally is suitable for olive cultivation.
- And with drip irrigation has achieved good success with in Iraq .
- Cultivation of olive groves in Iraq contribute significantly reducing soil erosion that resulting from monsoon during the dry summer.

Olive Cultivation Statistics/ Iraq

- There are 12500 hectare of olive. Most of them in north Iraq. The cultivation is according to traditional method (7*5 m).that mean (280 tree/ hectare)
- Most of these groves containing local olive table varieties such as Pashiqi and Ashrassi.
- Four new olive groves were established by Olive Cultivation Project's staff. According to new cultivation method (5*2.5m).
- Total of new groves area (100 hectare) each hectare contained (800)olive trees that's mean 80000 trees.

Olive Cultivation Project Duties/ Iraq

Production of olive seedlings

- There are many stations across the country that help in disseminating olive cultivation.
- These seedlings are delivered to local farmers who interested in olive cultivation.
- These seedlings are consist of different olive species. Olive oil + olive table.
- Also, we usually monitoring the cultivation of these seedlings.



Olive Cultivation Project Duties/ Iraq

Establishing Olive Orchards

- Several olive orchards have been established in north, middle and south of Iraq.
- various species have been planted in these olive orchards, including local species as well as Arbequina, Manzanilla and Picual.
- planting of olive trees was according to intense cultivation method and dripping irrigation system.
- we hope these orchards help in expanding olive cultivation and olive oil production.



Olive Cultivation Project Duties/ Iraq

Olive Oil Production

- our olive oil production is very limited. There is only one olive press in north Iraq. The main purpose of this press is teaching and encouraging olive oil production in Iraq.
- Providing technical assistance to local investors who interested in olive oil production. For example, there is one press in Mousl that established in cooperation with olive oil project.
- Participating in training courses that organized by IOC.



Olive Cultivation Project Duties/ Iraq

- importing olive shoots from other countries. These shoots are distributed to our stations across Iraqi provinces. For example, importing 2500000 olive shoots from Syria in 2007. these shoots included Khdairy, Kaisy and Surany. Also, importing 1500000 shoots from Syria in 2008.
- Then, our staff use these shoots in producing olive seedlings that were delivered to local farmers.

IOC and Iraqi Olive project

Iraq joined IOC in 2008. The aims of this membership are:

- To take advantages from other IOC member's experiences.
- To improve our staff skills and knowledge that related to olive cultivation and olive oil production. This is could be achieved by participating in IOC training courses.
- To take part in decision-making that related with olive oil.
- To gain technical assistance to improve olive production sector in Iraq.
- By being member of IOC, now we have better understanding about olive oil production in world.

IOC and Iraqi Olive project

What Iraq Olive Project requirements :

- Establishing new typical olive orchard in Iraq. This orchard should contain most olive species that used to produce oil or as table olive. The orchard will be used as genetic bank that provide olive seedling to local farmers.
- Supporting in introducing new technologies to olive sector in Iraq.
- Training our staff to developed their skills in all stages of olive cultivation and olive oil production.
- There is necessary need to establish olive oil lab to analysis fruits and oil ratio
- Establishing olive oil press. That would help in fruit marketing that will encourage local farmers to plant olive in Iraq and understanding the importance of olive oil.
- Providing scientific publication of olive, particularly these studies that talk about olive species tolerant to high salinity and high temperature.

Olive Cultivation Future in Iraq

- Expanding olive cultivation area in Iraq to reach 30000000 trees.
- Using new technologies in planting, harvesting and processing olive trees and fruits.
- Expanding olive oil production by installing olive oil press across the country.
- Encouraging local farmers to plant olive trees across hot climate regions in middle and south of Iraq.
- Raising the public awareness healthy importance of olive oil.



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MANY THANKS FOR IOC STAFF
THANKS FOR IRANIAN HOUST

