Strategic Planning Objective:

Facilitator: Pieter Van Der Zaag
Rapporteur: Samar M. Salma
Strategic Planning Objective cont:

• The issue of sustainable agriculture development most important pillar of the lower Jordan River Basin Plan as it provides livelihood and prosperity for the whole people in the valley.

• Increasing the agricultural value which is the focus of interventions which implies people making more money and water use is most efficient.

• To make this happen it requires access to land and tenure security, access to water, and access to markets.

• The private sector is capable of playing its role in promoting these improved investment and agriculture.

• The role of the government is to provide an enabling policy environment which implies:

  • Effectively monitor and force regulations with respect to water use and pollution prevention
• Certain proposed project that strengthen the capacity of the public sector to
monitor and force regulation is important.
• Currently opportunities opening up for niche markets also in Europe especially for
products that have been produced on the basis of environmental and social justice.
• Examples like dates, medicinal herbs, olive oil ...etc.; these are often high value
low water intensive crops.
• The types of projects for Jordan and Palestine may not be the same because
circumstances differ.
• For Jordan it is very encouraging that there is a policy to gradually increase water
tariffs which is still heavily subsidized.
• Commitment from all three countries for these agricultural investments to take
place.
• It is urgent to start at least one project in Palestine on the ground.
• The ultimate vision is of integration of the three countries whereby each country
uses its comparative advantage in terms of agricultural products.
• In the project portfolio there is an artificial divide between family farming and
commercial market as if all family farming should be for subsistence only.