

North Ghors Conversion Project



A pump station

Outline of Loan Agreement

Loan Amount / Disbursed Amount	4,080 million yen / 4,080 million yen
Loan Agreement	January 1989
Terms & Conditions	Interest rate 2.9%p.a. Repayment period 30 years (Grace period 10 years)
Final Disbursement Date	April 1997

Project Outline

The project was designed to improve water distribution and on-farm water method in existing irrigation areas in the North Ghors region which is sandwiched between the Yarmouk River and the Rajib River at the east coast end of the Jordan river. It also involved the construction of new irrigation systems for non-irrigated areas to utilize water resources efficiently by economizing on irrigation water, and to improve agricultural output.

Results and Evaluation

The project covered the conversion of open canals to pipelines for an existing irrigation area of 7,200 hectares, and the development of a pipeline distribution system (construction/rehabilitation of intake pump stations at 10 sites, 226km of pipeline, and 205km of farm roads) to service an uncultivated area of 900 hectares. After completion of the project in 1998, the ratio for water use efficiency had reached roughly 90%, representing an improvement over the target figure (approx. 63%).

In terms of the irrigated area, while there are restrictions on the volume of shared water, roughly 6,000 hectares of the 8,100-hectare area covered by the project are now irrigated. Moreover, the introduction of water conserving farming methods, such as drip irrigation, together with resourceful farm management in terms of types of crops cultivated and use of fertilizers, mean that crop outputs are essentially in line with planned levels. The majority of respondents in an interview survey of farmer-beneficiaries also reported that they had benefited from increased yields and reductions in working hours as the result of securing irrigation water and improved farming skills, indicating that this project has had significant effects. No specific problems have developed in the operation and maintenance of the facilities.