

Kisan Village Profile



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ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.

Background

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in Bethlehem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Bethlehem Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the Azahar Program.

The "Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Bethlehem Governorate with particular focus on the Azahar program objectives and activities concerning water, environment, and agriculture.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze, and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in Bethlehem Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

All locality profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://proxy.arij.org/vprofile>.

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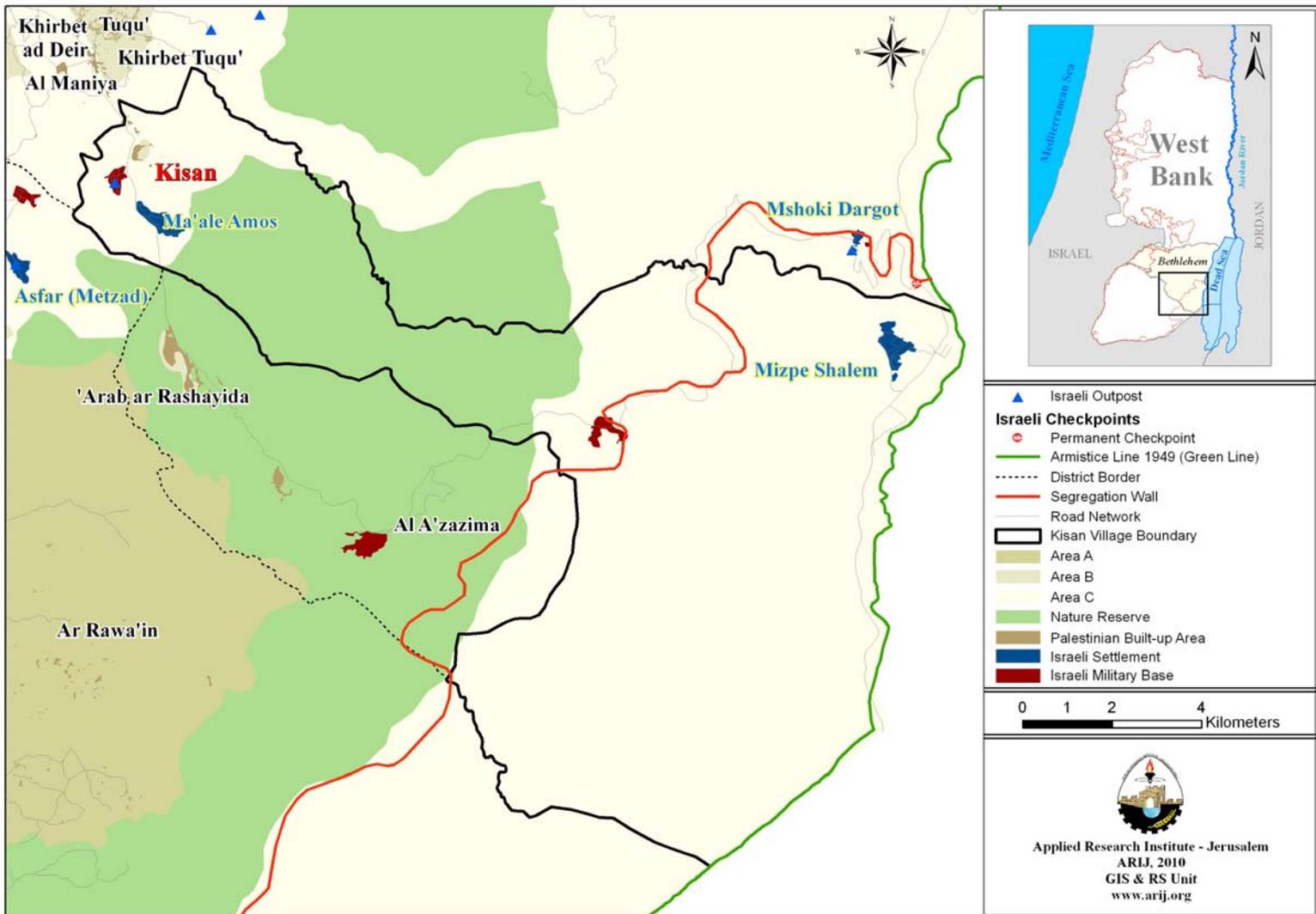
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Kisan Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Kisan is a Palestinian village in Bethlehem Governorate located 11km (horizontal distance) south of Bethlehem City. Kisan is bordered by the Dead Sea to the east, Tuqu' town and Al Maniya village to the north, Al Maniya and 'Arab are Rashayida villages to the west, and Bani N'eim town territories, within Hebron governorate, to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Kisan location and borders



Kisan is located at an altitude of 761m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 365mm. The average annual temperature is 17° C, and the average annual humidity is about 60.3 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1997, Kisan has been governed by a Projects committee which is currently administrated by nine members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. The projects committee owns a permanent headquarter.

It is the responsibility of the projects committee to provide a number of services to the residents of Kisan, including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Implementation of projects and case studies for the village.

History

Kisan got its name because of an archeological rock that has the shape of two bags (small bags that people in the past used to put their money in) sculpted in it. Kisan residents originate from Arab at Ta'amra.

Photo of Kisan

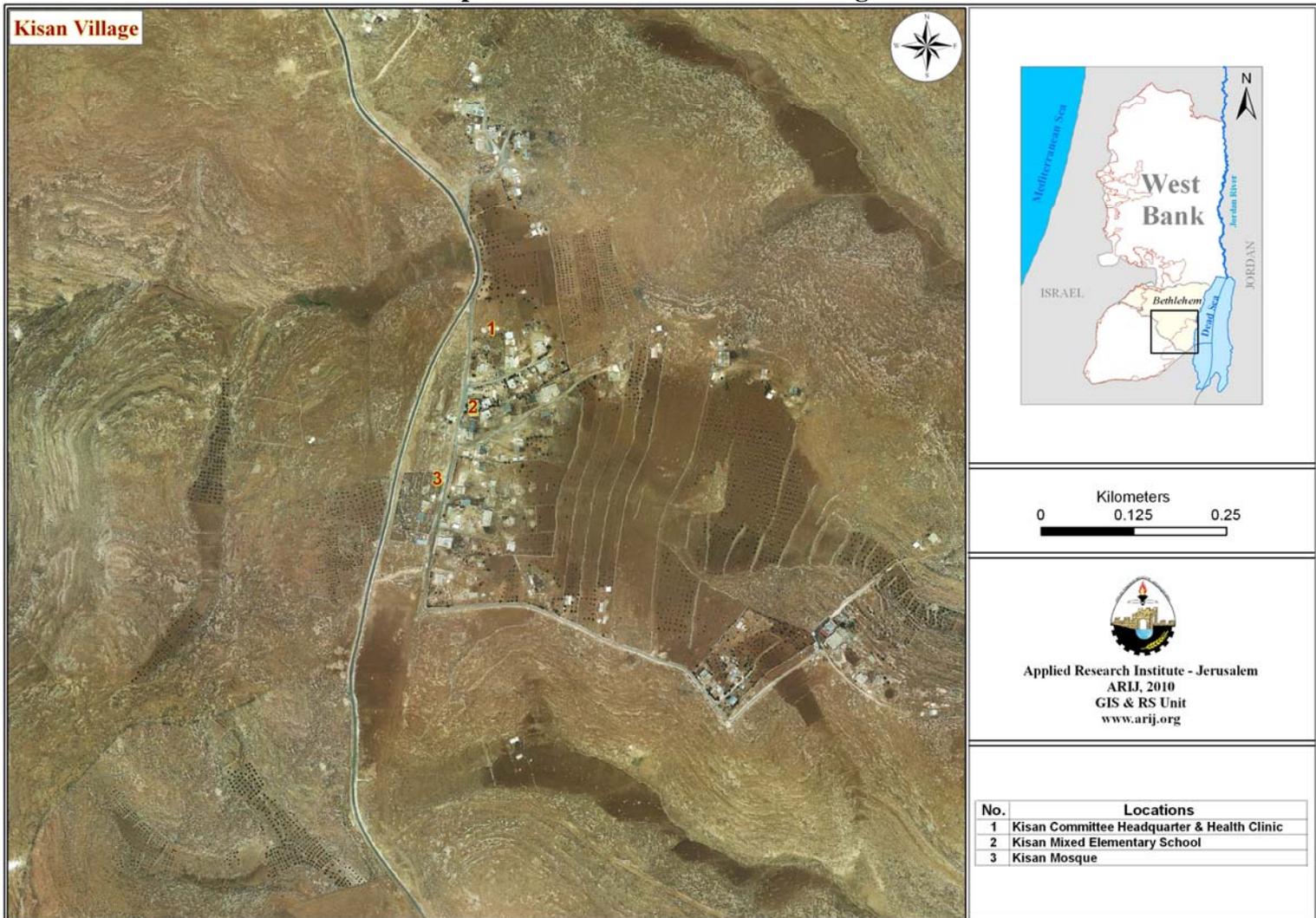


Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there is only one mosque in Kisan: Kisan Mosque.

As for the archaeological sites in the village, there is one from the roman era which is a rock with a shape of two bags of money sculpted on it (See map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Kisan village



Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Kisan in 2007 was 454; of whom 225 are males and 228 of whom are females. There are 76 households living in 77 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Kisan is as follows: 44.5 percent are less than 15 years, 48.4 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 2.5 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 99:100, meaning that males constitute 49.8 percent of the population, and females constitute 50.2 percent of the population.

Families

The inhabitants of Kisan village are composed of several families, mainly: Al Ghazal, Abd Sbeih, Warad, Nimer, and 'Ebeid Allah.

Immigration

The field survey showed that around 55 persons have left the village.

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Kisan population is about 29.7 percent, of whom 66 percent are females. Of the literate population, 40.8 percent can read and write, 36.2 percent had elementary education, 18.4 percent had preparatory education, and 4.6 percent had secondary education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Kisan, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	28	44	40	14	6	-	-	-	-	-	132
F	55	36	31	22	3	-	-	-	-	-	147
T	83	80	71	36	9	-	-	-	-	-	279

Source: PCBS, 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

In regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Kisan in the academic year 2008/2009, there is only one public school in the village; Kisan Mixed Elementary School, which is run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education.

In the village there is a total number of 110 students, 14 teachers, and 10 classes (Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 8, while the average number of students per class is approximately 11.

Health Status

There are no health facilities available in Kisan village except for a health clinic which its headquarters is rented, and which has been designated by the Israeli Occupation forces to be demolished.

In emergency cases, residents of Kisan use Tuqu' hospitals and health centers, such as: Tuqu' Charitable Society, which is about 2km from the village, Tuqu' Medical Complex, about 2km from the village, and Tuqu' Governmental Clinic, about 3km from the village.

Despite the presence of a health clinic in the village, the health sector faces several problems, mainly:

1. The absence of a nurse on a daily basis to treat patients.
2. The absence of an ambulance.
3. The absence of a pharmacy in the village.

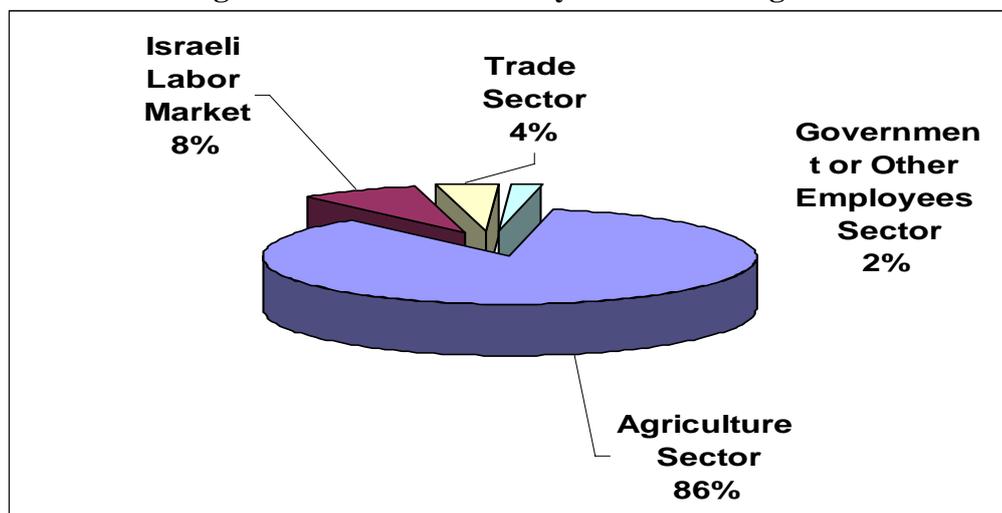
Economic Activities

The economy in Kisan is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the agricultural sector, which absorbs 86 percent of the village workforce (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Kisan are the following:

- Agriculture Sector (86%)
- Israeli Labor Market (8%)
- Trade Sector (4%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (2%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Kisan Village



There are some agricultural activities in Kisan, as most of the residents keep and rear livestock and produce cheese and dairy products. There are also two grocery stores in the village.

As a result of the Israeli occupation and restrictions, the economic status of the population has severely declined, as many citizens have lost their jobs and have become unemployed, thus forcing them to work in the service sector and agricultural activities, as a last resort for obtaining a minimum income.

The unemployment rate in Kisan has reached about 80 percent. It was found that the most vulnerable social groups in the village, as a result of Israeli actions, are:

1. Former workers in Israel.
2. Workers in the agricultural sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 26.2 percent of Kisan population was economically active, of whom 17.8 percent were employed, 73.8 percent were not economically active, 40.3 percent were students, and 35 percent were housekeepers (See table 2).

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total	
M	13	27	31	71	42	-	15	-	4	61	132
F	-	-	2	2	41	72	12	-	20	145	147
T	13	27	33	73	83	72	27	-	24	206	279

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

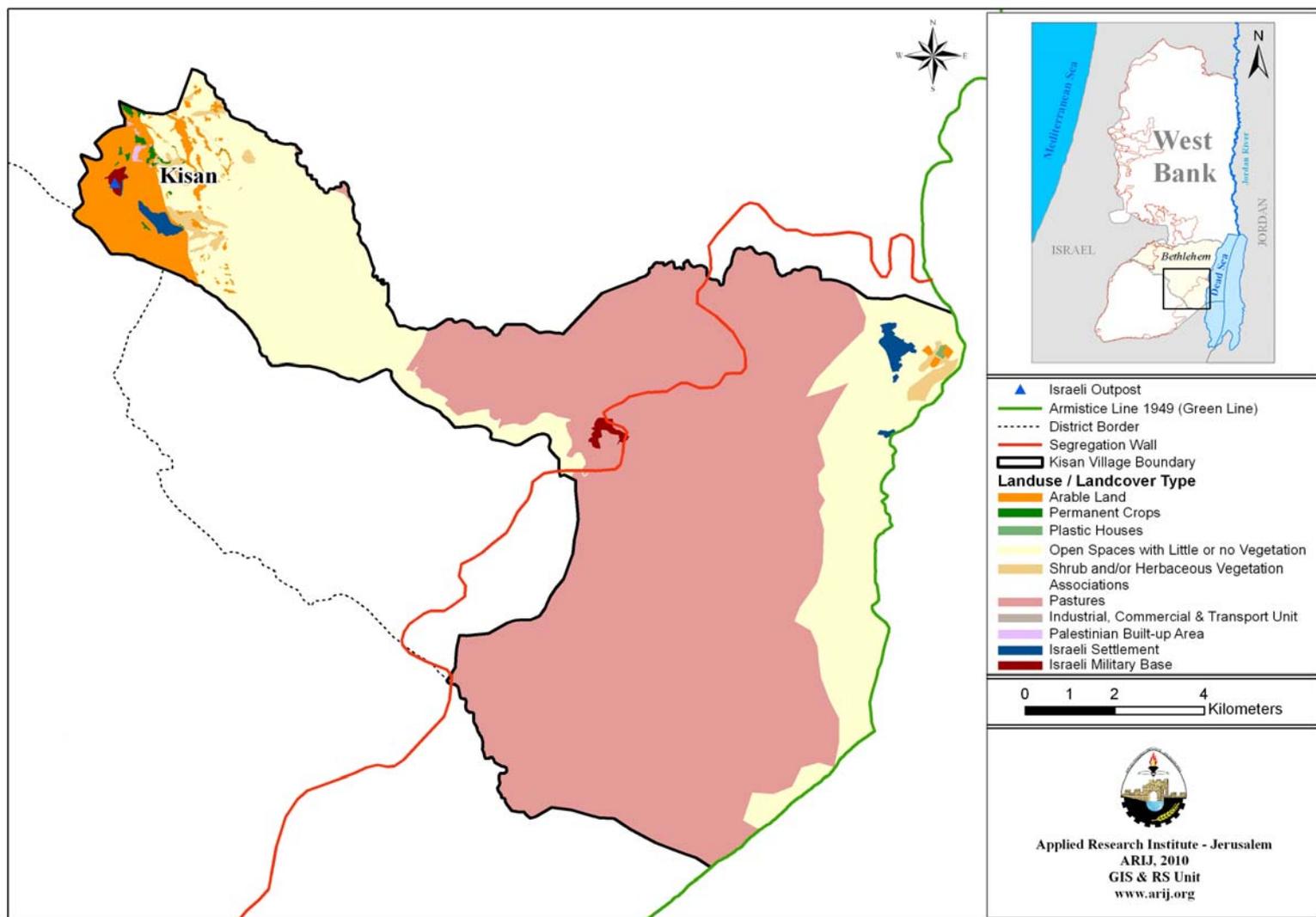
Agricultural Sector

Kisan lies on a total area of about 133,330 dunums of which 132,288 dunums are considered arable land, and 79 dunums are residential land (See table 3 and map 3).

Total Area	Built up Area	Arable Land (132,288)					Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
133,330	79	5,706	211	36	0	126,335	12	951

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Kisan Village



Agricultural production in Kisan depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on domestic harvesting cisterns and the public water network.

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Kisan. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Kisan village (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
3	3	0	1.5	0	0.5	0	0	0	1	3	6

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area.

Table 5: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Kisan Village (dunum)													
Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

As for the field crops and forage in Kisan, cereals, in particular, wheat and barley are the most cultivated covering an area of about 110 dunums, while forage crops, such as common vetch and bitter vetch are the second most cultivated crops (See table 6).

Table 6: Total area of field crops in Kisan village (dunum)															
Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
110	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	14	0	2	0	0	0	135	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

The field survey shows that 50 percent of the residents in Kisan are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Kisan village									
Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	1,416	1,691	0	8	25	5	0	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are about 7 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village suitable for tractors and agricultural machinery.

Institutions and Services

Kisan village has a Projects Committee, which was founded in 1997, but there are no associations, committees, centers, sport or cultural clubs in the village.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Kisan has been connected to a public electricity network since 2001; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 93.2 percent of the housing units in the village are connected to the network, while the remaining units (6.8%) are not connected to any electricity service. Furthermore, Kisan is not connected to a telecommunication network (Kisan Projects Committee, 2009).

Transportation Services:

Kisan lacks public transportation in the village. As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 1.8km of main paved roads in good condition, and a total of 0.5km of main paved roads in bad condition that are in need of rehabilitation. There are a total of 1.5km of unpaved roads in the village.

Water Resources:

Kisan is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department, through the public water network established in 1984, and about 98.6 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network, while the remaining units (1.4%) are dependent on other water resources. The quantity of water supplied to Kisan in 2009 was about 9336 cubic meters/year therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 57 liters/day (Kisan Projects Committee, 2009).

Here it should be noted that many Kisan citizens do not in fact consume this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 35 percent. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (Kisan Projects Committee, 2009), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Kisan is 37 liters per day. This is a low rate compared with the minimum quantity proposed by the World Health Organization, which is 100 liters per capita per day.

Sanitation:

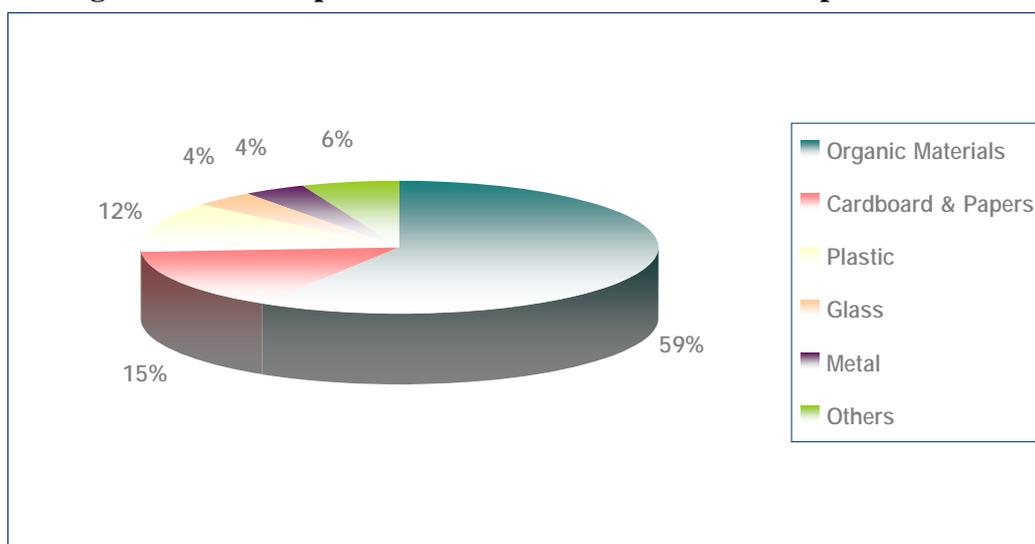
Kisan lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as means for wastewater disposal. The majority of Kisan's housing units (76.7%) use cesspits for wastewater disposal, while the rest of Kisan's housing units (23.3%) don't have any means for wastewater collection and disposal.

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 13.4 cubic meters, or 4905 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 30 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without any regard for the environment. Here it should be noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and the public health.

Solid Waste Management:

Kisan village lacks the service of solid waste management, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens. In regard to the quantity of produced solid waste, the daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Kisan is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Kisan residents is nearly 0.32 tons, or 116 tons per year. The main component of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper, cardboard, and then plastic, as shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: The components of the household solid waste produced



Environmental Conditions

Like other villages in the governorate, Kisan experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water Crisis:

Water is cut off for long periods of time in summer in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:

- (1) Israeli domination over Palestinian water resources; accordingly, supplying Palestinians communities with insufficient water quantities to cover their domestic needs.
- (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old, and in need of rehabilitation and renovation. Moreover, the practices of citizens like creating

illegal connections, water theft, and damaging water meters increase the proportion of water losses.

- (3) Many homes are not connected to the public water network
- (4) Many housing units lack rainwater harvesting cisterns; thus exposing them to suffer at periods of water shortage.

Wastewater Management:

The absence of a public sewage network, thus, the use of cesspits for the disposal of wastewater by most of the housing units where as several housing units have no means for wastewater disposal, and the discharge of wastewater in the streets, especially in winter, because the citizens can not afford the high cost of sewage tankers, causes environmental damages, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. The use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater and water collected in domestic cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) as the wastewater mixes with water and contaminates it and thus makes it inappropriate for human consumption. This is due to the fact that most cesspits are built without lining, which allows wastewater to enter into the ground and avoids the need to use sewage tankers from time to time. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without taking into account the damage it causes to the environment and the residents' health.

Solid Waste Management:

In Kisan there is no solid waste management service or a central sanitary landfill to serve the residents, thus, they dispose of the generated solid waste in neighboring lands and on the road sides and set it on fire occasionally in order to get rid of it and reduce its size. These practices constitute a hazard risk for the health, a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, as well as air pollution such as smoke and gases resulting from the burning of such wastes, bad odors, and distortion of the landscape. It should be noted here that in cooperation with the Joint Service Council, a solid waste management service and a sanitary landfill will be provided for Kisan village; it is currently under construction in Al Maniya area, south of Bethlehem governorate, in order to serve Bethlehem and Hebron governorates.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

On September 13, 1993 the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel signed the Declaration of Principles, which provided for a transitional period of 5 years. On May 4, 1994 Oslo I Agreement (Gaza and Jericho) was signed, where areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were transferred to the Palestinian national sovereignty. In September 28, 1995 Oslo II Agreement was signed and new areas of the West Bank

and Gaza Strip were also transferred to the Palestinian national sovereignty, including Bethlehem governorate, which was divided into several areas, as follows:

- **Area A:** where the Palestinian sovereignty is absolute.
- **Area B:** where administrative issues are under the Palestinian National Authority's responsibility and security matters are under Israeli control.
- **Area C:** where security and administrative sovereignty is under Israeli control.

According to Oslo Interim Agreement, 112 dunums of Kisan lands (0.1 of the total area of the village) were classified as area B, and 108,952 dunums (81.7% of the total area of the village) were classified as area C. As for the remaining part of Kisan lands, 24266 dunums (18.2% of the total area of the village) were classified as nature reserves (Table 8).

Land Classification	Area (dunums)	% of the Total Area
Area A	0	0
Area B	112	0.1
Area C	108952	81.7
Nature Reserves	24266	18.2
Total Area	133330	100

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2009

It is worth mentioning that the urban construction in Kisan village constitutes a small percentage of the total area of the village comparing with open spaces and agricultural lands that fall under Israeli control, where Palestinians are prevented from construction or reclamation of their land in any way without getting permission from the Israeli Civil Administration in Bethlehem. Moreover, due to the complexities imposed by Israeli authorities on Palestinians who are seeking to obtain permits to construct houses in area C and due to the absence of other possible alternatives many Palestinians are forced to make the decision to build without a permit in order to meet their increasing housing needs. As a result, their houses or buildings come under the threat of demolition and the residents come under the threat of displacement.

Kisan village and the Israeli occupation practices

After the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in June 1967, the Israeli authorities illegally confiscated large areas of the Palestinian lands in various parts of the occupied territory, for the illegal construction of Israeli settlements, bypass roads and military bases. Kisan village, like many other Palestinian villages, was exposed to Israeli illegal procedures of violation and expansion, where hundreds of dunums of the citizens' lands in the village were confiscated for the construction of Ma'ale Amos and Mizpe Shalem settlements, and the settlement outpost, 'Eibi Hankhal, which is located north-west of Ma'ale Amos settlement. Table 9 shows the lands confiscated for the construction of Israeli settlement:

Settlement	Year of establishment	Settlers (2008-2009)	Total Area of settlement	% of total area of the village
Ma'ale Amos	1981	383	511	511
Mizpe Shalem	1980	195	440	440
Settlement Outpost 'Eibi Hanlkhal	January 1999	11 Jewish families and a number of bachelors live in it. It also has 25 caravans	428	428
Total area		1051	951	951

Source: GIS & Urbanization units – ARIJ, 2009

During the years of occupation, the Israeli occupation forces have established a bypass road network in order to create a kind of territorial contiguity between the Israeli settlements, outposts, and military bases in the West Bank, whereas these roads have isolated the Palestinian communities from each other, and caused material and agricultural losses. Kisan was also affected by the establishment of the bypass road network, as it has lost part of its territories for the construction of a number of Israeli bypass roads: bypass road no. 90¹ and bypass road no. 3698, which extend for 16.1km on Kisan village territories.

Kisan village has also lost another part of its territory, an area of 428 dunums, for the establishment of an Israeli military base, for protection purposes, west of Mizpe Shalem settlement.

The Segregation Wall

According to the updated Segregation Wall plan published on the web page of the Israeli Ministry of Defense in April 30, 2007; the Segregation Wall will extend for 9.3km on Kisan lands, from the south-eastern area; thus isolating and confiscating 87,344 dunums of the village territory (65.5% of the total area of the village). Table 10 shows the lands isolated behind the wall in Kisan village:

Item	Total Area (in Dunums)
Arable Land	70160.13
Forests & Open spaces	16743.87
Israeli Settlements	440
Total	87344

Source: ARIJ database- GIS, 2008

¹ The Israeli bypass road number 90: extends from north of the West Bank to the south (Jordan Valley Area - eastern side of the West Bank). It is worth mentioning that the Israeli settlements in Jordan Valley area depend on this street for its movement within the Palestinian territories, Israel and the Green Line.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Kisan projects committee did not implement any development projects in Kisan between 2007 and 2009.

Proposed Projects

Kisan projects committee, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town residents, looks forward to the implementation of several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop that was conducted by ARIJ staff in the town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Supporting livestock and constructing barracks.
2. Construction of domestic cisterns.
3. Establishment of a health center and the provision of an ambulance.
4. Establishment of a school and kindergarten in the village and supporting university students.
5. Restoration of old houses.
6. Providing transportation in the village.
7. Providing job opportunities.
8. Supporting farmers in all aspects such as agriculture machinery and reclamation of agricultural lands.
9. Maintenance and expansion of the public water network.
10. Supporting poor families with loans in order to reduce poverty rate.
11. Supporting people with special needs.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Kisan suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 11 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the projects committee's point of view (Kisan Projects Committee, 2009):

Table 11: Development Priorities and Needs in Kisan					
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			10km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			1.5km
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network			*	
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection			*	
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 clinic
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 clinic
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			elementary schools
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			1,500 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			50 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			50 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

*2km is a main road, 1.5km internal road and 6.5km agricultural road

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