**Agriculture**

***Agriculture in the West Bank***

• Israel’s control of the West Bank’s rich water resources—85% of which it reserves for its own citizens—along with its illegal settlements, Separation Wall, military zones, and sole control over the 62% of the West Bank termed “Area C” under the Oslo Accords, have severely undermined Palestinian agriculture.

• At most, 35% of irrigable Palestinian land is allowed to be irrigated, costing the Palestinian economy more than 100,000 jobs per year. Due to the low quantities of water available to Palestinian farmers, and the exorbitant cost of trucked water when available, only 6% of cultivated land is irrigated.

• Israel bars Palestinians from digging new wells and repairing old ones, and often prevents them from setting up cisterns to collect rainwater.

• Israeli factories and illegal settlements poison Palestinian farmland (and water sources) with chemical runoff and raw sewage.

•Israeli troops and illegal settlers regularly destroy Palestinian fields and agricultural farmland. They have destroyed 2.5 million fruit trees and 800,000 olive trees since 1967— reducing farmers’ income by over $12.3 million yearly. In 2020, Israeli settlers destroyed more than 4,000 olive trees.

• About 57% of cultivated Palestinian land is used for olive trees. Were it not for the occupation, the olive harvest and oil industry would provide income for 80,000 to 100,000 Palestinian families.

***Agriculture in the Gaza Strip***

• Israel’s blockade of materials allowed into the Gaza Strip, restrictions on produce exported from the Gaza Strip, and the territory’s severe water shortage have damaged its agricultural potential.

• 35% of the farmland, including the richest agricultural land in the Gaza Strip, falls within the Israeli-declared “buffer zone” where farmers are regularly shot at by Israeli soldiers and herbicides dumped on the land by Israel’s air force.

• Israel frequently opens the floodgates of its reservoirs on the edge of the Gaza Strip, deliberately drowning crops on Palestinian farmland.