The Law on Agriculture

No. (2) of 2003

The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation

The President of the Palestinian National Authority,

Having reviewed:

The Law on the Protection of Plants No. 10 of 1924,

The Law on Forests No. 5 of 1926,

The Law on the Preservation of Hunting No. 1 of 1924,

The Law on Apiculture No. 26 of 1926,

The Law on Fisheries No. 6 of 1937,

The Law on Agricultural Fertilisers No. 27 of 1937,

The Law on Animal Tax No. 38 of 1944,

The Law on Animal Diseases No. 43 of 1945, and

The Law on the Licensing of Shepherds No. 28 of 1946,

which are in force in the Gaza governorates;

The Law on Animal Diseases No. 39 of 1954,

The Law on the Regulation of Agricultural Medicines No. 8 of 1966,

The Law on the Marketing of Agricultural and Animal Products No. 88 of 1966,

The General Law on Agriculture No. 92 of 1966,

The Regulation on the Importing and Exporting of Animal Material and Animal Products No. 3 of 1955,

The Law on the Protection of Plants No. 106 of 1963,

The Regulation on the Control of Veterinary Medicines and their Manufacturing No. 2 of 1967, and

which are in force in the West Bank governorates;

The Law on the Protection of Livestock No. 8 of 1998, and

The Law on National Resources No. 1 of 1999; and

Following the approval of the Legislative Council in its session which convened on April 15th, 2003 A.D.,

We hereby promulgate the following Law:

INTRODUCTORY TITLE
DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER ONE
DEFINITIONS

Article (1)

For the purposes of the implementation of the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings designated thereto hereunder unless the context indicates otherwise:

The Ministry:	The Ministry of Agriculture.
The Minister:	The Minister of Agriculture.
Agricultural wealth:	All that is present on the surface of land and in the water, including plants or animals that are associated with the agricultural production and environment.
Agricultural possession:	The ownership, hiring or usufruct of any economic technical unit for vegetative or animal agricultural production with one administration.
Possessor:	Each natural or juridical person, who exercises administrative control over the operation of the agricultural possession and takes major decisions in regard of the use of available resources, and who assumes technical and economic responsibilities pertaining to the possession.
Water sources:	All water sources which are located within the borders of the land and marine territory of Palestine, whether these are surface or ground water (such as the springs water , including hot springs, wells, streams, rivers, lakes, seas and catchment areas) or untraditional such as treated waste water, desalinized water, low-salt water which is used for cultivation.
Agricultural land:	All land used for vegetative and animal agriculture.
Fallow land:	The land which is not exploited or reclaimed.
Subsidiary agricultural land:	The areas which penetrate urban areas and the purpose of which is to exercise limited agricultural activities.
Desertification:	The decline of the productive value of land uses due to climatic change and human activities.
Governmental forests:	The forest trees and plants growing on land owned by the state, in addition to the plants which grow on the precinct of roads, streets, valley watercourses and major streams.

Private forest:	The forest trees and shrubs which grow on land owned by natural or juridical persons.
Well:	Each structure or installation, the purpose of which is to extract or pump underground water.
Forest trees:	Each tree or shrub, which grows naturally or is cultivated for environmental purposes, such as prevention of soil erosion and improvement of its characteristics as wind buffers or for recreational and economic purposes.
Plants:	All types of crops, plantations and grasses as well as all their components, including stems, leaves, blossoms, seeds or roots in any state whatsoever.
Forest products:	Any material that is present on public and private forest land, with the exception of fruits resulting from private forest trees.
Pastures:	The land and fields of public ownership with ground cover plant, which are exploited in the grazing of animals and include natural and planted pastures.
Pasture plants:	All types of plants that grow on pastures, including herbs, grasses and shrubs whether animals feed on them or not.
Feed plants:	The plants which are grown in order to use them as feed for animals.
Wild plants:	All plants which grow naturally without any human intervention in their cultivation.
Agricultural fertilisers:	All types of chemical or organic fertilisers which are added to the soil to repair it or improve its properties or which are added to the plants in order to increase their production.
Circulation:	The offering for sale, selling, storage or the transference of a permanent or temporary holding in any means of transference.
Genetic resources:	Any genetic elements of a vegetative or animal or germinal origin or other origins that contain units bearing genes with an actual or potential value.
Natural resources:	Include land, water, ground cover plant, wild animals and fish.
Agricultural animal diversity:	The diversity and variation amongst animals, plants and minute living beings present on the surface of land and which are significant for nourishment and agriculture. These result from interaction between the environment, genes, systems and practices of management used by man.
Sustainable use:	The use of the components of biodiversity of plants, animals and

	natural resources with the aim to protect them and preserve their productivity.
Biotechnologies:	Any technical applications that use biological apparatuses of living beings or parts thereof to manufacture or change productions or biological operations of such beings for specific uses.
Biological resources:	Include genetic resources or living beings or parts thereof or any other animal or vegetative elements.
Cuttings:	Any seeds or plant or part of a plant that is grown or planted to be used in the reproduction of all vegetative crops.
Improved seeds:	The seeds which have undergone a biotechnical operation in order to improve their genes.
Plant nursery:	The place in which seedlings are cultivated, rooted or grown.
Agricultural pest:	Each biological being which may cause economic damage to plants or animals.
Fruit-bearing trees:	Each tree, the fruits of which are edible by humans.
Infected area:	An area that is infected by an animal or plant epidemic.
Agricultural pesticides:	The material and compositions which are used for protection against vegetative, animal pests or in control of plant and animal diseases, rodents and weeds and other harmful beings.
Veterinary quarantine:	Procedures and measures that must be met so as to ensure that animals are void of infectious and epidemic diseases in order to prevent their being transmitted.
Agricultural quarantine:	Procedures and measures that must be met so as to ensure that plants are void of epidemic diseases in order to prevent their being transmitted.
Agricultural products:	The products of vegetative or animal origin which are prepared in a manner that does not change their vegetative or animal nature.
Waste water:	The sewage water as well as water discharged by the industry and agriculture.
Sheep:	Includes sheep and goats.
Sheep farm:	Each installation that is designated for the raising of sheep for commercial production purposes in accordance with particular technical specifications.
Cattle farm:	Each installation that is designated for the raising of one or more

	type(s) of the cattle species for commercial production purposes in accordance with particular technical specifications.
Poultry:	All domestic birds and rabbits.
Poultry farm:	Each installation that is designated for the raising of poultry for commercial purposes in accordance with particular technical specifications.
Feed additives:	The material which is involved in the manufacturing of feed in order to improve the efficiency of feed.
Raw feed:	Any material used in the nourishing of the animal which a mixture being introduced thereto, whether of a vegetative or animal origin.
Manufactured feed:	Any mixture of raw feed material and feed additives.
Feed concentrates:	The manufactured feed material which is involved in the manufacturing of the final feeds.
Apiary:	The set of beehives which are situated on one location, and the one of which is not less than ten modern beehives or twenty clay hives.
Apiculturist:	Each natural or juridical person who owns an apiary.
Quarantine:	The place that is designated for the quarantine or isolation of animals and their products in order to ensure that they are void of diseases.
Slaughterhouses:	Places designated for the slaughtering and skinning of livestock and poultry in conformity with health conditions and approved laws.
Production inputs:	Any element that is used in the agricultural production processes.
Fisheries:	Each aquatic animal, whether living in fresh or salty water, and comprising aquatic mammal animals, animals with scales, sea turtles, sponge and oysters.
Reserved area:	An area that is geographically demarcated, regulated and administered in order to protect it as well as conserve biodiversity therein.
Livestock:	Goats, cattle, camels, buffalos and horses.
Goats [Capra hircus]:	Domestic goats.
Hormones and growth regulators:	Any chemical or biological components that are used in the raising of plants and animals in order to expedite growth and

coloration in fruits or increase the size and accelerate growth.

CHAPTER II
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article (2)

In order to implement the objectives of this Law, the Ministry shall perform the following:

1. Define the legal framework of the agricultural strategies and policies and put forward sustainable agricultural development plans and programmes.
2. Rational and best use of agricultural natural resources in a manner that ensures their sustainability.
3. Preserve the animal and plant health as well as control epidemic, infectious and common animal and vegetative diseases.
4. Improve consultation services and raise agricultural awareness and [highlight] its role in development.
5. Regulate, develop and protect agricultural research and applications, facilitate the introduction of modern technologies, and establish a database on agricultural statistical information and data.
6. Prepare the agricultural infrastructure, promote investment therein, and encourage necessary and cooperative agricultural frameworks and agricultural unions.
7. Enhance prevalent agricultural systems and patterns, develop and protect pastures and forests as well as rehabilitate them, manage and protect natural resources and wildlife and sea life, preserve agricultural biodiversity and control desertification in cooperation with the relevant authorities.
8. Develop and improve the Palestinian countryside through the accomplishment of integrated rural development.
9. Promote the Palestinian food security.
10. Take part in the conservation of public health.

Article (3)

For the achievement of the goals of this Law and with the aim to develop and ensure the exploitation of agricultural resources in a sustainable manner,

A. Under this Law, each of the following shall be constituted:
    1. The Fund for the Compensation of Farmers for Natural Disasters.
    2. Palestinian Genetic Bank for Seeds, Cuttings, and Reproduction Material.
    3. Agricultural Loans Bank.
    4. Palestinian National Centre for Agricultural Research.
    5. Stations for agricultural experiments and research.
    6. Central agricultural laboratories.
    7. Projects of water harvest through dams and small barriers and water catchment.
    8. Plant quarantines and animal quarantines.
    9. An advisory agricultural council.

B. The Fund for the Compensation of Farmers for Natural Disasters and the Agricultural Loans Bank shall be regulated by a special law. All the other facilities shall be regulated by a regulation to be set forth by the Ministry of Agriculture and promulgated by the Council of Ministers.

TITLE ONE
AGRICULTURAL VEGETATION

CHAPTER I
AGRICULTURAL HOLDING

Article (4)
In coordination with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry shall develop a register on which the names of holders and data on agricultural holding pertaining to each holder shall be recorded. The relevant party at the Ministry shall be responsible for the documentation of such data thereon. The aforementioned party shall also develop the card on agricultural holding and record data related to each holder thereon.

Article (5)
Each holder must submit a statement including the amount of irrigated or non-irrigated agricultural land in his holding, the sources from which he obtains water and any animals or other data included on the holding card to the inspectors at the Ministry as soon they thus request.

Article (6)
The card and registers of the agricultural holding shall be deemed to be official documents for the requirements of the Ministry and Central Bureau of Statistics with reference to the data mentioned thereon.

Article (7)
In coordination with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and other relevant authorities, the Minister shall issue forth the instructions and decisions to determine the form of the agricultural holding card, the registers and all papers required, methods of registration thereon, rules to document changes in data thereon and the methods of challenge against the holding data. The Minister shall also define the manner of the formation of party which adjudicates [challenges] in accordance with the Law.

CHAPTER II
PROTECTION OF NATURE AND AGRICULTURAL LAND AND SOIL CONSERVATION

Article (8)
The provisions of this Chapter shall be applicable to all agricultural land and fallow land, with the exception of the following:

1. The land located within the areas of cities and villages and which are designated for construction as well as populated areas.
2. The land designated for industrial enterprises.
3. The land designated for the construction of governmental projects for the public interest.

Article (9)
In cooperation with the other competent authorities, the Ministry shall develop a plan on the administration of natural reserves as well conservation of all plants and living beings which inhabit them.

Article (10)
The agricultural and fallow land may not be levelled nor soil be transported therefrom or thereto, unless such is for the purposes of agricultural improvement or preservation of its fertility. The Ministry shall define this in accordance with the Law.

Article (11)

Any public or private buildings or industrial, commercial or handicraft installations may not be constructed on agricultural or fallow land. Neither shall be taken any measures in regard of the division of such land for the construction of buildings thereon except in the following cases:

1. The owner of the agricultural land, the area of which is 5 thousand square metres, may construct one building thereon with the intention to serve agricultural production on an area that does not exceed one hundred and eighty square metres and of two storeys only.
2. The owner of the agricultural land, the area of which exceeds five thousand square metres, may construct one building per each five thousand square metres thereof with the intention to serve agricultural production on an area that does not exceed one hundred and eighty square metres and of two storeys only.
3. The owner of the subsidiary agricultural land, the area of which is 2500 square metres, may construct one building thereon with the intention to serve agricultural production on an area that does not exceed one hundred and eighty square metres and of two storeys only.
4. The owner of the agricultural land, the area of which exceeds 2500 square metres, may construct one building per each 2500 square metres thereof with the intention to serve agricultural production on an area that does not exceed one hundred and eighty square metres and of two storeys only.
5. The agricultural and fallow land on which the state constructs projects for the public interest or serving the agricultural or animal production.
6. Installation for the service of the farm or vertical expansion in the vegetative and animal agricultural production.

In all cases, a licence shall be required to be obtained prior to the commencement of construction or building from the relevant authority in coordination with the Ministry.

Article (12)

No measures may be taken in respect of the structural division of agricultural land in the regional areas for areas less than five dunums against the will of the person to whom the title of such land devolves.

CHAPTER III
FORESTRY AND FORESTS

Article (13)

1. No activity may be commenced on governmental forest land, whether by means of cultivation, digging of wells and caves thereon, construction of buildings or disposition thereof in any form of other uses except in pursuance of the Law.
2. The boundary marks or fences surrounding governmental forest land may not be moved, removed, encroached or otherwise.

Article (14)

With reference to the provisions under Article (16) below, any of the following acts may not be performed without a licence:

1. The cutting down of any tree, shrub, forest plant, or a plant from the governmental or private forests in regard of which contracts are signed.
2. Grazing on forests.
3. Holding of any forest product without a licence being given or transferring it from its place.
4. Setting of fire or performance of acts that may set forests on fire.

Article (15)

In cooperation with the competent authorities, the Ministry must provide protection for forests from fires. It shall be entitled to utilise the machines, material, wells and transportation means that are necessary for the fighting of fires along with compensating their owners for such utilisation as well as for any impairment or damage caused thereto.

Article (16)

In cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture shall issue forth the instructions on the regulation of the felling of trees, forest plants and protected trees which are threatened of extinction as well as define the periods, during which felling is allowable.

Article (17)

For the purposes of this Chapter, a regulation, which defines the procedures and conditions pertinent to the obtaining of licences and their forms and payable fees, shall be issued forth.

CHAPTER IV
PASTURES

Article (18)

All registered state land and any other land owned by the state, in which the average annual rainfall is less than 200 mm, shall be deemed to be pastures. Of this the following land shall be excluded:

1. Land which are irrigated on a permanent basis.
2. Land designated for the public interest.
3. Areas of the local bodies.
4. Areas of existing agricultural and housing projects.
5. Land designated for the use of the state and its institutions.
6. Land of natural reserves and forests.

Article (19)

Upon a recommendation from the Minister and based upon a decision from the Council of Ministers, some pasture land may be leased to animal cooperative societies for exploitation as pastures or production of natural feed.

Article (20)

No original or consequential right *in rem* be acquired in any parcel of pasture land unless it has been authorised or leased in conformity with the Law.

Article (21)

Encroachment against pasture land may not be allowable by means of any of the following:

1. Open or cultivate it or construct buildings or installations thereon.
2. Remove, fell, uproot or burn pasture plants.
3. Encroach on public buildings constructed on pasture land and their premises.
4. Remove its boundary marks and fences or dump solid wastes that pollute the environment thereon.
5. Install stone quarries and extract construction material without a licence from the competent authority.

Article (22)

The Ministry shall develop a regulation on the protection and development of pastures, to be issued forth by the Council of Ministers, provided that it includes the following:

1. The areas in which grazing is prohibited and other areas in which it is allowable.
2. Define the type and number of livestock which is allowed to be entered to pastures.
3. Set the value of the lease of pastures and other fees associated with grazing.
4. Enhance and develop pastures as well as preserve them and regulate rotations of grazing thereon.
5. Work on increasing the production of feed plants and exploiting rainwater for the purposes of their production.
6. Identify the types of non-feed plants.

CHAPTER V
AGRICULTURAL FERTILISERS

Article (23)
The licence for the manufacturing of agricultural fertilisers or the licence for their importing or preparation, or their offering for sale or selling may not be issued except following the approval of the competent parties at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article (24)
Crops may not be fertilised by human excrements or by any fertiliser which is mixed with or derived from liquid or solid wastes, except after being treated in accordance with accredited specifications and standards.

Article (25)
The provisions under this Chapter shall not be applicable to the organic fertilisers resulting from local farm wastes.

Article (26)
In liaison with other competent authorities, the following shall be conducted:

1. Define the types of fertilisers which are allowed to be utilised and determine their specifications as well as procedures of registration and utilisation conditions and methods.
2. Conditions, requirements and procedures of the licensing of importing fertilisers and their trading and transportation from one area to another.
3. The manner of taking and analysing specimens and methods of challenge and seizure of them.

TITLE TWO
GENETIC RESOURCES AND PRODUCTION OF SEEDS AND CUTTINGS

CHAPTER I
AGRICULTURAL GENETIC RESOURCES

Article (27)
Agricultural genetic resources shall be deemed to be a property of the state and shall be subject of the principle of national sovereignty. The state shall also respect the individual property rights in the common local strains.

Article (28)

In coordination with other competent authorities, the Ministry shall conserve the agricultural biodiversity and use it in conformity with the public policy in the following manner:

1. List local genetic strains and origins.
2. Preserve and protect genes and genetic origins.
3. Adopt particular sources and mechanisms to reproduce genetic origins and strains.

Article (29)

In coordination with other competent authorities, the Ministry shall define the components of agricultural biodiversity which require urgent protection measures. In this regard, the Minister shall issue forth decisions that regulate the following issues:

1. The mechanism of preserving and regulating the database.
2. Define methods and conditions of the taking of data.
3. Define the appropriate technologies.
4. Define the processes and activities which involve or may lead to negative effects on the conservation of agricultural biodiversity as well as its permanent use.

Article (30)

The launching of living beings which are modified through biotechnologies and which pose a danger to the health of humans or animals or bear a negative impact on the environment or which may threaten the agricultural biodiversity, shall be prohibited.

Article (31)

Any material of a vegetative, animal or germinal origin or other origins which contains genetic origins may not circulated, sold, exported or disposed of without a licence from the Ministry.

Article (32)

The agricultural material, components and goods which are modified through biotechnologies may not be imported, exported, held or circulated except by a licence from the Ministry.

Article (33)

In accordance with the provisions of the Law, scientific research may not be developed and implemented nor shall the transference of biotechnologies based on genetic resources take place except by permission from the Ministry.

Article (34)

In implementation of the provisions of this Law, the Ministry shall be entitled to conclude agreements and exchange information in regard of genetic resources, agricultural biotechnologies and relevant patents. In addition, the Ministry shall have the right to exchange scientific and technical information with the signatory countries as well as develop and implement joint cooperation programmes in respect of obtaining various resources and assistance thereon in a manner that does not violate the protection of intellectual rights.

Article (35)

The Minister shall issue forth instructions on the regulation of the management of agricultural biological resources in order to preserve, protect and use them in sustainable development; the conditions on obtaining licences for the importing and transportation of genetic resources and biotechnologies; and the form of the licence and payable fees. The Minister shall also be entitled to define the types, varieties and strains which are threatened of extinction.

CHAPTER II
PRODUCTION OF CUTTINGS, SEEDS AND VEGETATIVE REPRODUCTION MATERIAL

Article (36)

The Ministry shall set forth a regulation on cuttings, seeds and vegetative reproduction material to be promulgated by the Council of Minister, provided that it entails the following:

1. Define the specifications of the varieties of new cuttings and seeds which are prepared for selling through the list of varieties necessary for needs of the country.
2. Specify the conditions that must be available in the sites of the production and propagation of new seeds of axenic [pure] varieties and issue the licences necessary thereof.
3. Regulate supervision over all activities related to the production and marketing of seeds as well as observe them.
4. The manner of the examination of the varieties of cuttings and seeds nominated to be amongst those varieties certified and registered on the National Register.
5. Oversee the importing and exporting of seeds and cuttings.
6. Develop a form and [set forth] conditions for the expedient licence in accordance with this Chapter as well as the method to obtain it and payable fees.
7. Regulate the National Register of Cuttings and Seeds and their Varieties.
8. Define the specifications of each variety of new seeds and cuttings on the basis of the degree of their purity and cultivation.

Article (37)

Seeds which are improved for commercial purposes may not be produced without a licence.

Article (38)

Any person who is licensed to produce seeds for commercial purposes may not cultivate improved seeds except from among the varieties certified by the Ministry and entered on the National Register.

CHAPTER III
REGULATION OF PLANT NURSERIES

Article (39)

The Ministry shall develop a regulation on plant nurseries to be issued forth by the Council of Ministers, provided that it includes the following:

1. Conditions of licences and associated fees.
2. Specifications of seedlings and the plant nursery.
3. Conditions of importing, exporting and marketing.
4. Regulation and keeping of special registers.
5. Methods of controlling agricultural pests.

Article (40)

Governmental institutions and scientific research centres shall be exempted from the fees associated with licences of their own plant nurseries, either when they obtain or renew them.

Article (41)

Any farmer may install his own nursery for his private use in a manner that does not violate the Regulation on Plant Nurseries. In addition, the Ministry must provide him with the necessary technical assistance.

TITLE THREE
FRUIT-BEARING TREES

Article (42)
Each owner, holder or disposer of land cultivated with fruit-bearing trees must submit the following data to the inspectors at the Ministry upon request:

1. The area of the planted land in dunums.
2. The types and number of planted trees.
3. The date of the planting of such trees.

Article (43)
The Ministry shall issue forth the instructions on the cultivation of fruit-bearing trees, their grafting, appointments of harvest and the regulation of the work of olive oil presses.

TITLE FOUR
PLANT PROTECTION

CHAPTER I
CONTROL OF AGRICULTURAL PESTS

Article (44)
The Ministry shall specify and announce the types of agricultural pests, methods of prevention, means of control and measures required for this purpose.

Article (45)
The Minister must take any measure that safeguards the prevention of the spread of the disease or pest, including the uprooting of infected plants and damaging of them in the event they are incurable.

Article (46)
The authorised functionaries at the Ministry as well as competent authorities must seize and damage the plants or their parts which are infected and which cause the spread of transmitted pests, whether those offered for sale or stored along with the material used for their binding and packaging.

Article (47)
The Minister must announce:

1. The areas which are infected with a particular pest as well as designate its borders and regulate the transportation of plants and other material which are liable to transmit the pest.
2. The plants which originate the spread of pests and the measures taken in this regard, whether by the prohibition of their cultivation, restriction of their irrigation, their removal or damage or other measures which he deems to take in order to prevent their spread.
3. Instructions to control the pests and statement of the chemicals and tools to be utilised in the methods of control which the divisions of the Ministry carry out at the expense of the holder.

4. The conditions and precautions related to the treatment of approximately ripe plants or fruits with material or compositions containing toxic material or that which damage human or animal health.
5. Procedures of the control of desert locusts.
6. The pests which the holder of the agricultural land must report to the competent authorities, methods of such reporting as well as a statement of the measures which he must take to control and treat them.

CHAPTER II
PESTICIDES

Article (48)

Pesticides may not be manufactured, prepared, produced, imported, distributed, sold, stored or traded without the obtaining of a special permission from the Ministry and in accordance with the conditions listed thereon.

Article (49)

Each package or container, in which any pesticide is sold, shall bear the card of the statement of the article. The names of producer and importer, name of the pesticide, degree of its toxicity, antibiotics scientifically certified for the treatment of such toxicity in the event of actual injury, description of usage, period of validity and any other expedient information to protect against its hazards shall be written on it [the card] in the Arabic language.

Article (50)

All persons working in the manufacturing, importing, distribution, storage, packaging, trading or dealing with pesticides in any form whatsoever must submit an application to obtain the approvals prescribed under this Law within three months from the date of its enforcement.

Article (51)

A) The Ministry shall specify and announce the following:
    1. The types of agricultural pesticides allowed to be used.
    2. Technical specifications and information related to pesticides.
    3. Safety conditions of their use, transportation and storage as well as description of use.
    4. Degree of their toxicity and levels of maximum limits of their remainders in the plants and soil.
    5. Procedures of their registration as well as the registration form which is kept by persons working in pesticides and its regulation.
B) The Ministry shall establish a committee, the task of which is to specify the scientific names of agricultural pesticides and pests.

CHAPTER III
AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE

Article (52)

The importing of plants, agricultural products, soil, genes, genetic origins and biotechnologies shall be subject to the provisions of agricultural quarantine. These may be returned to their source or damaged under the Ministry's supervision at the expense of the defaulter in any of the following cases:

1. In case they do not match certified national specifications;
2. In case they are infected or contaminated with pests or diseases; or

3. In case a certified health certificate is not attached with them.

Article (53)

In coordination with competent authorities, the Minister shall define and announce in decisions from him the following issues:

1. The pests which necessitate agricultural quarantine.
2. Work procedures at agricultural quarantines, methods of examination and testing of exported and imported plants and agricultural products, and grating of relevant health certificates.
3. Develop and observe the conditions of the licensing of the exporting and importing of plants and agricultural products in Palestine.
4. Conditions and procedures of transit via Palestine of deliveries of plants and agricultural products.
5. Locations for the entry and exit of exported and imported deliveries of plants and agricultural products.
6. Set the expenses to be collected in implementation of the procedures provided under this Chapter and the conditions of exemption therefrom.

CHAPTER IV
AGRICULTURAL WATER

Article (54)

In cooperation and liaison with the Water Authority and other competent authorities, the Ministry shall put forward the water plans and policies related to the agricultural sector in accordance with the following principles:

1. The best use of water and the use of modern irrigation systems and methods.
2. Define aspects of the use of water sources designated for agriculture.
3. Preserve water sources and purify them in a manner that makes them usable.
4. Conduct regular tests and analyses on agricultural water and verify the extent of its suitability for agriculture.
5. Benefit from the non-potable water and treated water.
6. Construct small dams and pools to catch rainwater for agricultural use.
7. Promote investment in water projects and maintain them.
8. Dig agricultural wells.

Article (55)

The irrigation of agricultural crops with waste water shall be totally prohibited unless it has been treated in accordance with the national standards which are certified by the competent technical authorities.

TITLE FIVE
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

CHAPTER I
REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK

Article (56)

The Ministry shall develop a regulation on the observation of the health of livestock to be promulgated by the Council of Ministers, provided that it covers the following:

1. Observe the health of livestock, poultry, wild birds, fish and bees as well as check, isolate, impregnate or disinfect them.
2. Prohibit or regulate the importing process.
3. Fix the expenses and fees of any certificate or permission.

CHAPTER II
FEED

Article (57)

In accordance with the provisions of the Law, the Ministry shall develop the necessary regulations pertinent to the following:

1. Specify the raw material of feed and manufactured feed as well as the conditions on its storage and packaging by a committee to be formed for this purpose.
2. Register ready-made, imported feed concentrates, feed additives and compost feeds.
3. Regulate oversight over feed factories as well as trading of feed and state registers to be kept and the manner of registration thereon.
4. The manner of taking and analysing of feed specimens and material and methods of challenge against results of such analysis and manner of adjudication thereof.

Article (58)

The Ministry must annul the registration of any feed concentrates, feed additives or ready-made feed and seize of any part thereof or damage it for any of the following reasons:

1. In case damage to humans or livestock is established.
2. In case it appears that the material is not allowed to be used in the country of origin.
3. In case an international official organisation issues a decision to prohibit the use such material.
4. In case registration was conducted on the basis of erroneous information submitted by the registration applicant.
5. In case the quantity, after having been analysed or packed, contravenes provisions on the statement card or registration papers.

CHAPTER III
LIVESTOCK FARMS AND APICULTURE

Article (59)

The Ministry shall develop a regulation on farms of livestock, poultry and wild birds to be promulgated by the Council of Minister, provided that it entails the following:

1. Conditions on the licensing of farms and locations prepared thereto.
2. Appoint specialised agricultural engineers and vets to supervise and observe farms of livestock, poultry and wile birds.
3. Regulate and keep registers on such farms.
4. Regulate the hunting of wild birds and animals.
5. Regulate all that is related to poultry hatchers and breeding poultry farms.

Article (60)

The Ministry shall develop a regulation on apiculture to be promulgated by the Council of Ministers, provided that it includes the following:

1. The exceptional measures necessary for the protection of apiaries upon the existence of risks of epidemic diseases that threaten them.

2. Conditions on the registration of apiaries as well as setting forth veterinary conditions and constraints on the importing or exporting of bee hives or bee queens and due fees in this regard.
3. Define all means to protect the hygiene of the apiary along with required determination and diagnosis of diseases and set conditions on the use of treatments and medicines related thereto.
4. Put forward the veterinary constraints for the importing of bees and queens.
5. Measures that safeguard the protection of ground cover plant and apiary pastures, including the regulation of the use of agricultural pesticides which negatively impact bee hives.
6. Conditions on importing, exporting and market bee honey or its products.

CHAPTER IV
CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES

Article (61)
The Minister shall take the necessary measures to register animals in the areas which he designates. He shall also be entitled to decide that animals be injected and disinfect their barns or protect them from diseases as well as examine them in order to diagnose infectious, contagious or epidemic diseases on regular intervals.

Article (62)
The animals which are suspected to be infected must be examined again. These must also be isolated until the examination is completed.

Article (63)
The owners, holders or persons in charge of animals must separate animals as soon as they notice the symptoms of a disease as well as isolate the ill ones. In addition, they must report the incident to the competent agricultural supervisor or to the nearest veterinary unit.

Article (64)
The livestock that are infected with infectious or epidemic diseases or those suspected as such may not be traded nor transported from one area to another.

Article (65)
The corpses of perished animals may not be thrown in open spaces or in public areas. These must be disposed of by means to be set forth by the Ministry in cooperation with the competent authorities and [in areas] distant from water sources. The holder of such animals shall be responsible for such contravention.

Article (66)
The Minister must issue forth the decisions necessary for the implementation of the provisions under this Chapter – especially the following:
1. Specify the infectious and epidemic diseases, methods of prevention therefrom, and necessary requirements to prevent their spread.
2. The expedient measures for the control of infected animals and their treatment, slaughter or perishing.
3. Oblige animal owners, raisers, holders, guards or observers to attend at the designated time and place to conduct registration, injection or disinfection.
4. Immunise and disinfect animals and their barns on regular intervals.
5. Announce any area that is infected with a disease and take necessary measures.

6. Organise the isolation and quarantine of ill animals.
7. Determine the diseases that are common between humans and animals or amongst animals and the methods of controlling and eliminating them in coordination with other relevant authorities.

Chapter V
Veterinary Quarantine

Article (67)

The Ministry shall develop a special regulation to be promulgated by the Council of Ministers on the procedures of veterinary quarantine so as to verify their applicability and allocation of contravening animals as well as circumstances and conditions of their entry, exporting or returning to their source, provided that it includes the following:

1. Define the measures which must be taken at veterinary quarantines, the duration of quarantine, conditions and procedures of observing animals and the manner of the disposal of them as well as their excrements.
2. Define means and methods of examination and testing and conditions of granting veterinary health certificates.
3. Allocate specific centres for the entry or transit of animals from and into the country as well as the measures to be enforced at such centres.
4. Set the expenses and fees of shelter, feeding and immunisation at governmental quarantines.

Article (68)

Medicines shall be prescribed by a specialised vet. These may not be disbursed except by him or by a licensed pharmacist.

Article (69)

Veterinary medicines and animal vaccines may not be used except after their being registered by the competent parties at the Ministry of Health.

CHAPTER VI
SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Article (70)

Taking into consideration the provisions under any other law, the Ministry shall develop a regulation on slaughterhouses to be promulgated by the Council of Ministers, provided that it entails the conditions and specifications of the construction of slaughterhouses, rehabilitation of existing ones, hygiene conditions of the slaughter process, keeping and transportation of meat, specifications of the carcass, slaughter tools, conditions to be met by slaughterers who are licensed to slaughter animals, and any other conditions pertaining to the carcass.

Article (71)

The slaughtering or skinning of livestock or poultry for the purpose of selling and trading in their meat may not be conducted except by licensed persons inside a licensed slaughterhouse and under supervision of a licensed vet.

Article (72)

Carcasses or their parts, which the vet decides that they are valid for human consumption, shall be stamped and sealed with a special seal that is certified by the relevant party. Invalid carcasses shall be perished upon discretion of the aforementioned vet.

CHAPTER VII
FISHERIES

Article (73)

The Ministry shall develop a regulation on fisheries to be promulgated by the Council of Ministers, provided that it includes the following:

1. Regulate the fishing profession as well as licences and fees necessary thereto.
2. Regulate the importing, exporting and marketing of fish and other aquatic beings and trading therein.
3. Define the specifications and conditions of pesciculture projects and fish farming.
4. Determine specification of fishing nets, feeds, medicines, vaccines and hormones for the control of fish diseases.
5. Designate the seasons and times of sea fishing.

Article (74)

No solid or liquid wastes or waste water may be discharged into Palestinian fishing waters nor may sand be taken or rocks removed from coasts or the nature of the seabed be changed.

Article (75)

Beach bulldozers may not be used nor fishing nets be set up at a distance that is less than one hundred metres from the beach except by permission from the Minister.

CHAPTER VIII
PRODUCTS AND INPUTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Article (76)

The Ministry shall define and determine the standard specifications of animal and vegetative products, including the imported or locally produced, in accordance with the provisions of the Law.

Article (77)

The Ministry shall develop a regulation to be promulgated by the Council of Ministers, provided that includes the following:

1. The conditions and procedures of the granting of licences for exporting and importing of agricultural and animal products.
2. The conditions of the importing and using of agricultural machinery.
3. The conditions and specifications of centres for labelling, packing, storage and refrigeration of agricultural products and mechanism of work therein.
4. The scientific bases necessary for the conservation of plant and animal health as well as inputs of agricultural productions in the country.

CHAPTER IX
PENALTIES

Article (78)

Unless contradicting any graver penalty provided by another law, each person who contravenes the provisions of Chapters I and IV under Title One, Chapter II under Title Two, Title Three, Chapter III under Title Four, and Chapters I, II, IV and VIII under Title Five shall be punished with either or both confinement for a period not exceeding three months and financial fine not exceeding three hundred Jordanian Dinars or its equivalent in the legally circulated currency.

Article (79)

Unless contradicting any graver penalty provided by another law, each person who contravenes the provisions of Chapters II and V under Title One, Chapters I and III under Title Two, Chapter IV under Title Four, and Chapters III, V and VII under Title Five shall be punished with either or both confinement for a period not exceeding six months and financial fine not exceeding six hundred Jordanian Dinars or its equivalent in the legally circulated currency.

Article (80)

Unless contradicting any graver penalty provided by another law, each person who contravenes the provisions of Chapter III under Title One, Chapters I and II under Title Four, and Chapter VI under Title Five shall be punished with either or both confinement for a period not exceeding one year and financial fine not exceeding one thousand Jordanian Dinars or its equivalent in the legally circulated currency.

CHAPTER X
CONCLUSIVE PROVISIONS

Article (81)

In implementation of the provisions of the provisions of this Law, the Ministry's inspectors, nature guards and the persons whom the Minister nominates for the selfsame end shall have the capacity of the judicial police officers.

Article (82)

The Judicial Police Officers shall draw up a protocol on the incident constituting an infringement. No incident of infringement may be considered to be legally viable without the availability of a protocol thereon.

Article (83)

The protocols of the judicial police officers shall have the evidence of proof before the authorities of investigation and the judiciary in regard of all facts and data which included thereon, unless otherwise is proven.

Article (84)

Law No. (8) of 1998 Concerning the Protection of Animals and each provision that contradicts the provisions of this Law shall be repealed.

Article (85)

All the authorities concerned, each one within its sphere of jurisdiction, shall implement the provisions of this Law, which shall enter into force thirty days after the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Promulgated in the city of Ramallah on August 5th, 2003 *Anno Domini*
Corresponding to Jumad Akhar 7th, 1424 *Anno Hegira*

Yasser Arafat
The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation;
The President the Palestinian National Authority