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IRAQ

IRRIGATION EXPERIMENTS DISCUSSED

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[Text] Agricultural authorities in the autonomy region have been actively seeking the most advanced and scientific methods of agriculture and irrigation in a massive drive to effect an agricultural take-off in the northern provinces.

There, it was soon discovered, that drip and spray methods of irrigation could be instrumental in achieving such an agricultural revolution. This method of irrigation, it was realized, provided the most efficient and productive method of exploiting the water supplies. The sparing use of water meant that wide areas of arable land could be irrigated.

A pilot project utilizing this method of irrigation is already underway in Zakho, Duhok Province. This project is made of two adjacent units, the first covering 1560 donums (1 donum-2500 sq.m.) to be irrigated

by spray methods, while the second, covering 200 donums, is to rely on drip irrigation.

The project is fully supplied with spray equipments, as well as other machinery for different stages of the agricultural process. Already, 1000 donums out of the 1560 donums of the spray project has been tilled with various seed crops, including beans, peas and melons.

The drip method is used to irrigate 200 donums of orchards. According to this method each tree will receive no more water than what it actually needs. This of course will vary according to the tree's age, already 100 donums to be irrigated this way have been planted with peach seeds.

An ambitious wide-scale application of this method of irrigation in Duhok is planned, which is to cover 15 thousand donums in Sli-vani Plain and another 15 thousand donums in Sumail plain. Other studies are looking into the efficacy of applying this method of irrigation to a big irrigation project in Zakho which could cover 43 thousand donums.

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