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Jordan

PROJECT TO HARNESS MUJIB RIVER

The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is implementing a multi-million dollar project to harness the waters of the Mujib River.

Civil works preceeding the irrigation scheme that is to use the waters are being carried out in Ghor Al Safi, Ghor Al Thiraa, Fifa and Khanzireh, all near to the Dead Sea Area. These are estimated to cost \$53.84 million.

The final target of the project is to reclaim and irrigate more than 100,000 dunums of land, using pipe networks instead of open canals and substituting the open irrigation method with drip irrigation, as water can be saved this way and used more economically to irrigate vast areas of land.

The first stage of the project involves building civil works, housing units and other infrastructure works such as workshops for maintaining machinery and equipment, the installation of drip irrigation equipment and the building of a marketing centre.

There shall also be a centre for research and agricultural guidance in addition to administrative buildings.

The civil works were awarded to an Italian firm in 1982 and are due for completion in 1985.

The second stage of the Mujib project, entailing developing water resources and, building two dams to store up to 10 million cubic meters, will cost \$186.2 million, according to Japanese specialists contracted to carry out a feasibility study.

The above costs cover works to exploit the river for irrigation purposes, reclaiming land and installing irrigation pipe networks to feed nearly 56,000 dunums of land with water.

It is estimated that the project will be fully completed by 1990.

Financing of the project involves; the Kuwait based Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development (AFESD) which offered JVA an KD 8 million loan, the World Bank which offered to finance the installation of equipment for irrigation, the Saudi Development Fund (SDF) which offered a SR 17 million loan to finance civil works and the purchase of maintenance equipment at Ghor Fifa and Khanzireh.

Contacts are continuing with Arab and foreign lending institutions to raise funds for the project, work on which will hopefully begin early in 1985, after the Japanese specialist hand in their designs