

# Did you know...

- ... The total land area of the current State of Palestine is 6,257 km², including 5,879 km² in the West Bank and 378 km² in the Gaza Strip. The total land area of historical Palestine is 26,990 km².
- ... 40% (2,500 km²) of the land is arable and 12% (750 km²) is rangeland.
- ... Agriculture employs 12% of the labour force and contributes 6% of the gross domestic product.
- ... Local agriculture provides most of the food products for the people of Palestine.
- ... Harsh weather such as heatwaves or frosts can damage or destroy crops. In 2015, climate-related events caused a loss of 10,000 tonnes of grapes. In 2010, heatwaves reduced olive production by 20%.
- ... Palestine relies on groundwater for more than 90% of its water needs.
- ... The future water demand in the West Bank is expected to increase by 200-300% by 2030 and by 100% in the Gaza Strip.
- ... Access to the Jordan River is denied, and only a limited amount of surface water is used.
- ... Restrictions also constrain the expansion of wastewater treatment and reuse and as a result almost 60% of wastewater in Palestine is discharged without treatment causing environmental and sanitation problems.

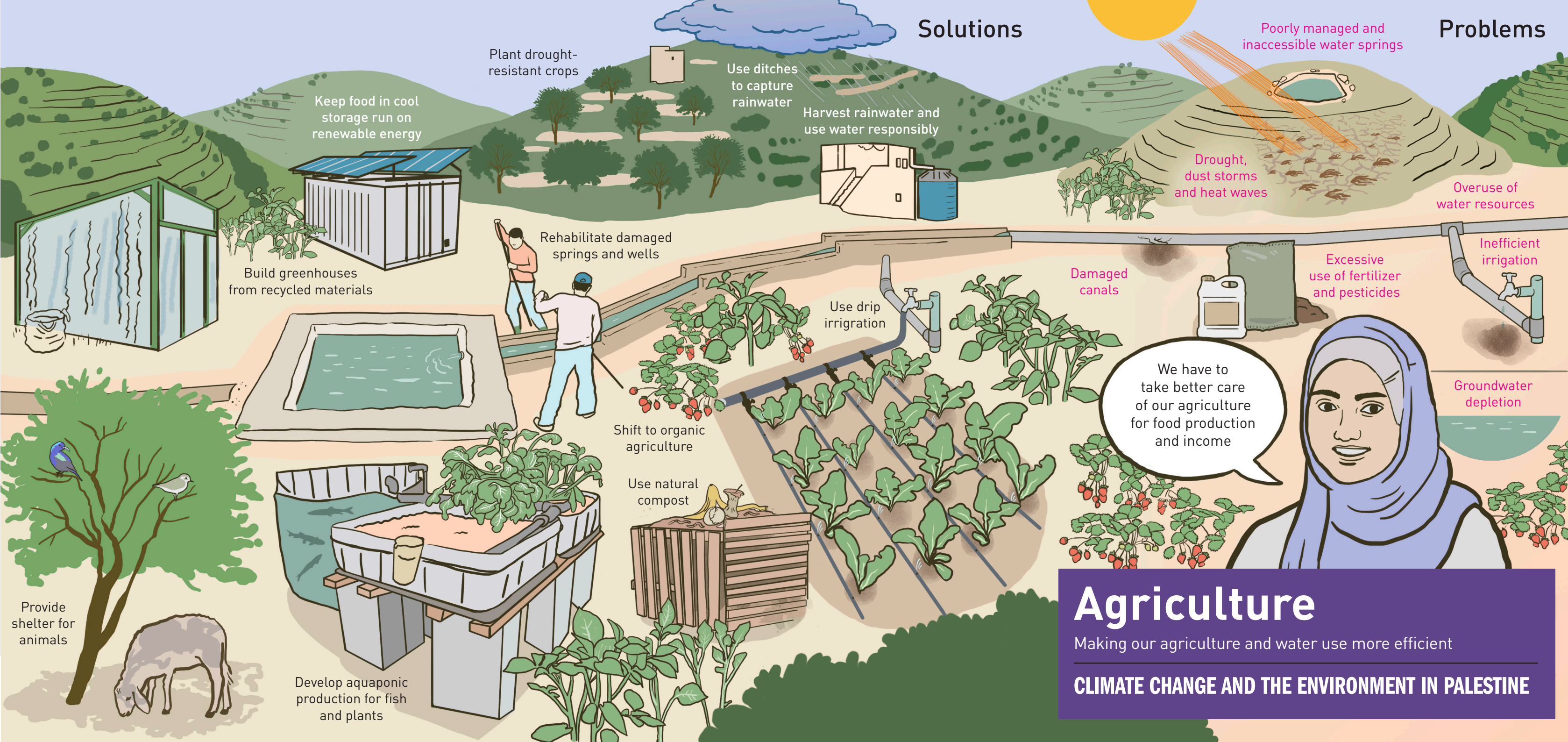
## Agriculture

Droughts and other extreme weather events can affect crops and animals, and cause heat stress and other health effects among vulnerable groups and field workers. More effective use of water resources and protection of soils, crops and cattle from climate impacts are essential to producing sufficient food, maintaining the quality of life and conserving natural resources.

## CREDITS & SOURCES

**Online information sources**  
Palestine Museum of Natural History: <https://www.palestinenature.org>  
Environment Quality Authority of Palestine: <http://environment.pna.ps>  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <http://www.ipcc.ch>  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: <https://unfccc.int/>

**Selected publications**  
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Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Programme of Action for the Palestinian Authority (2010). UNDP and Environment Quality Authority  
Atlas of Palestine (2015). The Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ)  
State of the Environment in Palestine (2016). The Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ)  
Analysis of the climatic variability and its environmental impacts across Palestine (2012). The Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ)  
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## Agriculture

Making our agriculture and water use more efficient

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN PALESTINE