CORPORATE PROFILE

The Agricultural Cooperative Society for Grape and Vegetable Producers – Gaza Governorates.

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1. Executive Summary

The Agricultural Cooperative Society for Grape and Vegetable Producers – Gaza Governorates is a leading agricultural cooperative institution dedicated to serving farmers and enhancing their productive and marketing capacities since its establishment in 2003. The Society was founded to support grape and vegetable farmers, develop the agricultural sector, improve the socioeconomic conditions of farmers, and reinforce their resilience in the face of various ongoing challenges.

The Society works tirelessly to provide essential agricultural services to farmers by securing production inputs, providing technical agricultural extension services, implementing developmental and relief projects, supporting the rehabilitation of damaged agricultural lands, and fostering cooperative action and strategic partnerships with relevant local and international stakeholders.

Throughout more than twenty years of fieldwork, the Society has accumulated extensive experience in executing agricultural interventions and reaching vulnerable farmers in targeted rural zones. Approximately 500 farmers have directly benefited from its programs and projects, and it has successfully contributed to the rehabilitation of nearly 300 dunams of damaged agricultural lands. During the 2023–2025 period, the agricultural sector in the Gaza Strip faced unprecedented, extraordinary crises due to the war, which resulted in extensive destruction affecting agricultural lands, vital hydraulic infrastructure, farming facilities, and institutional assets.

The main headquarters of the Society was completely destroyed, and it lost a major share of its institutional assets, field equipment, physical archives, and records. Despite these immense setbacks, the Society resolutely continued its mission to support farmers and execute early agricultural recovery interventions in close coordination with partner organizations. Currently, the Society is actively seeking to fortify its institutional capacity and advance its internal governance frameworks. It has developed its comprehensive Institutional, Administrative, and Financial Manual and is continually upgrading its internal procedures to align with international principles of governance, transparency, and accountability. This strategic transformation aims to elevate the Society as an efficient, highly reliable partner for local and international organizations and donor agencies in executing large-scale agricultural and developmental programs. Moving forward, the Society aspires to forge new strategic partnerships to bolster agricultural recovery, scale up its centralized nursery, rebuild destroyed agricultural infrastructure, enhance food security, and empower farmers to recover their productive capacities, thereby achieving sustainable agricultural development.

2. Institutional Nature

The Society is a non-profit agricultural cooperative working to serve farmers and promote agricultural cooperative action.

Year of Establishment	2003
Licensing Date	January 27, 2003
License Number	1201
Licensing Authority	Ministry of Justice – Cooperative Work Sector
Core Field of Operation	Supporting and developing the grape and vegetable production sectors in the Gaza Governorates, reinforcing farmers' resilience, and optimizing their productive and marketing capabilities.

3. Background and Foundation

The Agricultural Cooperative Society for Grape and Vegetable Producers – Gaza Governorates was established in 2003 in response to an urgent field necessity for a unified cooperative framework that gathers farmers operating in the grape and vegetable sectors. It was created to help them collectively navigate economic and agricultural challenges, while systematically improving their production and marketing mechanisms. The concept of creating the Society stemmed from a firm belief in the importance of collective, cooperative action to support smallholders, supply vital agricultural inputs at fair costs, enhance the quality of local agricultural yields, open up new marketing channels, and reinforce the agricultural sector's status as a vital pillar of the local economy. Since inception, the Society has delivered various services to farmers and executed developmental and relief initiatives in alliance with multiple local organizations, successfully sustaining local agricultural activity and reinforcing farmers' capacity to withstand prolonged crises.

4. Vision and Mission

Vision

The Society aspires to revolutionize grape and vegetable cultivation in the Gaza Governorates by integrating modern agricultural techniques and sustainable methodologies, thereby empowering farmers toward sustainable production and long-term food security.

Mission

The Agricultural Cooperative Society for Grape and Vegetable Producers – Gaza Governorates is a non-profit cooperative institution dedicated to transforming the grape and vegetable sectors. We achieve this by directly supporting smallholders, elevating crop quality, developing technical and administrative skills, promoting modern climate-smart agricultural technologies, and establishing robust, effective partnerships to secure sustainable agricultural development.

5. Strategic Objectives

- Provide high-quality agricultural production inputs—including certified seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, and crop protection materials—to farmers at equitable, affordable cooperative rates.
- Support farmers in expanding market access and creating innovative, competitive marketing opportunities for local agricultural yields.
- Develop the grape and vegetable production sectors while systematically enhancing crop quality and standards.
- Strengthen the technical, practical, and managerial capabilities of local farmers through specialized training and field extension services.
- Introduce and scale up modern agricultural technologies to optimize productivity and reduce production overhead costs.
- Preserve historical, high-quality local grape varieties, with a particular focus on indigenous cultivars such as 'Ghorayshi' and 'Dabouqi', for which the Sheikh Ajlin region is historically renowned.
- Introduce high-yield, modern seedless grape varieties to meet changing local market demands.
- Develop and operate a modern, centralized agricultural nursery under the Society's management to produce high-quality seedlings and provide them to farmers at cost-effective rates.
- Advance open-field and greenhouse vegetable production while optimizing crop yields.
- Optimize agricultural marketing workflows, including post-harvest handling and the efficient transport of products from production sites to central consumer markets.
- Foster institutional cooperation and structured coordination with local and international organizations, networks, and relevant stakeholders.
- Establish and implement comprehensive agricultural awareness and extension programs to serve both the farming community and the broader local society.
- Empower vulnerable farmers and fortify their socio-economic capacities to effectively withstand crises and sudden external shocks.

6. Core Fields of Operation

First: Agricultural Production Support

The Society assists farmers in acquiring vital production inputs to improve yields, reduce economic burdens, and ensure high-quality crops. Inputs include:

- Certified seedlings and high-purity seeds.

- Specialized agricultural fertilizers and soil conditioners.
- Irrigation network components and modern water-saving materials.
- Essential farming tools and assorted agricultural equipment.

Second: Agricultural Extension and Capacity Development

The Society elevates the technical expertise and field knowledge of local farmers through:

- Delivering direct on-site agricultural consultations and extension guidance.
- Disseminating modern, efficient, and climate-resilient farming practices.
- Supporting the adoption of appropriate, cost-effective agricultural technologies.
- Developing the technical, financial, and administrative capabilities of cooperative members.

Third: Land Rehabilitation and Early Recovery Support

The Society supports smallholders affected by conflict and environmental damage via:

- Rehabilitating and mechanically leveling bulldozed and severely damaged agricultural lands.
- Clearing debris, war remnants, and rubble from active agricultural fields.
- Facilitating and incentivizing the safe return of displaced farmers to their lands.
- Supplying immediate restoration kits to reactivate agricultural production loops.

Fourth: Food Security and Household Farming Initiatives

The Society executes targeted interventions to enhance immediate community-led food security by:

- Implementing home garden and backyard permaculture projects.
- Providing localized farming packages and toolkits to vulnerable rural households.
- Supporting families in achieving self-sufficiency by producing vital parts of their daily nutritional needs.

Fifth: Cooperative Action and Agricultural Marketing

The Society cultivates the core values of cooperative, collective action among local smallholders through:

- Organizing and unifying the localized efforts of agricultural producers.
- Optimizing collective market opportunities and increasing negotiating power.
- Building structural cooperative relationships with relevant markets and regulatory bodies.
- Facilitating logistics and cold-chain/transport mechanisms to bring agricultural products to markets smoothly.

7. Membership and Beneficiary Profile

The Society was founded to act as a structured umbrella for farmers specialized in the grape and vegetable sectors. In its historical phases, the registered membership reached 242 members. Currently, the active roster features 317 fully paid members, alongside a segment of registered members currently adjusting their financial contributions in accordance with the internal bylaws of the cooperative.

The membership profile consists of specialized farmers dedicated to fruit and vegetable cultivation, prioritizing the following essential crops:

Fruits:

- Grapes (Primary Focus)
- Figs
- Prickly Pear (Cactus Fruit)

Vegetables:

- Tomatoes
- Cucumbers
- Peppers (Sweet and Hot)
- Eggplants
- Zucchini
- Pumpkins / Squash

Cumulatively, approximately 500 active farmers have directly utilized and benefited from the Society's specialized projects, ranging from direct input supply, land recovery schemes, emergency distributions, to professional extension programs.

8. Governance and Administrative Structure

The Society is currently navigating a highly strategic transitional phase designed to strengthen the sustainability of cooperative action and modernize internal management structures.

The Administrative Committee

The Society is currently managed by a dedicated 5-member Administrative Committee tasked with the following responsibilities:

- Overseeing the day-to-day administrative and financial affairs of the cooperative.
- Monitoring the execution of active field projects and seasonal activities.
- Representing the cooperative before official, legal, public, and private entities.
- Ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of essential services to the farming community.

Demonstrating its commitment to institutional transparency, the Society successfully convened its General Assembly elections for the year 2026. A brand-new Board of Directors was democratically elected in absolute compliance with applicable cooperative laws and national regulations, thereby reinforcing active participation, internal transparency, and democratic governance.

9. Human Resources and Management Capacities

The active human resource layout of the cooperative is composed of:

- A Board of Directors comprising 5 democratically elected members.
- An Executive Director managing daily institutional operations.
- A dedicated cadre of 8 full-time volunteer staff supporting field operations, project implementation, and monitoring workflows.

- A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and an independent external auditor overseeing financial entries, preparing sheets, and ensuring compliance with IFRS accounting standards.

Concurrently, the Society is focusing on institutional capacity building by continuously digitizing its administration and upgrading internal fiscal control protocols.

10. Institutional Readiness and Partnership Capacity

The Society places paramount importance on building a highly efficient, sustainable, and fully compliant cooperative capable of operating as an active, direct partner with local and international agencies. Within this framework, the Society has formally established:

The Institutional, Administrative, and Financial Manual

This comprehensive operational manual serves as the legal and administrative backbone for internal operations, explicitly incorporating:

- Standardization of daily administrative procedures and records.
- Clear definition of institutional roles, organizational charts, and separations of responsibility.
- Fortification of internal financial management, segregation of duties, and double-entry auditing.
- Development of modern Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) mechanisms.
- Upholding humanitarian and cooperative benchmarks for transparency, anti-corruption, and local accountability.

Furthermore, the Society maintains a robust internal Procurement System that regulates purchasing and supply chain operations. This system is continually updated in alignment with internationally accepted procurement regulations and donor standards, proving that the cooperative is completely ready to act as a reliable recipient for major developmental and humanitarian funds.

11. Centralized Agricultural Nursery Initiative

Driven by its strategic vision to advance agricultural yields and ensure the steady local availability of high-purity seedlings, the Society secured a specialized initiative to establish a centralized agricultural nursery for high-quality vegetable and fruit seedling production. This strategic infrastructure project is supported by Save the Children, with a total contractual investment value of 35,000 Euros.

The establishment of this nursery represents a key component of the Society's vision to secure a self-sustaining local source of high-grade seedlings, support smallholders in rapidly recovering their field activities, and bolster local food security baselines.

The nursery is situated on a leased land area spanning approximately 1,000 square meters. It is currently finalizing its technical preparation and infrastructure setup. The Society is actively navigating specific operational challenges, primarily centered around sourcing certified high-purity seeds and securing specialized operational inputs required for immediate, full-capacity production.

Core Objectives of the Agricultural Nursery:

- Supply local farmers with verified, high-purity, and disease-resistant agricultural seedlings.
- Provide these premium seedlings at cooperative subsidization rates, approximately 25% lower than commercial market prices.
- Strengthen the sustainability and resilience of localized agricultural production.
- Directly contribute to stabilizing local food security and food self-reliance.
- Support the ongoing recovery and replanting of bulldozed and destroyed agricultural lands.
- Create immediate, dignified temporary employment opportunities within the local agricultural labor market.

12. Project Track Record and Historical Achievements

The Society has a proven track record of implementing vital agricultural and rural development initiatives since 2003, partnering with various local and international institutions:

1. Grape Trellis Infrastructure Installation Project

- Partner Organization: Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)
- Execution Years: Multiple cycles across 2006, 2008, 2011, and 2014
- Intervention Scope: Installation and repair of heavy-duty overhead wooden and metallic grape trellis networks across sequential farming seasons to modernize grape production, optimize crop quality, boost yield volumes, and protect the historical grape cultivation heritage of the Sheikh Ajlin region.

2. Emergency Food Basket Distribution for Vulnerable Farming Households

- Partner Organization: Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)
- Execution Year: 2010
- Intervention Scope: Provision of comprehensive nutritional support packages to marginalized and crisis-affected farming families, successfully mitigating severe economic hardships and reinforcing the socio-economic resilience of the local farming community.

3. Agricultural Roads Rehabilitation and Paving Project

- Partner Organization: MA'AN Development Center
- Execution Year: 2008
- Intervention Scope: Comprehensive leveling, paving, and opening of rural agricultural dirt roads to optimize farmers' physical access to isolated border lands, minimize post-harvest damage during transportation, and ensure continuity of field operations.

4. Secondary Agricultural Roads Infrastructure Development Project

- Partner Organization: Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)
- Execution Year: 2019
- Intervention Scope: Continued infrastructure upgrading by opening and stabilizing additional vital agricultural pathways, directly enhancing logistics and field operational efficiency for hundreds of active smallholders.

5. Advisory & Input Supply Hub Establishment

- Partner Organizations: Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) & Oxfam Great Britain
- Execution Year: 2020

- Intervention Scope: Founding a specialized, centralized service hub dedicated to providing advanced technical extension advice, field diagnostics, and cooperative agricultural inputs in Sheikh Ajlin. The hub stood out as one of the Society's most vital institutional assets before its complete destruction in the recent conflict.

13. Emergency Response & Crisis Interventions (2023–2025)

During the 2023–2025 period, the agricultural sector in the Gaza Strip witnessed unprecedented, catastrophic damage due to the war, leading to massive destruction of arable lands, irrigation networks, and farming equipment. Regions like Sheikh Ajlin, Al-Zaytoun, Al-Mughraqa, and Al-Zahra suffered extensive crises, including the bulldozing of topsoil, complete destruction of deep water wells, and soaring input prices. In response, the Society successfully spearheaded the following emergency interventions in coordination with international partners:

1. Emergency Institutional Continuity Project (Temporary Office Setup)

- Following the total destruction of its primary headquarters, the Society constructed a localized temporary administrative office inside the nursery site, equipping it with basic tools to rescue operations, manage field activities, and maintain a coordination point for international donors.

2. Formulation and Dissemination of the Agricultural Situation Fact Sheet

- The Society compiled an evidence-based field fact sheet highlighting the exact scale of destruction across Sheikh Ajlin and Al-Zaytoun, detailing the losses of smallholders and providing a practical blueprint for early recovery. The document was distributed to global networks to mobilize funding and spotlight urgent humanitarian farming needs.

3. Household Backyard Gardening & Food Security Project

- Partner Organization: Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)
- Intervention Scope: Directly supervised the creation of home garden farming systems for 55 crisis-affected farming families to foster immediate self-reliance. Each household received high-grade vegetable seedlings, certified seeds, 500-liter water storage tanks, specialized drip irrigation lines, organic fertilizers, crop protection materials, and ongoing technical field instruction.

4. Rapid Agricultural Inputs Supply & Restoration Scheme

- Partner Organization: Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) | Funding Agency: Oxfam Great Britain
- Intervention Scope: Restored production loops for 150 affected farmers by distributing custom-tailored input kits based on land sizes. Kits included 4 to 7 rolls of durable drip irrigation pipes, UV-stabilized agricultural plastic sheeting (nylon), balanced NPK chemical fertilizers (13.13.13) in weights of 10 to 25 kg, Abtek specialized plant nutrients, high-concentration Phosphoric Acid for soil pH balancing, and metallic support wires for low-tunnel farming. This intervention drastically reduced immediate production costs and optimized localized water-use efficiency.

5. Mechanical Land Leveling and Early Recovery Project

- Partner Organization: Gaza Multi-Purpose Institution | Funding Agency: Oxfam Great Britain
- Intervention Scope: Targeted 120 farmers whose lands were completely bulldozed. The project utilized heavy machinery to clear debris, fill craters, remove agricultural rubble, and

level topsoil. Post-leveling, the Society supplied each farmer with 50 to 100 meters of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) water transmission pipes with optimized diameters (75 mm or 63 mm) to reconnect fields to water sources, successfully returning 120 families to active cultivation.

6. Manual Rubble Clearance Scheme via Cash for Work (CfW)

- Partner Agencies: World Food Programme (WFP) & Global Communities
- Intervention Scope: Active operational coordination to execute a manual field clearance project designed to extract debris and fine war remnants from blocked fields in Sheikh Ajlin and Al-Zaytoun. The phase focuses on generating 400 temporary employment days for conflict-affected agricultural workers, combining immediate humanitarian cash injections with the physical restoration of arable soils.

7. Agricultural Water Wells Rehabilitation Framework

- Partner Organizations: PARC, Cooperative Work Center, and partner institutions
- Intervention Scope: Joint engineering efforts focused on testing, flushing, and rebuilding damaged collective agricultural water wells. The intervention includes providing off-grid solar photovoltaic (PV) energy arrays or fuel generators to power pumps, alongside expanding secondary transmission lines to ensure thousands of adjacent smallholders regain stable access to water.

14. Institutional Damages Sustained

As a foundational cooperative umbrella that organizes smallholders and coordinates collective bargaining, the direct targeting of the Society's institutional infrastructure severely hampered its baseline operational capacity. Major damages include:

Total Destruction of Central Headquarters:

- Complete physical demolition of the central administrative building, causing the loss of work offices, meeting halls, and essential management space.
- Loss of more than 20 years of physical paper archives, legal registration documents, historical member ledgers, and financial records.
- Destruction of local localized servers containing valuable GIS mapping data, agricultural census profiles, and detailed historical socio-economic records of Gaza's farming community.

Loss of Critical Assets and Machinery:

- Total destruction of centralized input storage warehouses and cooperative depots.
- Loss of shared agricultural machinery, tractors, power sprayers, and tools meant for low-cost leasing to members.
- Loss of stored emergency input reserves, including irrigation components, fertilizers, and seeds intended for seasonal distribution.

Disruption of Cooperative Workflows:

- Severe disruption to collective bulk-purchasing mechanisms that previously protected smallholders from commercial monopolization.
- Temporary paralysis of organized collective marketing and transport operations.

- Despite these profound losses, the Society demonstrated exceptional institutional resilience by quickly setting up its temporary office in the nursery, safeguarding its operational presence and continuing to serve its members.

15. Active Contemporary Challenges

- Complete destruction of the primary corporate headquarters and the specialized agricultural advisory hub.
- Severe loss of vital cooperative field assets, tools, shared machinery, and warehousing infrastructure.
- Widespread contamination and physical destruction of thousands of dunams of arable topsoil across targeted governorates.
- Widespread destruction of localized deep water wells, primary water aquifers, and agricultural transmission pipelines.
- Critical shortages of sustainable institutional funding required to transition from emergency relief to full-scale agricultural recovery.
- Imposed field movement restrictions and safety hazards preventing farmers from safely accessing border lands.
- Unprecedented inflation and extreme price volatility of critical inputs like fuel, organic fertilizers, certified seeds, and safe pesticides.
- Severe supply-chain blockades delaying the entry of modern agricultural hardware, greenhouse nylon, and solar components into Gaza.
- Extremely limited financial liquid reserves and technical resources available to scale up immediate field interventions.
- The urgent need for accelerated institutional capacity building and staff training to keep pace with the strict operational and reporting compliance requirements of global donor agencies.

16. Strategic Roadmap and Future Priorities

First: Driving Comprehensive Agricultural Recovery

- Accelerate mechanical and manual land rehabilitation, soil remediation, and crater-filling across all affected zones.
- Deliver comprehensive input kits to affected smallholders to ensure rapid crop rotation restarts.
- Rebuild destroyed water wells, expand solar pumping networks, and install high-efficiency drip irrigation grids.

Second: Transforming the Centralized Agricultural Nursery

- Complete the technical infrastructure and climate-control setups of the 1,000 m^2 nursery facility.
- Secure steady channels for certified, high-yield vegetable seeds and fruit rootstocks.
- Maximize localized seedling output to fully meet cooperative demands and stabilize seasonal market supplies.

- Ensure vulnerable farmers receive premium seedlings at heavily subsidized, cost-effective rates.

Third: Enhancing Regional Food Security

- Scale up sustainable home-gardening and urban micro-farming projects across urban and semi-urban communities.
- Provide direct technical and material support to rural farming families to build household self-sufficiency.
- Boost localized production volumes of essential fresh vegetables and fruits to counter local market food shortages.

Fourth: Advancing Agricultural Marketing and Supply Chains

- Optimize local post-harvest sorting, packaging, and cold-chain logistics to maximize product market values.
- Reinforce collective marketing frameworks among producers to eliminate exploitative intermediary costs.
- Scout out innovative local and regional market opportunities and marketing partnerships for local produce.

Fifth: Strengthening Institutional and Administrative Capabilities

- Fully implement and integrate the newly designed Institutional, Administrative, and Financial Manual across all departments.
- Continuously digitalize internal accounting, inventory tracking, and procurement procedures.
- Establish a robust, independent internal monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (MEAL) division.
- Build long-term strategic relationships with global donor agencies and UN institutions through advanced compliance and transparent management.

17. Call for Partnership and Support

The Agricultural Cooperative Society for Grape and Vegetable Producers – Gaza Governorates firmly believes that establishing structured, strategic partnerships is the fundamental catalyst for achieving true agricultural recovery, restoring rural livelihoods, and reinforcing the long-term resilience of local smallholders. Leveraging over two decades of localized field experience since 2003, our unmatched direct access to the farming community, and our proven capability to execute complex field operations in crisis zones, the Society looks forward to collaborating with local and international non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, and global donor institutions to fund and execute comprehensive agricultural development and recovery frameworks.

Concurrently, the Society is continually advancing its internal administrative setup to serve as an exemplary, highly reliable partner. By implementing its comprehensive Institutional, Administrative, and Financial Manual and constantly auditing its internal operations, the cooperative guarantees the highest benchmarks of transparency, fiscal accountability, and operational efficiency.

The Society officially invites international and local development partners to establish collaborative agreements and join forces across the following primary strategic pillars:

- Developing the centralized agricultural nursery and maximizing its local seedling production capacity.
- Supporting large-scale mechanical and manual rehabilitation of destroyed and bulldozed agricultural lands.
- Rebuilding collective agricultural water wells, installing solar pumping solutions, and deploying smart irrigation infrastructure.
- Securing and distributing vital agricultural production inputs to smallholders at subsidized cooperative rates.
- Supporting food security and household backyard gardening initiatives for vulnerable rural families.
- Developing advanced agricultural extension, technical advisory, and specialized capacity-building programs for farmers.
- Enhancing agricultural marketing frameworks, post-harvest systems, and collective supply chain logistics.
- Supporting the internal institutional, administrative, and technological capacity building of the Society to optimize governance.

The Society reaffirms its unyielding commitment to standing by Gaza's farmers, safeguarding our cultural and agricultural heritage, and engineering a sustainable, food-secure, and resilient agricultural future across the Gaza Governorates.

18. Contact Information & Governance Registry

Official Address: Temporary Executive Office, No. 10 Street, Sheikh Ajlin (North of Al-Saberin Musalla), Gaza Governorate, Palestine.

Official Institutional Website: gazagrapes.org | Alternative Web Portal: https://gazagrapes.org/new/

Official Communications Email: info@gazagrapes.org

Elected Board of Directors & Executive Management (Registry Year 2026):

Name	Institutional Role / Title	Official Mobile Number
Eng. Ezzedin Mohamed Abu Aamira	Chairman of the Board of Directors	0592798008 / 0592932997
Ayman Ismail Khalil Shamlakh	Secretary-General of the Board	0598999285
Salah Nizar Shamlakh	Treasurer of the Society	0598825244
As'ad Jawad Shamlakh	Board Member	0599484226
Abdul Wahab Abdullah Shamlakh	Board Member	0599799567
Thaer Shamlakh	Executive Director / Head of Operations	0592147772