

Arab Agronomists Association

Annual Report

Strengthening Agricultural Resilience and Building Sustainable Food Systems

Ramallah – Palestine

2025

Message from the Chairman of the Board

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Dear colleagues and members of the Arab Agronomists Association,

Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you,

It gives me great pleasure to present this annual report, which reflects not only a year's harvest of professional and scientific work, but also embodies the resilience of the Arab people in general, and the Palestinian people in particular, in the face of intertwined challenges spanning environmental, economic, and political dimensions.

The past year witnessed accelerating global shifts that directly affected the agricultural sector — from the repercussions of climate change, through disruptions to food supply chains, to rising rates of food insecurity in many parts of the world. Amid these challenges, agriculture emerged not only as a productive sector, but as a first line of defense for food sovereignty and community stability.

In Palestine, agriculture carries a deeper meaning than an economic activity; it is an act of survival, of rootedness in the land, and daily resistance to preserve identity and existence. The year 2025 witnessed a marked escalation in attacks on the agricultural sector, with the olive sector and livestock in particular subjected to systematic assaults by occupation settlers — including bulldozing and uprooting, cutting and vandalism, and the theft of crops and livestock — alongside tightened restrictions on farmers' access to their land. Despite this, our agricultural engineers continued their pioneering role, serving as guardians of the land, supporters of farmers, and contributors to the development of more sustainable and efficient production methods, in an environment under exceptional pressure.

At the Arab Agronomists Association, we believe our responsibility goes beyond the boundaries of traditional agricultural work to include active contribution to building a more integrated and resilient agricultural system. This year we worked to strengthen training and qualification programs, support applied scientific research, and expand partnerships with local and regional institutions, in a way that keeps pace with the demands of the moment and responds to current challenges.

We also affirm the importance of adopting an innovation-driven approach in the agricultural sector — introducing modern technologies, promoting climate-smart agriculture concepts, and rationalizing the use of natural resources, particularly water, amid its growing scarcity. Investment in knowledge and research is the optimal path to ensuring sustainable production and achieving food security.

We cannot close without commending the great efforts exerted by our engineers in the field, who work with dedication despite every challenge, affirming that agriculture will remain a cornerstone of our people's resilience, and a bridge toward a more stable and just future.

In closing, we renew our commitment to continuing joint work and strengthening the role of our association as an effective scientific and professional platform that serves agriculture and agricultural engineers, and contributes to supporting people's resilience on their land.

Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you,

**Chairman of the Board
Arab Agronomists Association**

About the Association

The Arab Agronomists Association (AAA) is an independent, non-profit professional institution established to serve as an incubator for Palestinian agricultural engineers and an active platform contributing to the development of the agricultural sector and strengthening its role. The Association works to empower professional talent, develop agricultural policies and practices, and promote sustainable and environmental agriculture concepts in line with current challenges.

The Association's headquarters is located in the city of Ramallah – Palestine, and its activities and programs extend across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through effective partnerships with national, regional, and international institutions.

Vision

A productive society in a free homeland, in which the agricultural engineer plays a pioneering role in achieving sustainable agricultural and rural development.

Mission

The Association seeks to strengthen and empower the agricultural engineer by developing their professional capacities and activating their participation in bringing about positive change in the Palestinian agricultural sector — contributing to addressing environmental, political, and economic challenges, and achieving food sovereignty and balanced development.

Core Values

- Agricultural Justice: Defending the rights of farmers and agricultural engineers, particularly in marginalized areas.
- Independence and Professionalism: Safeguarding the independence of decision-making and adherence to sound scientific and developmental principles.
- Transparency and Accountability: Commitment to the highest standards of integrity and clarity in management and implementation.
- Partnership and Integration: Strengthening cooperation with local and international partners to achieve sustainable impact.
- Sustainability: Embracing ecological agriculture, supporting applied research, and developing smart and innovative agricultural solutions.
- Empowerment and Participation: Providing opportunities for agricultural engineers — particularly women and youth — to participate, lead, and take initiative.

Three Strategic Objectives

- Build the capacities of Palestinian agricultural engineers and strengthen their opportunities for empowerment in the labor market.
- Support and encourage applied research in the fields of competitive and environmentally sustainable agriculture.
- Develop the Association's capacities and strengthen its institutional and financial sustainability.

Board of Directors

- Chairman of the Board: Eng. Muqbel Abu Jaish
- Vice-Chairman of the Board: Eng. Issa Al-Shattleh
- Treasurer: Eng. Younis Yamin
- Secretary: Eng. Khaled Qasem
- Member: Eng. Nihaya Hammouda
- Member (Gaza Strip): Eng. Yahya Al-Yatanjy

- Member (Gaza Strip): Eng. Bilal Al-Azab

Administrative and Organizational Structure

The Association's administrative structure consists of the following levels:

- General Assembly
- Board of Directors
- Executive Management
 - Programs and Projects Unit
 - Research and Development Unit
 - Training and Capacity Building Unit
 - Financial and Administrative Affairs Unit
 - Media and Public Relations Unit

◆ Association Achievements in Brief

 2,211 Farmers (received seedlings, training, or in-kind support)	 453 Students (school rehabilitation & agricultural school camp support)
 38,110 Olive trees (from the Million Olive Tree program)	 11,392 Beneficiaries (direct & indirect, 2025)
 58 Displacement tents (Gaza tent rehabilitation)	 20 Beehives (during 2025)
 8 Associations (cooperated with during 2025)	 3 Schools (rehabilitated and trained during 2025)

 55,000 Seedlings (eggplant seedlings and medicinal herbs)	 61 Wells
 48 Home gardens (during 2025)	 57 Trainings & workshops (during 2025)
 3,450 Compost bags (distributed during 2025)	 450 Trainees (recurring or one-time, during 2025)
 6,337 Fruit trees (distributed during 2025)	 94 Water tanks & jerry cans (during 2025)

Highlights of 2025

2025 saw escalating challenges on the ground, particularly amid the attacks on the Palestinian agricultural sector; nevertheless, the Arab Agronomists Association continued to implement its developmental and humanitarian interventions effectively, aiming to strengthen farmers' resilience and improve livelihoods in affected areas.

The Association's interventions focused on supporting resilient agriculture through the implementation of olive-planting projects in partnership with a number of international solidarity organizations, in addition to improving basic infrastructure through water and school rehabilitation projects, and implementing humanitarian initiatives to support children and families in the camps.

The Association also continued its efforts to strengthen agricultural livelihoods in partnership with the FAO, alongside conducting research studies to support land management and data-driven planning.

Despite the challenges, these interventions contributed to strengthening food security, improving basic services, supporting the stability of rural communities, and reinforcing agriculture's role as a tool for resilience and development.

Despite the escalation of political and field-level challenges during 2025 — particularly amid repeated attacks on agricultural land and farmers — the Arab Agronomists Association was able to continue its developmental and

humanitarian role by implementing a set of high-quality interventions focused on strengthening farmers' resilience, improving livelihoods, and supporting infrastructure and basic services in affected communities.

This year's interventions were characterized by a focus on flexible response to urgent needs, alongside continuing long-term development programs, in partnership with a number of supporting international institutions.

Program: Strengthening Agricultural Resilience and Food Security

Million Olive Seedling Planting Projects — Toward Protecting Land and Enhancing Sustainability

As part of ongoing efforts to protect agricultural land and strengthen farmers' resilience, the Association implemented a series of projects and campaigns to plant olive trees, supported by several international solidarity organizations, most notably: France Palestine Solidarity Association–AFPS Besançon, Association Palestine Amitié, and Amitié Palestine Solidarity.

The olive-seedling distribution campaign, which concluded in April 2025, was completed from the start of the year, targeting 52 villages across 7 governorates and serving 857 farmers through the distribution of 25,927 olive seedlings planted over an area of 1,668 dunams, along with the distribution of 1,700 bags of compost. These projects targeted farmers affected by occupation attacks across the country's governorates, with interventions focused on rehabilitating damaged land, expanding vegetation cover, and supporting the sustainability of agricultural production.

At the end of the year, the Million Olive Seedling program began, made possible by a generous donation from the Italian donor ACS and a group of French solidarity associations. From October 2025 through the end of the year, 25 villages were targeted through the distribution of 12,183 olive seedlings and 6,277 fruit-tree seedlings, 53 agricultural water tanks, and 1,750 bags of compost — in an effort to strengthen farmers' resilience on their land, estimated at 1,264 dunams, and to counter the fierce campaign of attacks on the olive sector by settlers.

Objectives of the Interventions:

- Support the resilience of farmers in threatened and targeted areas by supporting community initiatives linked to resilient agriculture.
- Rehabilitate agricultural land damaged by attacks, targeting the most affected farmers in marginalized areas close to friction zones.
- Strengthen food security by expanding olive cultivation as a strategic crop.
- Preserve the agricultural and cultural identity associated with the land.

Impact Achieved:

This program plays a vital role in strengthening farmers' capacity to endure and continue production, restoring threatened or damaged agricultural land, and supporting rural livelihoods amid difficult economic conditions.



Qamar Al-Balad Ecological Educational Farm

A Community Model for Ecological Farming and Applied Learning

Throughout 2025, the Qamar Al-Balad Ecological Educational Farm in Farkha village continued to strengthen its role as a practical model for community-based ecological farming, combining sustainable agricultural production, applied

training, and the empowerment of rural families — in line with the Association's vision of spreading environmentally friendly agricultural practices and strengthening local food security.

Community Management and Operation

The year saw a qualitative development in the farm's management model, as it was operated cooperatively with the participation of five families from the village, working together to manage agricultural and productive activities. This model contributed to strengthening social solidarity and providing a source of food and supplementary income for participating families, while creating greater opportunities for women to participate in agricultural and productive activities.

Agricultural Infrastructure Development

During the year, a set of rehabilitation and development works was carried out that contributed to expanding the farm's productive capacity and improving its sustainability, including:

- Reclaiming and rehabilitating three additional dunams of the farm's land with support from the Popular Art Centre, expanding the cultivable area.
- Building a concrete rainwater-harvesting pool with a capacity of 100 cubic meters, supported by the Bisan Center, to strengthen water resource management and reduce reliance on traditional water sources.
- Developing an integrated composting unit through the construction of dedicated concrete beds, contributing to self-sufficiency in the organic compost used on the farm.
- Equipping the training and community-meeting area with additional facilities, including 30 new seats to support educational and training activities.

Expansion of Agricultural Production

The farm continued to produce seasonal ecological crops, including potatoes, fava beans, spinach, lettuce, radishes, arugula, parsley, and other crops that help meet the needs of participating families and strengthen agricultural diversity.

During the year, the farm also:

- Planted 1,000 new thyme seedlings.
- Planted 60 new grapevines.
- Continued developing integrated agricultural systems based on the optimal use of natural resources and locally produced organic fertilizers.

A Center for Training and Knowledge Transfer

The farm strengthened its role as an applied training site for ecological agriculture, hosting a number of specialized training programs, most notably:

- Training 35 farmers (men and women) from seven Palestinian villages in sustainable ecological farming practices, within a project implemented in partnership with the Bisan Center.
- Delivering a specialized home-gardening training course targeting 18 women, supported by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, which included hands-on training in compost production and home-farming techniques.

Employment and Community Solidarity

As part of efforts to support groups affected by the war on the Gaza Strip, the farm provided temporary employment opportunities for three workers originally from Gaza who are residing in Farkha village, through a ten-month employment program implemented in partnership with the Popular Art Centre, helping to provide temporary income and social support for the beneficiary families.

Community Outreach and Volunteering

During 2025, the farm received more than 20 visiting delegations from civil-society organizations, youth groups, international volunteers, and those interested in ecological agriculture. Visitors took part in dozens of volunteer workdays and educational activities, reinforcing the farm's standing as a community model for sustainable agricultural learning and practice.

Future Development Prospects

In the coming period, the farm looks forward to expanding the scope of ecological agricultural production, increasing the number of families benefiting from the cooperative operating model, strengthening hands-on training programs, and developing composting and water-harvesting facilities — supporting its transformation into a national center for training and application in sustainable ecological agriculture.

Qamar Al-Balad in Pictures



Receiving students and volunteers



General view of the garden



Conducting agricultural tours



Receiving delegations



A form of terrace farming



Growing fruit crops

Program: Infrastructure and Basic Services Support

Improving Household Water Supply for Residents of Beit Dajan Village, West Bank, Occupied Territories

In partnership with the Union Régionale des AFPS de la Région Grand Est, the Association implemented a project to build and rehabilitate 20 household wells to improve the domestic water supply for the residents of Beit Dajan village

in the West Bank, serving approximately 120 people — in response to the growing challenges of access to water in the area and the isolation and settler attacks the area suffers from.

Project Objectives:

- Sustainably improve residents' access to domestic water.
- Ease the living burdens on affected families.

Impact:

Improved the level of basic services in the village and strengthened resilience and community stability in the affected areas.

Educational Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project — Wadi Fukin

With support from AFPS – Alsace, rehabilitation works were carried out on the cover of the sewage tank at Al-Wad Al-Akhdar School in Wadi Fukin village, located in Bethlehem governorate, as part of the community services the Association provides to marginalized communities — helping improve the health and educational environment for 75 boys and 150 girls.





The project also aims to provide an agricultural space around the school to be used to train students in urban ecological farming methods.

Impact

Improved health and safety conditions at the school, ensuring a minimum standard that provides a safer educational environment for students.

Program: Community and Humanitarian Support

Support Initiative for Children and Families — Askar Camp

As part of its community responsibility, the Association implemented a number of humanitarian initiatives with support from AFPS – Alsace, including the distribution of Eid clothing to 72 children in Askar Camp.



Contribution to Organizing a Summer Camp for Children and Adolescents in New Askar Camp — Nablus

During 2025, the Arab Agronomists Association implemented a development partnership with the Palestinian French Solidarity Association – Alsace (AFPS Alsace) and the Al-Awda Association for Development and Rehabilitation in New Askar Camp, Nablus governorate, to support and implement the “Makers of Hope 3” summer camp, which targeted around 120 children. The intervention helped provide educational, recreational, and volunteer activities aimed at developing life and creative skills, strengthening national identity and community belonging, and supporting the psychological and social well-being of children and youth. The Association also provided administrative, financial, and technical oversight of the project's implementation, ensuring efficient resource management and quality delivery of activities, which included cultural, artistic, and sports programs as well as educational and heritage visits — helping provide safe and supportive spaces for children and strengthening their community participation amid the challenges facing Palestinian camps.





Impact:

- Mitigated the psychological and social impact on children.
- Strengthened community participation and psychosocial support for the most vulnerable groups.

Program: Strengthening Agricultural Livelihoods

Agricultural Livelihoods Support Project — in Partnership with FAO

The Arab Agronomists Association continued its cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, to implement an integrated development project in the Bittir and Husan areas from September 2024 through April 2026. The project aimed to strengthen agricultural livelihoods, improve productivity, and expand market-access opportunities, with special attention to empowering rural women and women's cooperatives. The number of direct beneficiaries reached 702 individuals — farmers, cooperative members, rural families, and students.

Key Outputs

The project adopted an integrated approach combining hands-on training, technical extension, and production and marketing interventions, with a focus on ecological and safe farming methods. The most notable results were as follows:

Training and Technical Extension

47 specialized trainings and 70 sessions were held within Farmer Field Schools, in addition to the establishment of 7 Field Schools (FFS), which strengthened participatory learning and the exchange of experience, alongside more than 281 extension visits and field follow-ups that helped improve agricultural practices at the field level.

Production Support and Resource Management

More than 54,000 improved agricultural seedlings were distributed (including eggplant and herbs), and 40 agricultural water tanks were installed, helping improve water-resource management and strengthen production stability during drought periods.

Empowering Women's Cooperatives

Three women's cooperatives were supported through the provision of production equipment and food-processing facilities, helping improve product quality, strengthen women's role in production and marketing chains, and raise their income-generating capacity.

Quality and Marketing

Four local products were qualified for quality certification, three trademarks were registered, and more than 14 B2B marketing meetings were held, helping open new marketing channels and connect producers with local markets.

Overall Impact

The project helped strengthen the resilience of agricultural livelihoods and farmers' ability to withstand economic and climate challenges, improve the quality of agricultural production, strengthen the performance of women's cooperatives, and expand market-access opportunities. It also contributed to supporting the sustainability of the local agricultural sector and strengthening its contribution to rural economic development.



Educational farm visits



Agricultural training



Distribution of supplies



Business-model-building training



Producing labels with a competitive brand



Capacity-building visit to the Al-Maftoul Cooperative and date packing house (1)

(1) The Al-Maftoul Cooperative and date packing house, affiliated with Al-Reef Fair Trade Marketing Company, in Jericho.

Project Objectives:

Strengthen the competitiveness of the agricultural sector by implementing an integrated project to support market-linked agricultural production and build the capacities of farmers and agricultural cooperatives — improving production efficiency and access to markets and sustainable income opportunities.

Impact:

Improved marketing opportunities for agricultural products, positively reflected in farmers' income and competitiveness, in addition to supporting the long-term economic sustainability of farmers and agricultural cooperatives.

Studies and Applied Research

Wadi Al-Shami Study — LANDex Framework

With support from SEEDS – NLC – ILC, the Association documented the impact of the treated-water project on the Wadi Al-Shami area, including data collection and analysis according to the LANDex framework, aiming to support evidence-based planning and strengthen land management.

Impact:

- Provided accurate data to support agricultural policy.
- Strengthened assessment and monitoring tools in land management.

Challenges and How They Were Addressed

Despite the achievements made during 2025, the Association faced a number of field challenges, foremost among them the escalation of attacks on agricultural land, particularly in the olive sector, which required intensified monitoring and documentation efforts. Limited access to some targeted areas also posed an obstacle to implementing interventions on schedule. Economically, accumulated financial pressures affected the sustainability of some programs; however, the Association worked to find alternative solutions to maintain its course of work and ensure continuity of impact.

Overall Impact of 2025 Interventions

- Strengthened farmers' resilience in the face of field-level challenges.
- Supported food security in rural communities.
- Improved basic services and infrastructure in marginalized areas.
- Empowered the most vulnerable groups, particularly children and women.

Humanitarian Assistance Program

Solidarity Campaign with the Palestinian People in the Gaza Strip

Amid the continuing Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and the mounting suffering of displaced families, and the continued blocking of basic necessities from entering the Strip despite the announced ceasefire, the Arab Agronomists Association (AAA) launched an emergency campaign titled “Solidarity Campaign with the Palestinian People in the Gaza Strip,” with support from our partners among the French solidarity organizations, Amitié Palestine Aulnay. The campaign aimed to provide an immediate humanitarian response and support the resilience of affected families, through the distribution of 58 tarpaulins to repair displacement tents in the Tal al-Hawa al-Zaytoun, Al-Rimal Al-Shamali, and Al-Nasr areas.



Campaign Objectives:

- Respond to the urgent humanitarian needs of affected families in areas of displacement.
- Strengthen the resilience of fragile communities and tent encampments against harsh weather conditions.
- Provide food and health materials that help preserve dignity and reduce health risks.

Areas of Intervention:

Tal al-Hawa al-Zaytoun, Al-Rimal Al-Shamali, and Al-Nasr areas.

Interventions Implemented:

Distribution of 58 tarpaulins to repair displaced people's tents and protect them from rainwater.

Association Memberships

The Association is a committed member of:

1. Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO)
2. Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network (PENGON)
3. Food Security Sector Cluster (FSS Cluster)
4. WASH Cluster
5. International Land Coalition (ILC)
6. National Land Coalition (NLC)

7. GEN — Global Ecovillage Network
8. CORDA Network (local)
9. Permanent member of the boards of directors of Reef Finance Company and Reef Marketing Company

AAA Directions for 2026

Building on the achievements of previous years, and in response to the growing challenges and opportunities in the Palestinian agricultural sector, the Arab Agronomists Association will continue working to strengthen its role as a leading institution in sustainable agricultural development, focusing on the following areas:

10. Strengthening the capacities of young agricultural engineers and new graduates by developing specialized training programs in ecological agriculture, food security, climate-change adaptation, and renewable energy — helping raise their professional competence and improve their integration into the labor market.
11. Expanding food-security and climate-smart, safe ecological agriculture programs through interventions that help protect natural resources, improve farmers' productivity, and strengthen agricultural communities' ability to face environmental and economic challenges.
12. Expanding and diversifying funding sources and institutional sustainability by building strategic partnerships with donors and the private sector, and developing income-generating initiatives and projects consistent with the regulations and laws governing the work of civil-society organizations.
13. Developing the Association's ecological educational farm to be a practical center for innovation, training, and applied research, and a national model for sustainable ecological agriculture and efficient natural-resource management.
14. Strengthening the Association's role in preparing applied studies and research and producing specialized knowledge to support evidence-based agricultural policy, and contributing to developing the Palestinian agricultural sector on the basis of sustainability and environmental justice.
15. Strengthening the Association's regional and international presence by expanding membership and active participation in specialized networks and coalitions, contributing to the exchange of experience, knowledge transfer, and attracting joint-cooperation opportunities.
16. Building multi-stakeholder partnerships with government, academic, private-sector, and civil-society institutions to implement innovative programs and projects that support agricultural development and the green economy, and strengthen the resilience of rural communities.

Drawing on accumulated experience and lessons learned from implemented programs, the Association looks forward, in the coming phase, to expanding the scope of its interventions and strengthening its contribution to achieving sustainable agricultural development and food security through the following areas:

Priorities for the Next Phase

- Expand ecological and climate-smart agriculture programs and strengthen sustainable agricultural practices and natural-resource management.
- Develop capacity-building and specialized training programs for agricultural engineers, farmers, and rural youth in sustainable agricultural production, beekeeping, food processing, and agricultural entrepreneurship.
- Strengthen humanitarian and developmental interventions aimed at protecting agricultural livelihoods and supporting the resilience of affected rural and Bedouin communities.
- Support and empower agricultural and women's cooperatives and associations by developing value chains and strengthening institutional, administrative, and marketing capacities.
- Expand the use of digital and technological solutions in agricultural extension, training, and agricultural knowledge management.
- Strengthen advocacy efforts and the protection of land and natural resources, and support rural communities' rights to safe and equitable access to productive resources.

Expansion and Partnership Opportunities

- Develop new strategic partnerships with international and regional organizations working in food security, climate-change adaptation, land governance, and environmental protection.
- Attract new financial resources from international and Arab programs supporting the transition toward sustainable, low-emission agricultural production systems.
- Strengthen cooperation with universities and research centers to develop applied training and research programs that respond to the needs of the Palestinian agricultural sector.
- Expand communication and community and media outreach channels in a way that strengthens institutional sustainability and diversifies sources of support.

Cooperation and Coordination with Government, Civil-Society, Academic, and Private-Sector Institutions

During 2025, the Arab Agronomists Association continued to strengthen its network of relationships and strategic partnerships with various national and international bodies, helping expand the impact of its interventions and improve the quality of services provided to farmers, agricultural engineers, and rural communities. In this regard:

17. The Association maintained close and continuous cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture as the principal government partner and national reference for the agricultural sector, through technical and institutional coordination in implementing agricultural and development programs and projects.
18. The Association strengthened its cooperation with local authorities — municipal and village councils — in various intervention locations, helping facilitate the implementation of activities, reach target groups, and strengthen community participation.
19. Cooperation continued with partner civil-society institutions, including benefiting from available infrastructure and technical expertise, and strengthening integration in implementing development and humanitarian programs and projects.
20. The Association continued implementing joint training and professional programs with the Palestinian Agricultural Engineers Syndicate for the fifth consecutive year, aiming to develop the capacities of agricultural engineers and strengthen their professional readiness.
21. The Association worked to expand its academic and scientific partnerships with universities, scientific-research centers, and specialized federations, supporting the development of training and research programs and strengthening agricultural innovation and knowledge transfer.
22. The Association also strengthened its cooperation with private-sector institutions and agricultural and environmental companies, aiming to develop joint initiatives that support environmental sustainability and the green economy, and improve marketing opportunities and market access.

Thanks and Appreciation to Supporting and Partner Entities

The Arab Agronomists Association extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to all the donors, partners, and government, civil-society, academic, and private-sector institutions who contributed to supporting its programs and projects during the year, and who helped strengthen the resilience of Palestinian farmers, support agricultural engineers, and develop the Palestinian agricultural sector toward greater sustainability, productivity, and the ability to face challenges.

The Association also expresses its deep appreciation to the technical staff, volunteers, local committees, and target communities, whose cooperation and active participation played a fundamental role in achieving the successes and accomplishments realized.