

## **MIDDLE EAST Region: Syrian Arab Republic**

### **Background:**

AAI staff was dispatched to the Directorate of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Government of Syria as a long-term Expert of JICA from 1994 to 1997. As a part of his activities, database system was established for various information on appropriate technologies and useful plants including medicinal plants. Other staff was then dispatched from 1999 to 2000 to the Directorate of Training and Qualification. During his assignment period, there were various opportunities to discuss about problems and complaints on the daily activities and future direction of international cooperation within a communication among experts and JOCV volunteers. “ODA study meeting” was consequently organized and the discussion on “self-help and support” was carried out based on the joint activity of experts and JOCV volunteers. Through such activities, members are trying to promote community based activities by considering the meaning of “participatory approach” and “grass root activities” under the present condition of Syria

### **Activities:**

#### **1998 June**

- Database preparation was commenced for useful plants (mainly medicinal plants) in Syria.
- Survey was carried out for the possibility of water purification by using charcoal made from pruned branches of fruit trees.

#### **2000~**

- In addition to discussions by members, “ODA study meeting” commenced a field activity on “Horticultural Therapy” at the nursing home in suburban Damascus.
- This motivated the movement of subcommittee based activities by the groups formed by the staffs who work under same organization or who have similar opinions.

#### **2000 March**

- AAI dispatched an expert of crop production in order to improve the activity on “Horticultural Therapy”. This expert conducted the training activities on vegetable and flower cultivation at nursing and remand homes.



**Plate Preparation**



**Sowing**



**Fertilization**