Islam Ali Daghlas, 23 Jenin Beekeepers Cooperative, Palestine

My story with beekeeping started 10 years ago. Joining the beekeeping cooperative and establishing the beekeeping cooperative in Jenin -- it was a turning point in the field of beekeeping for me.

Through this experience, I met many beekeepers who have more than 30 or 40 years in the field of beekeeping. Some of them are new to this kind of work and they follow many beekeepers at the local and international levels.

I cooperated with those people to get experience from their part and because of that, beekeeping turned from being a hobby to becoming my career and my independent professional job and my source of income.

When I established the cooperative with my colleagues in 2017, we were only 15 beekeepers, and the Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC) was one of the first organizations that had an essential role in the advancement of the cooperative.

In the light of the challenges and circumstances encountered by Palestinians and the Palestinian society, due to the Israeli occupation and the economic bottlenecks imposed by them, associations and cooperatives are still an essential solution for us to have an independent economy, especially if youth and women are the main pillars for this economy.