

MED TEST III

Progressing resource-efficient and competitive industries in Palestine



Overview

Developing industries that can produce more resource efficient, higher cost-efficiency and a better environmental performance, is fundamental for a sustainable economic development in Palestine. A shortage of access to self-sufficient water and energy services continues to surge production costs and curtails the competitive edge of local businesses.

From 2015 - 2017, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) demonstrated in Palestine, within the framework of the SwitchMed / MED TEST II project, the economic benefits of resource efficiency in the food and beverage sector. Using the UNIDO TEST methodology, the 10 companies participating in the project could identify resource efficiency measures with the potential of saving water, energy and raw materials worth 2.4 million Euro in annual production costs.

Following these promising results and in close cooperation with national institutional stakeholders, a national road-map for scaling up resource efficiency in the industrial sector was developed by the end of the MED TEST II project in Palestine. The key objective of this roadmap is to lay down priority areas for national actions and future programmes to stimulate the creation of greater business opportunities while reducing the environmental footprint of existing economic activities in Palestine.

MED TEST III in Palestine is in cooperation with:



The Ministry of National Economy



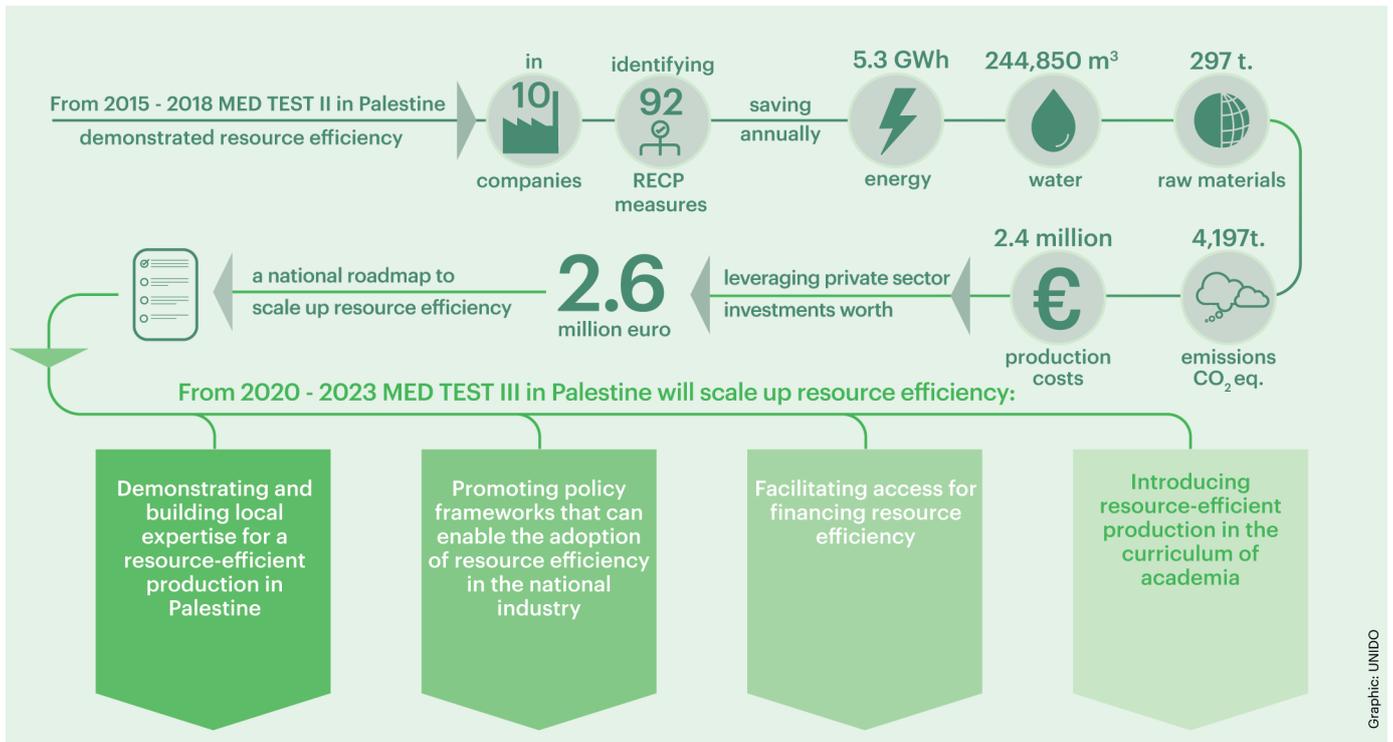
The Environmental Quality Authority

MED TEST III in Palestine

In line with the national roadmap for resource efficiency, the SwitchMed / MED TEST III project was launched in 2020 under the lead of UNIDO. For the next three years the MED TEST III will with the support from the Ministry of National Economy, the Environmental Quality Authority, and the Palestinian Federation of Industry extend the breakthrough achieved in the first phase. Industry demonstrations, coupled with the training of local service providers, will demonstrate the business case of a resource-efficient production in additional industry sectors and businesses. This will support the establishment of a framework that can enable industries in Palestine to include resource-efficient practices in their production.

Resource efficiency will support companies in Palestine to:

-  Improve front-end cost savings, reducing environmental impact and lower costs associated with waste processing, which improve the competitiveness of Palestinian products on local and export markets;
-  Increase the lifespan of resources, reducing dependencies of limited virgin stock materials and retaining value in the local economy;
-  Upgrade processes and operations of local SMEs along the supply chain that can increase the competitiveness of the eco-system to meet future market requirements;
-  Reduce compliance cost and the mitigation of environmental risks in day to day operations.



Demonstrating and building local expertise for a resource-efficient production in Palestine

Building on the achieved results of MED TEST II, the uptake of resource-efficient practices in Palestine's industries will require additional demonstrations that can also support the creation of local expertise on resource-efficient services. MED TEST III in Palestine will undertake additional industry demonstrations that can add up to the pool of best practices for resource efficiency and help to raise awareness and continue to build the business case for resource-efficiency in Palestine. At the same, the demonstrations will offer an opportunity as part of the on the job training for service providers and company staff, including the identification and implementation of sustainable production practices and technologies, to bridge the gap of local expertise and secure the required need from industries in this field.

Promoting policy frameworks that can enable the adoption of resource efficiency in the national industry

UNIDO will conduct awareness-raising activities on the outcomes of the demonstrations from MED TEST III to reinforce institutional capacities and to integrate resource efficiency into relevant national legislation for environmental auditing and inspecting. This activity will include the training of governmental officials on the principles of resource-efficient production and give further recommendations for implementing policy instruments within the national roadmap for resource efficiency.

Facilitating access for financing resource efficiency

One of the key barriers to the uptake of resource-efficient production methods in industries is access to financing. Together with national banking system, UNIDO will explore the possibilities of establishing a pilot financial scheme based on the experience of MED TEST II companies, and promote it to other companies. Furthermore, the cooperation with existing programmes, offered by international financing institutions, will be explored to support roll-out and implementation of resource-efficient production in the industry.

Introducing resource-efficient production in the curriculum of academia

Finally, curricula and courses on resource efficiency, for academic institutions, will be developed. This activity will primarily target academic staff and support them in introducing RECP tools and methodologies into the national education system creating new skills and opportunities for the local market

For more information, visit SwitchMed.eu or contact:



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