Economic Studies ISSN 1112-7988 / E-ISSN 8627-2710
volume : 26 issue: 01 year : 2026 PP : 121-136

The rôle of Islamic banks in achieving food security

A comparative study between Al Rajhi Bank of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Bank of Jordan (During the period 2010-2023)

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Received: 01/17/2025	Accepted: 30/12/2025	Published: 08/06/2026

Abstract : This study addresses the role of Islamic banks in achieving food security, through a study of both Al Rajhi Bank in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Jordan Islamic Bank, during the period from 2010 to 2023,Using annual reports as tools for data collection and analysis. The study concluded that Islamic banks can play an important role in supporting food security by financing various stages of agricultural production. However, this role is still below the desired level due to a set of challenges such as lack of awareness, risks associated with the agricultural sector, and the scarcity of financial products directed towards this field.

In conclusion, the study recommended the necessity of enhancing the role of Islamic banks in achieving food security, through the development of agricultural financing tools, improving coordination with relevant authorities, and providing facilities for farmers and investors in the food sector.

Keywords:food security,Islamic finance,Islamic banks,Al Rajhi bank,Jordan Islamic bank.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Achieving food security has become a strategic goal pursued by governments and international organizations, as it is a fundamental pillar for building strong and stable

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societies. Achieving this goal cannot be accomplished without developing the agricultural sector, as it is the primary source of food production. Agriculture is not just an economic activity; it is the foundation upon which food security policies are built in various countries. However, this sector suffers from chronic structural challenges, the most prominent of which are weak financing, the absence of strategic planning, lack of investments, and significant susceptibility to climate fluctuations. Experiences have proven that traditional financing tools are insufficient to meet the needs of farmers and agricultural investors. In this context, Islamic finance emerges as a promising and more suitable alternative for the nature of agricultural activities, due to its principles based on risk-sharing, justice, and social solidarity. Based on that, Islamic banks are considered a strategic partner in supporting food security through their role in financing agricultural activities, empowering producers, developing value chains, promoting rural development, and reducing poverty and unemployment. Accordingly, the following issue can be raised:

To what extent do Islamic banks, specifically Al Rajhi Bank in Saudi Arabia and the Jordan Islamic Bank, contribute to achieving food security?

This study is based on the following hypothesis:

Islamic banks provide sustainable financing for agricultural projects, leading to increased agricultural productivity and achieving food security.

The importance of the study stems from its focus on the role that Islamic banks can play in achieving food security by supporting local production, financing projects related to the food sector, and contributing to enhancing the ability of countries to provide their basic food needs, thereby promoting self-sufficiency and reducing external dependency.

The descriptive, analytical, and comparative approaches were followed to provide an overview of food security and Islamic banks, as well as to analyze the data of Islamic banks and compare the two countries.

2- The concept of food security:

The concept of food security is one of the concepts that emerged in response to the food crisis during the 1960. Since then, countries around the world, without exception and through various methods, have sought to achieve it. Consequently, the definitions of food security have varied according to the entity defining it, including the following:

✓ According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), food security is achieved when all people at all times have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life **(Ali, 2010, p. 110).**

✓ As for the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), it defines food security as "providing food in the quantity and quality necessary for activity and health continuously for all members of the nation, relying first on self-production and based on the relative experience of producing food commodities for each Arab country." And making it available to Arab citizens at prices that are commensurate with their incomes and financial capabilities **(Ali, 2010, p. 112).**

✓ While the World Health Organization (WHO) considers that food security is achieved under all necessary conditions and standards during the processes of food production, manufacturing, storage, distribution, and preparation to ensure that food is safe, reliable, healthy, and suitable for consumption, food safety passes through all stages from agricultural production to final consumption **(mehamedi & hafsouaui, 2023, p. 170).**

Based on the previous definitions, food security is defined as "the ability to obtain sufficient quantities of healthy and safe food that meet individuals' basic nutritional needs, contributing to ensuring their overall health and their ability to lead an active and healthy life."

2-1- Determinants of food security:

All countries strive to achieve food security by reaching production levels that ensure abundance and price stability, allowing citizens to meet their basic nutritional needs. This is because food security is defined as all the necessary conditions and standards during the processes of production, manufacturing, storage, distribution, and preparation of food to ensure that food is safe, reliable, healthy, and suitable for human consumption, according to the World Health Organization **(mohamed saiad, 1988, p. 82).**

The determinants of food security are as follows:

✓ **Food supply abundance**: Availability does not only include the quantity of food but also its quality and diversity. Indicators for evaluating availability include the adequacy of food energy supplies, the proportion of calories derived from grains, roots, and tubers, the average protein supply, the average supply of protein from animal sources, and the average value of food production **(ali & farida, 2018, p. 110).**

✓ **The constant availability of goods in the market Directing:** attention by the state to look at quality and nutritional quality or balancing quantity and quality in food commodities

✓ **Commodity prices are within the reach of citizens**: Opportunities to access food are primarily determined by food prices and the ability of families and individuals to receive social support **(ali & farida, 2018, p. 110).**

✓ **Food safety**: It is defined as the safety of food related to all stages, from agricultural production to the moment of consumption by consumers **(eljarissi, 2008, p. 42).**

- ✓ **Use of food :** the necessity of using food in the best possible way, so that every individual can enjoy good health and nutrition
- ✓ **Respect for diversity and social customs acceptance**: through the existence of acceptable systems for food distribution and security, and respect for human beings and social customs, so that food items are acceptable to all segments of society according to their needs **(rabah & fatima, 2016, p. 41).**

2-2Food security measurement indicators:

To understand the nutritional status of any country, indicators have been established to measure it, among which is the index issued by the Economic Information Unit, known as the Global Food Security Index. In addition to this index, there are other indicators used to measure the level of food security, which include various factors that affect it. These factors include the level of available food production and daily nutritional needs, per capita share of national income, household budget index, purchasing power, and price levels. We will elaborate on the most prominent ones below (keouissi, Food security in Algeria during the period 2008-2018, 2023, pp. 28-31)**:**

- ✓ **Gross Domestic Product:**Among the methods used to calculate GDP are the expenditure, income, and value-added methods. The latter is the most commonly used and is applied by calculating the difference between the final price of goods or final services produced in a country over a year. Countries rely on the GDP indicator to monitor and track the food situation. For example, a decrease in GDP results in a decrease in national income, which in turn leads to a decrease in total demand, affecting the food situation.
- ✓ **Agricultural GDP:**Countries strive through various agricultural policies to increase their agricultural GDP, primarily relying on their capabilities and available resources. The increase in local agricultural output is considered one of the most important indicators that enable us to understand the food situation, as it serves as a measure of the country's self-reliance.
- ✓ **Average per capita food consumption**: The average per capita food consumption is calculated using the following formula:

Average per capita food consumption = total food consumption/population

But this indicator only considers the extent of the increase or decrease in total food consumption and calculates the average based on this total consumption without taking into account individual income. An increase in total food consumption does not necessarily mean an improvement in the nutritional level for all segments of society.

- ✓ **The ability to produce food locally**: The ability to produce food locally is considered one of the most indicators directly related to the issue of food security. There are differing

perceptions among those who have addressed the topic of food security, viewing the sufficiency of most of the state's food needs being produced locally as the best means for food security.

3- An overview of Islamic banks:

The beginnings of Islamic banking in its broadest sense date back to the early days of Islamic legislation and the flourishing of Islamic civilization. However, with the decline of the Islamic state, its lagging behind the march of civilization, and its fall into the clutches of colonialism, which forced it to abandon its intellectual heritage and replace it with systems and laws imposed by the colonizing West, among which were traditional banking transactions, Islamic banking transactions were abolished and did not reappear until later stages **(mohamed tahar e. , 2010, p. 125).**

Some have defined Islamic banks as banking institutions for collecting funds and investing them within the framework of Islamic law, serving the construction of a society based on the principles of Islamic solidarity, achieving distribution justice, and directing money towards the right path for development **(ahmed chihab, 2011, p. 11).**

It is also defined as those institutions that engage in banking activities, with their commitment to avoiding transactions involving interest-based dealings, both receiving and giving, as it is considered a prohibited transaction by Sharia law, and to avoiding any actions contrary to the provisions of Islamic law **(djallal ouafaa, 2006, p. 45).**

It can be said that Islamic banks are financial institutions that operate according to the principles of Islamic law, based on rules that prohibit usury and forbidden transactions, and aim to achieve economic and social development by providing innovative financing solutions that promote justice and transparency.

3-1- Characteristics of Islamic Banks:

Islamic banks are distinguished from other conventional banks by a set of characteristics, including:

- ✓ **Exclusion of interest-based benefits**: The most distinguishing feature of Islamic banks compared to traditional banks is the exclusion of interest-based transactions, as they are considered a form of usury (riba) which scholars unanimously agree to prohibit due to its negative economic and social impacts. Without this feature, the Islamic bank would become like any other interest-based bank **(mohamed tahar, bachir, & ahlem, 2014, p. 201);**
- ✓ **Investment in halal projects :** Islamic banks seek to invest in halal projects that benefit society, by using Islamic financing methods, such as participating in financing development projects
- ✓ **Linking economic development with social development**: Achieving economic development is a demand that Islamic banks pay great attention to, and they strive to

achieve this by establishing real investment projects that comply with Sharia regulations and contribute to stimulating economic activity while considering the social dimension by meeting the actual needs of the community **(mohamed h. s., 2001, p. 92)**;

✓ **Commitment to Islamic values**: Islamic banks operate by following the rulings of Islamic Sharia, and thus all their activities are governed by what Allah has permitted. This drives them to invest in and finance projects that benefit the country and its people, adhering to the principles of halal and haram as defined by Islam. This results in directing and focusing investments in the production of goods and services that satisfy the legitimate needs of the Muslim community **(harbi & said, 2010, p. 95).**

3-2- Islamic financing modes:

Islamic banks apply several types of contracts, some based on benevolence and charity, others based on investment participation, and some based on commercial debt.

3-2-1- Forms based on righteousness and benevolence:

✓ **The benevolent loan**: It is a contract between two parties, one being the lender and the other the borrower, whereby money owned by the lender is given to the borrower, with the latter agreeing to repay it or an equivalent amount to the lender at the agreed time and place **(adjoulouni, 2008, p. 252).**

✓ **Gift**: A gift is the ownership of an item through a contract, without a known compensation in life **(mohamed ben ismail, 1997, p. 171),** Or it is the donation of money during one's lifetime **(ibn dhouiane, 1989, p. 212).**

✓ **Zakat**: There are several definitions of zakat,where Ibn Qudamah Al-Mughni defined it as a right that is due on wealth **(abou mohamed, 1969, p. 572).**

And as some contemporary scholars have defined it as "the giving of a specific portion of specific wealth that has reached the nisab, has been owned, and a full lunar year has passed. **(abedlah, 1987, p. 15)**"and this definition is considered comprehensive for the definition of zakat ".

✓ **Endowment**: It is the dedication of the original asset and the allocation of its benefits for charity or kinship, so that its proceeds are directed towards a charitable cause as an act of devotion to God Almighty. The original asset refers to something that can be benefited from while its essence remains intact. The meaning of this is to preserve the asset and allocate its fruits. To clarify the meaning, we say: "Endowment is based on the donation of an asset that is capable of remaining, continuing, and benefiting from its periodically generated profits in one of the forms of charity or goodness **(mohamed a. o., 2006, p. 4).**

3-2-2-Formulas based on sharing in return on investment:

✓ **Partnership agreement**: It means a contract between two or more parties to work for profit through business, money, or prestige (their personal status) to share the gains, with capital and profit being shared among them as per the agreement **(alaa & alaa mustapha, 2021, p. 123).**

✓ **The Mudarabah contract**: It is an agreement between two parties, where one party invests their money, called the capital provider, and the other party exerts their effort and labor in managing and trading the money, called the entrepreneur. The profit is distributed between them according to the agreement, and the loss is borne solely by the capital provider, while the entrepreneur does not bear any loss unless there is negligence in the work **(adjoulouni, 2008, p. 252).**

✓ **The form of Musaqa**: It is an agricultural partnership for the investment of trees, where the trees are on one side and the work on the trees is on the other side, and the resulting fruit is shared between them at a ratio agreed upon by the contracting parties, such as half, a third, and so on. The worker is called the Musaqi, and the other party is called the owner of the trees **(sara, 2023, p. 136).**

3-2-3-Forms based on commercial debt:

Sale on credit or in installments: Sale on installments refers to a sale on credit, meaning a deferred price for an immediate price. It is a sale on credit, where the bank delivers the agreed-upon commodity to its client immediately in exchange for deferring the payment to a specified future time **(adjoulouni, 2008, p. 252)**.

- ✓ **The Salam contract**: It is something for which the price is paid in cash and its delivery is deferred to a later period. It may also be called a forward sale. The owner of the money needs to buy the commodity, and the owner of the commodity needs the price in advance to spend it on his good **(ikram & fathi, 2018, p. 81) S.**
- ✓ **The formula of Istisna**: Dr. Wahba Al-Zuhayli defined it as "a contract with a manufacturer to produce a specific item in detail, meaning the contract to purchase what the manufacturer produces, with the object and the work being from the manufacturer **(fakheri, 2002, p. 59).**

The formula of leasing: Jurists have defined leasing in various ways, and upon reflection, we find them close in meaning even though they differ according to the schools of thought. It can be said that leasing is a contract for a permissible, known, and intended benefit from a specific object or one described in the obligation for a known compensation **(mohamed s. , 2022, p. 133).**

4- The relationship between food security and Islamic banks: Food security plays a pivotal role in achieving economic and social stability for any country, and the role that

Islamic banks can contribute to enhancing this security cannot be overlooked, as there is a relationship between them that is manifested in:

4-1- Agricultural project financing:

✓ **Islamic finance**: Islamic banks provide Sharia-compliant financing to farmers and agricultural companies. These financings include Murabaha, Musharakah, and Mudarabah, which are financial instruments that help develop agricultural production and improve the infrastructure of the agricultural sector.

✓ **Supporting small farmers**: Islamic banks focus on supporting small farmers who represent a large segment of agricultural producers. This is done by providing small and diverse financing that meets their needs and circumstances.

4-2-Financing the Food Industries:

✓ **Support for food manufacturing**: Islamic banks contribute to financing industrial projects that transform agricultural products into manufactured food items. This helps reduce the waste of agricultural products and increase their added value.

✓ **Trade financing in food products**: Islamic banks provide financial services to traders and importers operating in the food sector, facilitating import and export operations and contributing to the availability of food products in local markets.

4-3- Risk Management:

✓ **Takaful insurance**: Islamic banks offer takaful insurance products that help farmers and agricultural companies manage the risks they may face, such as price fluctuations and changes in weather conditions.

✓ **Sukuk**: Islamic banks can use sukuk to finance large agricultural projects. Sukuk are Islamic financial instruments similar to bonds, but compliant with Islamic law.

4-4- Awareness and Guidance:

✓ **Spreading financial awareness**: Islamic banks play an educational role in informing farmers about the importance of financial planning and risk management.

✓ **Providing guidance**: Islamic banks offer advisory services to farmers and agricultural companies on best agricultural practices and business management.

5-A comparative study of the Saudi Islamic Bank Al Rajhi and the Jordanian Islamic Bank:

5-1- Overview of Al Rajhi Bank and Jordan Islamic Bank:

✓ **Al Rajhi Bank**: The name of Al Rajhi Bank has been associated with one of the largest and most famous Islamic banks over the years, becoming a symbol of leadership in the banking sector. This bank has gained its wide reputation thanks to its deep banking expertise and future vision. Al Rajhi Bank, one of the largest Islamic banks in the world, began its operations in 1957 by the Al Rajhi brothers and has over 60 years of banking

experience. It opened its first branch for men in Riyadh in 1957, and its first branch for women in 1979. In 1988, the bank transformed into a public joint-stock company, adhering to Islamic principles and working to meet the requirements of modern banking in accordance with **(Al Rajhi, 2018, p. 6).**

✓ **Jordan Islamic Bank**: Jordan Islamic Bank for Finance and Investment was established in 1978 as a public shareholding company and began its operations in 1979 with a paid-up capital of two million dinars. The bank offers its services through 80 branches and 28 offices across Jordan, employing approximately 2,440 staff members. Since joining the Al Baraka Banking Group in 2010, the bank has achieved rapid growth and established its position among Jordanian banks by offering Sharia-compliant financial services **(Jordanian banking, 2023, p. 38).**

5-2-Financing from Al Rajhi Bank of Saudi Arabia and the Jordan Islamic Bank for the agricultural sector:

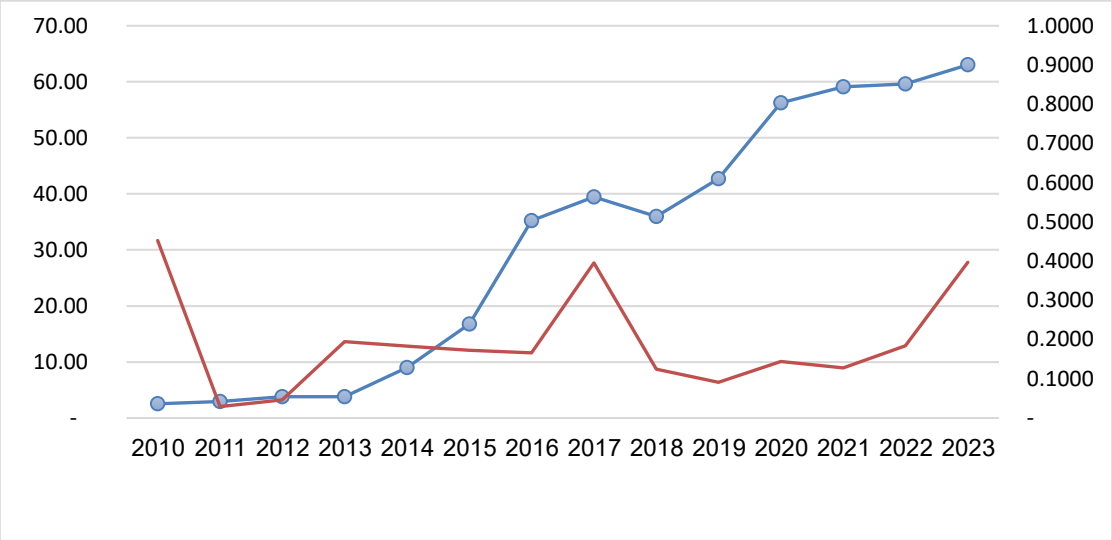
Table No. 01: Represents the total financing of Al Rajhi Bank of Saudi Arabia and the Jordan Islamic Bank, as well as the agricultural sector.

Unit:Million USD

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Al Rajhi Bank Financing	0.45	0.02	0.04	0.19	0.18	0.17	0.16
Percentage of Al Rajhi Bank Financing	1.39%	0.08%	0.10%	0.39%	0.33%	0.30%	0.27%
Jordanian Bank Financing	2.54	2.96	3.81	3.70	9.02	16.78	35.25
Percentage of Jordanian Bank Financing	1.14%	0.15%	0.08%	0.12%	0. 28%	0.45%	0.92%
Year	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
Al Rajhi Bank Financing	0.39	0.12	0.09	0.14	0.12	0.18	0.39
Percentage of Al Rajhi Bank Financing	0.63%	0.20%	0.14%	0.17%	0.11%	0.12%	0.25%
Jordanian Bank Financing	39.48	35.96	42.73	56.26	59.08	59.65	63.03
Percentage of Jordanian Bank Financing	1.03%	0.91%	1.00%	1.14%	1.11%	1.08%	1.14%

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the annual reports of Al Rajhi Bank of Saudi Arabia and the Jordan Islamic Bank.

Figure 01: The chart represents the comparison between Al Rajhi Bank of Saudi Arabia and the Jordan Islamic Bank for the agriculture sector.



Al Rajhi Bank Financing the agricultural sector:

Jordanian Bank Financing the agricultural sector:

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the data from Table No. 01

From Table 01, we observe that there is fluctuation in financing by Al Rajhi Bank during the study period, and the share of the agricultural sector is very small. However, the bank is keen to maintain a minimum level of support for agriculture, even if this support does not reach levels that can bring about a qualitative transformation in the sector's performance. This calls for thinking about innovative and targeted financing mechanisms that ensure agriculture benefits from the financial capabilities available to financial institutions.

As for the Jordan Islamic Bank, the financing granted to the agricultural sector has shown a clear upward trajectory. It started at a modest level in 2010 with an amount of 2.59 million $, as the bank's focus was on traditional sectors such as housing and trade, while the agricultural sector remained on the margins due to weak demand and market challenges. Agricultural financing continued to rise gradually, reaching 64.41 million $ in 2023, driven by the bank's expansion in rural provinces, the increasing trust of farmers in Islamic financing products, and the bank's growing recognition of agriculture's role in enhancing food security. And to analyze the comparison between the two banks through Table 01 and Figure 01, we divided the period into seven stages:

✓ **Phase One (2010-2011):** During this phase, the average financing by Al Rajhi Bank for agriculture was approximately 0.24 million $ compared to 2.75 million $ for the Jordan Islamic Bank, a difference of more than 2.5 million $. This difference is attributed to the nature of the Jordanian economy, which relies on agriculture as a local resource to enhance food security in light of limited natural resources, prompting banks to adopt more active agricultural support policies. In contrast, the Saudi economy, centered

around oil and services, has made agriculture a secondary sector, which was reflected in Al Rajhi Bank's financing decisions.

✓ **Phase Two (2012-2013):** The average financing by Al Rajhi Bank during this phase was approximately $0.12 million, while the average financing by the Jordan Islamic Bank was 3.11 million $, a difference of nearly3 million $. This indicates the Jordanian bank's continued focus on agricultural financing, driven by government programs to support small farmers, while Al Rajhi remained limited in its approach, perhaps due to its focus on more profitable sectors like real estate and consumer financing.

✓ **Phase Three (2014-2015):** This phase witnessed a significant leap in financing from the Jordan Islamic Bank, which recorded an average of 12.90 million dollars compared to only 0.18 dollars for Al Rajhi Bank, resulting in a gap of approximately 12.72 million dollars. This financial boom reflects a proactive policy by Jordan to enhance self-sufficiency, especially after the global rise in food prices, while Al Rajhi Bank did not record any qualitative shift in its agricultural financing strategy.

✓ **Phase Four (2016-2017**): The average financing of the Jordan Islamic Bank rose to $37.37 million compared to only $0.28 million for Al Rajhi Bank, with an astonishing difference of over $37.09 million. It is likely that this period witnessed partnership programs between the Jordanian bank and state institutions or international development organizations to support agriculture, while Al Rajhi continued to follow a cautious financing policy towards this sector.

✓ **Phase Five (2018-2019**): During this phase, the Jordan Islamic Bank continued its significant support for the agricultural sector with an average of 39.35 million dollars compared to 0.11 million dollars for Al Rajhi Bank, a difference of approximately 39.24 million dollars. This period confirms the stability of the financing policy at the Jordanian bank, where agriculture has transformed into a strategic financing path, unlike Al Rajhi Bank, which continued to consider it a non-core sector.

✓ **Phase Six (2020-2021)**: This phase was affected by the Corona pandemic, which prompted the Jordan Islamic Bank to raise its financing to an average of 57.67 million dollars, while Al Rajhi Bank's financing did not exceed 0.14 million dollars, a difference of over 57.53 million dollars. These figures reflect an increasing awareness in Jordan of the importance of agriculture in light of health and economic crises, while the pandemic's impact on Al Rajhi Bank's agricultural financing policy remained limited.

✓ **Phase Seven (2022-2023):** The average financing of the Jordan Islamic Bank reached 61.34 million dollars, while Al Rajhi Bank's financing was only 0.29 million dollars, with a huge difference of more than 61 million dollars. This indicates that the Jordan Islamic Bank has solidified its financial commitment to agriculture as a pillar of national food

security, especially in light of environmental challenges and the scarcity of natural resources in Jordan. Meanwhile, Al Rajhi Bank's financing for the agricultural sector has not seen significant development, despite the rapid transformations in the regional and international arenas regarding food security.

6-Conclusion:

Based on what has been discussed, it can be said that achieving food security in Islamic countries will only be possible through an effective partnership between Islamic banks, governments, and institutions concerned with agriculture and development, so that a larger portion of funding is directed towards supporting local agricultural production, and providing incentives for banks that contribute to this direction. Additionally, developing a suitable legislative and regulatory environment, and adopting clear and

sustainable strategies for Islamic agricultural financing, will enhance these banks' ability to perform their vital role efficiently and effectively. Accordingly, enhancing food security in the Islamic world will not be merely an option, but a strategic necessity that requires Islamic banks to transition from the role of traditional financiers to that of developmental partners, shaping a more secure and sustainable food future.

Through what we have discussed in the practical aspect, we found that the theory:

Islamic banks provide sustainable financing for agricultural projects, leading to increased agricultural productivity and achieving food security. Incorrect, because the proportions of financing directed by the two banks are very small and cannot achieve security and sustainability.

The following results were reached:

✓ Food security is not limited to the availability of food; it also includes accessibility, stability, and quality. It is considered one of the fundamental pillars for achieving social and economic stability and is closely linked to national security.

✓ Weak awareness among some farmers about Islamic finance tools.

✓ The scarcity of specialized financial products directed towards the agricultural and food sector.

✓ The lack of sufficient coordination between Islamic financial institutions and the bodies concerned with food security.

✓ The Jordan Islamic Bank has significantly contributed to supporting food security within Jordan by increasing financing directed towards the agricultural sector. This support has become very important, especially with the challenges that have affected food availability due to regional and global crises.

✓ The contribution of Al Rajhi Bank to supporting the agricultural sector and consequently food security was very limited during the period 2010-2023.

✓ The difference between the two banks' financing reveals a funding gap that affects agricultural development in Saudi Arabia compared to Jordan. Although Saudi Arabia is a country with significant financial capabilities, the direction of agricultural financing has remained very weak in the Al Rajhi Bank model, necessitating a reevaluation of the priorities of Islamic financing in the Kingdom.

✓ The experience of the Jordan Islamic Bank can be considered a successful model to be emulated in integrating Islamic banking principles with sustainable development and food security goals. It is also recommended to generalize this experience to Islamic banks in other countries, especially in the Arabian Gulf.

✓ This field study confirms that Islamic finance can be an effective tool in achieving food security, provided it is directed towards priority sectors, with agriculture being at the forefront.

Based on the results obtained, some recommendations can be suggested, which are:

✓ Islamic banks must allocate a significant amount of financing to support the agricultural and food sector, as it is one of the strategic sectors in achieving food security.

✓ The necessity of adopting effective and clear mechanisms for financing agricultural activities according to Islamic financing methods such as sharecropping, leasing, and profit-sharing, in a manner that aligns with the nature of agricultural activities.

✓ Leveraging the pioneering experiences of Islamic banks in countries that have succeeded in utilizing Islamic finance tools to achieve their food security.

✓ Attempting to reduce the complex administrative procedures for obtaining financing by establishing digital platforms that directly connect Islamic banks with agricultural producers, facilitating the application process and its follow-up.

✓ Activating the role of specialized Islamic financial institutions in the agricultural sector, and establishing Islamic investment funds aimed at supporting agricultural and food production chains, with a focus on essential products.

✓ The necessity of coordination between Islamic banks and various actors in the food security system, including ministries, public institutions, and agricultural organizations, in order to unify visions and direct funding towards food security priorities in Algeria.

✓ Exploitation of waqf lands in the agricultural field in Islamic countries, especially Algeria.

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