



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Lebanon and FAO

43 years of partnership

for sustainable agriculture, rural development and management of natural resources

Lebanon joined the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1945 as a founding member of the Organization. In February 1977, FAO and Lebanon signed an agreement to establish a country office in Beirut, which is the first one to be established by FAO in the world.

Over the past 43 years, FAO's assistance has focused on the promotion of sustainable development of the agriculture sector, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant ministries. More recently, FAO has been supporting the coordination and planning mechanism for humanitarian and stabilization assistance to Lebanon in the context of the Syria crisis.



Channeling support to key thematic areas



FAO's support focuses on agricultural and rural development, resilience and sustainable natural resource management as follows:



Promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development

Activities include support to agricultural production systems in order to overcome production and marketing constraints, boosting investment in agriculture, assisting small-scale family farmers in their efforts to reduce production costs, increase quality, overcome post-harvest barriers, and improving food safety. Strengthening the capacities of the agricultural cooperatives, in particular women cooperatives, and producers' associations is another key area of work.



Promoting sustainable management of natural resources

Activities include the application of climate-smart agricultural technologies, including efficient irrigation techniques and good agricultural practices; enhancing the capacity of regional water establishments to better plan and manage water resources for irrigation; and supporting sustainable forest management and long-term reforestation efforts, particularly the Government's "40 Million Trees Program". FAO is also supporting small fishermen to enhance the sustainability of their practices and to support their livelihoods.



Enhancing the resilience of communities hosting displaced Syrians

Investments in agricultural infrastructure and agri-food value chains are being promoted with a view to generate employment and other livelihood opportunities, particularly in main agricultural regions where majority of host communities are located.

Matching FAO's expertise to Lebanon's development priorities



FAO assistance in Lebanon is shaped by the 2016 – 2021 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF). Jointly prepared with the Government and other development partners, the CPF reflects priorities of relevant national development strategies and plans, including the Strategy for the Ministry of Agriculture (2015 – 2020), the Lebanon National Forestry Programme (2015 – 2025) and the Strategic Roadmap in Support of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Lebanon (2014 – 2019). The CPF contributes to FAO's Strategic Objectives and is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is centered on two main government priority areas:

1 Expanding economic and livelihood opportunities for the benefit of local economies and the most vulnerable communities" through strengthening the resilience of smallholder producers and upgrading capacities for sanitary and phytosanitary control and management of food safety and quality systems

2 Improving the performance of the agriculture sector with respect to economic, social, environmental and sustainable rural development" through supporting improved and innovative sustainable agricultural production, sustainable land, forest and water management, and agricultural value chains development

The CPF also works on strengthening institutional capacities in data collection and policy support in relation to agriculture, food security and nutrition with a special focus on gender.

FAO is currently supporting the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare its new strategy for 2020 – 2025, based on which a new CPF will be formulated.

Programme in Lebanon

Ongoing projects



Support to the Ministry of Agriculture to update its strategy integrating the SDGs in its National Agricultural Strategy (2020 – 2025)

Funded by FAO Technical Cooperation Programme
Period: 2019 – 2020

The assistance through this project has several objectives:

- 1) updating the Agricultural Strategy, preparing a new Action Plan for 2020 – 2025 and proposing the organizational restructuring of the ministry;
- 2) providing technical assistance to assess the agricultural sector support programmes; and
- 3) developing a monitoring plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their integration in MoA planning.

Emergency livelihood support to the vulnerable small-scale farmers affected by the financial and economic crisis

Funded by Belgium
Period: May 2020 – April 2021

FAO helps restore vegetable production for at least 820 farming families (around 4 100 individuals) in Akkar and Baalback-Hermel targeting highly vulnerable farmers who depend on farming for their livelihoods. The project is a pilot activity for scaling up with possible funding from other donors. The project demonstrates the operational feasibility of the voucher system within the context of Lebanon with a very well established private sector for agro-input retailing throughout the country. The project uses vouchers for vulnerable farmers to purchase inputs, materials and tools from a select list of input suppliers. The activities of this project allow responding to the needs for immediate support, with an expansion of the response activities through the coordination mechanism set up by the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group and the mobilization of additional funds.



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Support to Women's Cooperatives and Associations in the Agri-food Sector of Lebanon

Funded by Canada
Period: 2018 – 2021

The project provides assistance to enhance women's economic empowerment that is reflected in the capacity development of 250 women's agri-food cooperatives and/or producer associations to establish sustainable income generating enterprises. Facilitators are trained to assist the cooperatives/associations to prepare a sustainable and profitable business plan for development in Lebanon's agriculture and food processing sector. The top 150 business plans are selected for financial grants and business vouchers. The project will also support the General Directorate of Cooperatives in accordance with the road map of the quality management system.



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Promotion of Agriculture Livelihoods and Employment through Investment in Land Reclamation and Water Reservoirs

Funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Period: 2016 – 2020

The project supports the Green Plan in providing matching grants to small farmers to invest in land reclamation and water reservoirs. The project aims to support 1 250 farmers in the reclamation of more than 4 200 dunums (420 hectares), increase the storage capacity of irrigation water by about 160 000 cubic meters and grow more than 45 000 fruit trees and implement other complementary works, generating more than 105 000 days of work. It also aims to develop the agro-business schools manual and establish more than 9 schools in several regions in collaboration with the Department of Education and Extension of the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, the project aims to build Green Plan's capacity in terms of providing and training on a reference guide for land reclamation and water management, establishment of fruit trees orchards, developing a grant work flow and management information system, assessing the impact of the Green Plan and building its capacity in Monitoring and Evaluation.

Enhancing Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security of Host Communities and Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon through the Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Development

Funded by European Union

Period: 2019 – 2021

The project responds to the reduced livelihood and food security levels as a result of the Syria crisis in Jordan and Lebanon and tackles its negative impact on the host communities. This will be done through support to improving agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes in addition to the creation of employment opportunities for both host communities and displaced Syrians. The project promotes social protection mechanisms for the benefit of the host farming community.

Upgrading the Technical Agriculture Education System in Lebanon

Funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Period: 2016 – 2021

The project is working to rehabilitate and upgrade the seven agricultural technical schools in Lebanon and to modernize their curricula. It offers young Lebanese and displaced Syrians the possibility to enroll in the three-year Agricultural Technical Baccalaureate (BTA) and/or in short-term vocational training courses. The project also integrates the methodology of efficiency and learning in the labour market, as well as the modernization and issuance of the necessary decisions (especially those issued by the Minister of Agriculture), the establishment of operational links for agricultural schools with the private sector and employers and the development of the frameworks of the contracting system for learning in the labour market. In addition, the buildings of seven official agricultural technical schools in the Ministry of Agriculture will be rehabilitated and laboratories and field training fields will be equipped in schools. These new technical learning opportunities will increase the chance of youth to access better jobs in the agriculture and agro-industry sectors.



Rural Entrepreneurship Academy

Funded by FAO Technical Cooperation Programme

Period: 2019 – 2021

The project aims at improving livelihood opportunities of vulnerable small-scale producers and smallholder entrepreneurs working in agribusiness, forest, and rangeland-based production within rural areas. This is to help them meet different challenges and enable them to effectively manage their businesses. The project focuses on enhancing the individual and institutional skills of beneficiaries by organizing training activities and mentoring services that respond to the needs, weaknesses, and challenges of each individual and the targeted institutions.

Promotion of Good Agricultural Practices, including Integrated Pest Management, to reduce agrochemical pollution in upper Litani basin

Funded by the World Bank

Period: 2017 – 2021

The project aims at reducing the Litani River and Qaraoun lake water pollution from agrochemicals by adopting sustainable crop production systems in the upper Litani basin through introduction and promotion of Good Agricultural Practices. The project is targeting potato and lettuce farmers in the Cazas of Zahle and Western Bekaa, through the establishment of Comparative Pilot Plots to compare farmers' traditional practices with Integrated Crop Management Practices.

Prevention of Agrochemical Pollution in the Upper Litani Basin

Funded by Kingdom of Norway

Period: 2018 – 2020

This project has the same objectives of the above-mentioned project but extends the geographic coverage of all activities to the Caza of Baalbek.



Implementing the 2030 Agenda for water efficiency/productivity and water sustainability in NENA countries

Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Period: 2016 – 2021

The project aims at enhancing food security in the NENA region by implementing water sustainability, renewable energy and climate resilient agenda and to achieve the water-related SDG (6.4) to 2030. In Lebanon, the project focuses on conducting water accounting assessments and on increasing water productivity through the establishment of two Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to help adopt good agricultural and water efficiency practices.





Improved Water Resources Monitoring System/Integrated Water Resources Management at regional level in Lebanon

Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Period: 2017 – 2021

The project aims at providing the North Lebanon Water Establishment with effective means to monitor water resources in El-Bared Watershed in Akkar and Menieh. Thus, supporting its institutional decision-making and resources planning for improved water resources monitoring, developing its capacity to raise institutional performance.

It also provides effective mechanisms to enable data sharing amongst stakeholders and transfer of informed decisions to end users.

Rehabilitation and waste management of El-Bared Canal Irrigation System to reduce source-to-sea pollution and improve the livelihoods in the Akkar Region of Lebanon

Funded by Norway

Period: 2020 – 2022

The project aims at improving the livelihoods of the local communities utilizing the system through solid waste disposal, rehabilitation of irrigation canal systems, improved agricultural output and job creation.

It works on rehabilitating the irrigation canal systems and installing trash removal structures through the employment of local labor, expanding and strengthening the water quality monitoring at key locations across the irrigation canal system and building the capacity of the North Lebanon Water Establishment on water quality monitoring and water pollution prevention.

Smart Adaptation of Forest Landscapes in Mountain Areas (SALMA)

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Period: 2016 – 2021

The project's main objective is to enhance the resilience of vulnerable forest ecosystems and rural communities in mountain areas to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Responding to the National Afforestation and Reforestation Program, also known as the "40 Million Trees Program", SALMA will contribute to the achievement of reduced soil and water erosion, forest fire prevention and control, forest pest management, diversification of livelihood income (from ecosystem services) of 24 vulnerable communities, and improved adaptive capacity of these communities through reforestation/afforestation and sustainable and participative forest management at the landscape level.

The project aims to increase the size of Lebanon's forest edifices and promote adaptation to climate change in vulnerable forest ecosystems, while promoting the resilience and livelihoods of vulnerable rural communities through reforestation/afforestation of 664 ha (more than 332 000 trees) and sustainable management of more than 1 000 ha of forests, securing more than 100 000 working days to vulnerable communities and displaced Syrians. Interventions also focus on reducing the risk of forest fires by adopting improved and innovative integrated management practices. The project is developing a full survey of forests and pastures and an electronic national forest registration system at the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, a communication strategy to promote the "40 Million Trees Program" is developed.





The Paris Agreement in Action: Upscaling Forest and Landscape Restoration to Achieve Nationally Determined Contributions

Funded by IKI, Germany
Period: 2019 – 2022

The project will support the Ministry of Agriculture and enhance its capacity to carry out rehabilitation projects of natural landscapes, forests and rangelands in particular. As such, the project aims to achieve the rehabilitation of about 1 000 hectares of rangelands in two areas of Lebanon, build the capacity of the ministry's technical staff in land rehabilitation and monitoring techniques and support its drive to modernize the forests and rangelands law. The project will also explore the means that endorse the ministry's work in securing sustainable financing mechanisms for projects that rehabilitate productive ecosystems. Finally, it will strengthen the capabilities of local partners, raise awareness and share knowledge among different entities through a series of workshops that take into account national priorities.

Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Refugee Communities through Cash-for-Work

Funded by the Government of Korea
Period: 2019 – 2020

In collaboration with the Ministry of the Agriculture and the Municipality of Anjar, the project implements reforestation and forest management activities over an area of 25 ha and 9 km of roads borders and sustainable management of 27 ha in Anjar. This is done through recruiting Lebanese and displaced Syrians laborers from Anjar and nearby communities (more than 150 households and 11 000 days of work).

Assessment for Replacement of Illegal Fishing Gears in Lebanon

Funded by FAO Technical Cooperation Programme
Period: 2019 – 2021

The project will support the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to develop its capacity to accurately assess the extent of use of illegal fishing gears and related activities. It will demonstrate through a pilot activity, the advantages of using appropriate legal fishing gears. This will contribute to improving the livelihoods of fishers through the introduction of sustainable fisheries management. It will also support in updating the MoA Strategic Plan. A Marine Fishing Vessel Census will also be carried out in 2020.

Scientific and Institutional Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries- EastMed ECY9

Funded by the European Union
Duration: 2019 – 2020

The overall objective of this regional project is to enhance national capacities for fisheries management by promoting technical and institutional capacity development. The project will strengthen as well sub-regional cooperation for the management of shared resources in the Eastern Mediterranean through jointly addressing pressing issues affecting the sustainability of fisheries.



All these projects were implemented between 2016 – 2020 with the generous support of:



Funded by the European Union



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Canada



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Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



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WORLD BANK GROUP



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE INITIATIVE (IKI)

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



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