



Lebanon and FAO

*Partnering for sustainable agricultural and rural development
and management of natural resources*

Lebanon joined FAO in 1945 as a founding member of the Organization. In February 1977, FAO and Lebanon signed an agreement to establish a country Representation in Beirut, the first ever to be set up by the Organization. In 2016, the partnership took on a new dimension with the agreement to establish FAO's new Subregional Office for the Mashreq Countries in Beirut. The Office will be serving Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Iran, in addition to Lebanon.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN LEBANON

Established in 1977, the FAO Representation in Lebanon is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Over the past 40 years, FAO 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, in the context of the crisis in Syria, FAO has been supporting the coordination and planning of humanitarian assistance to Lebanon.

Channeling support to key thematic areas

FAO support has been focusing on the following priority areas:

- **Promoting agricultural and rural development.** Activities include support to agricultural production systems in order to overcome production and marketing constraints, boosting investment in agriculture and assisting small-scale family farmers in their efforts to reduce production costs, increase quality and face post-harvest barriers. Strengthening agricultural cooperatives and producers' associations is another key area of work.

Matching FAO's expertise to Lebanon's development priorities

FAO assistance in Lebanon is shaped by the 2016-2019 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is centered on two main government priority areas of technical cooperation:

- Expanding economic and livelihood opportunities for the benefit of local economies and the most vulnerable communities;
- Improving the performance of the agriculture sector with respect to economic, social, environmental and sustainable rural development.

Jointly prepared with the Government and other development partners, the CPF reflects the main priorities in key relevant national development strategies and plans, including the Strategy for the Ministry of Agriculture (2015-2019), the Lebanon National Forestry Programme (2015-2025) and the Strategic Roadmap in Support of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Lebanon (2014-2019). Furthermore, the CPF contributes to FAO's Strategic Objectives and is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

- **Enhancing the resilience of communities hosting Syrian refugees:** investments in agricultural infrastructure and agri-food value chains are being promoted to generate employment and other livelihood opportunities, particularly in the main rural regions where the majority of host communities are located.
- **Promoting sustainable management of natural resources:** activities include the application of climate-smart agricultural technologies, including efficient irrigation techniques and good agricultural practices; and support to long-term reforestation efforts, in particular the Government's "40 Million Trees Programme".

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Selected results of Lebanon-FAO cooperation

- In 2014 and 2015, FAO conducted a nationwide livestock vaccination campaign covering up to 95 percent of cattle, sheep and goats in Lebanon. As a result, the national herd was protected from outbreaks of transboundary animal diseases originating from Syria and farmers have been able to keep their livestock assets – their only source of income – as well as their access of animal protein.
- In 2014, FAO successfully introduced quinoa production in Lebanon, while fostering the transfer of related knowledge and techniques, and developing a basis for a sustainable national strategy for the integration of quinoa in the farming systems.
- Known as the “40 Million Trees Programme”, Lebanon’s National Afforestation and Reforestation Plan was formulated with FAO technical support and officially launched by the Government in December 2012.

Working together

Enhanced livelihoods and food security for vulnerable Lebanese women through improved dairy production and processing activities.

FAO provided assistance to 130 small dairy producers and 130 dairy processors (women) to raise income levels as a result of improved milk quality and dairy products. Thanks to a substantial reduction in bacteriological contamination and the higher quality of milk produced, consumer safety has been improved and producers and processors are obtaining higher revenues for their produce.

Project funded by Italy (US\$400 000, 2016-2017)

Boosting the resilience of small-scale family farming through the establishment of semi-intensive egg production units.

By providing technical support for egg production and marketing, this project aims to improve food security, nutrition and livelihoods of vulnerable Lebanese households affected by the Syria crisis. As a result, households’ access to high-quality protein sources and income have been improved.

Project funded by the EU (3 million euros, 2016-2017)

Strengthening and modernizing the national agricultural statistics system.

FAO is helping to strengthen the Ministry of Agriculture’s technical capacity for generating and processing agricultural statistics. The resulting improvements in the availability of agricultural information and evidence basis for decision-making is helping efforts to increase agricultural production and competitiveness and improve food systems and livelihoods.

Project funded by the EU (US\$870 000, 2014-2017)

Smart Adaptation of Forest Landscapes in Mountain Areas (SALMA).

This initiative is contributing towards the Government’s “40 Million Trees Programme”, while also helping communities increase their resilience to climate change-related erosion, outbreaks of forest pests and the risk of forest fire.

Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), (US\$7.15 million, 2016-2021)

National Centre for Forestry Seeds of Lebanon (NCFSL)

The NCFSL supports implementation of the “40 Million Trees Programme” with the provision of high-quality plant material and information on seed provenance. The establishment of a forestry seeds center will ensure the quality and traceability of the reproductive material, while also allowing the storage of seeds from the country’s best areas to be used for reforestation. This will in turn lead to higher resilience of plants to the impact of climate extremes.

Project funded by Norway (US\$370 000, 2016-2018)

Promotion of agriculture livelihoods and employment through investment in land reclamation and water reservoirs.

The project will support the Green Plan to provide matching grants to small farmers to invest in land reclamation and water reservoirs. FAO assistance will improve the livelihood of 1220 small farmers through land reclamation and water conservation and improve their know-how in establishing and managing orchards and irrigation systems. The project will create over 80 000 person/days job opportunities in the construction and agriculture sectors.

Project funded by the Netherlands (US\$8.25 million, 2017-2020)

Upgrading the Technical Agriculture Education System in Lebanon

The project will help rehabilitating and upgrading the agricultural technical schools in Lebanon and modernizing their curricula. Young Lebanese and displaced Syrians will have the possibility to enroll in a three-year Agricultural Technical Baccalauréat (BTA) and/or in short-term vocational training courses. These new technical learning opportunities will increase their chance to access decent jobs in the agriculture and agro-industry sectors.

Project funded by the Netherlands (US\$5.2 million, 2017-2020)

“Agriculture and food security are the entry points for growth and development strategies in many countries.”

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General