



Lebanon Recovery Fund

LRF Newsletter

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Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Beqaa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Uplands Project Phase II (FAO)

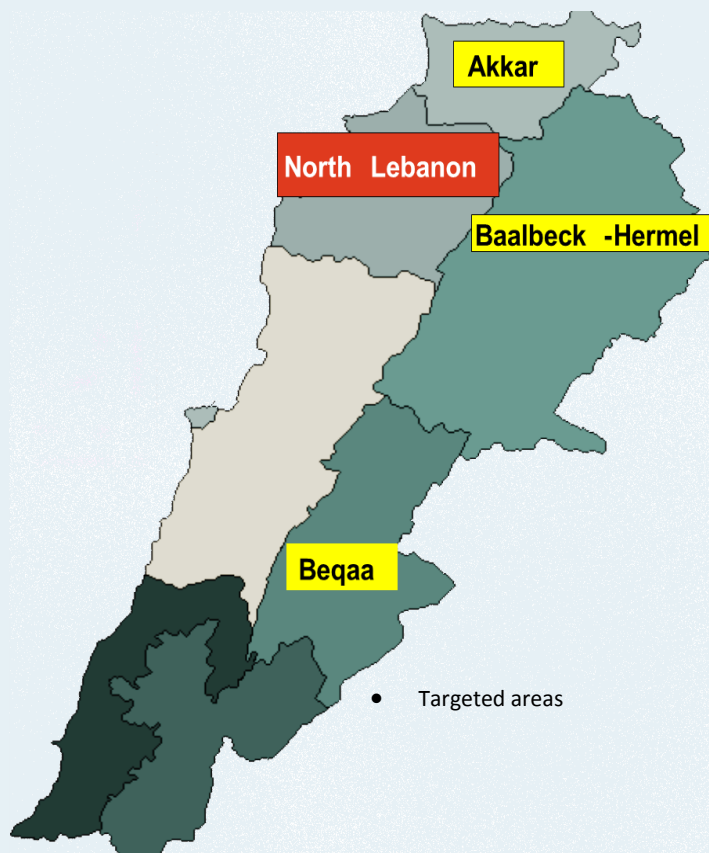
The LRF has funded a second phase of the “Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Beqaa Valley and Hermel – Akkar Uplands Project” with an amount of USD 1.2 million to support the dairy sector in Lebanon.

LRF 26 is expected to target 300 villages in Akkar, North Lebanon, Baalbeck – Hermel and Beqaa.

In this context, the project Steering Committee met on 31 May 2012, in the presence of Mr. Ali Moumen, FAO Representative in Lebanon, Mr. Salah Hajj Hasan, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, and the project’s team to discuss and approve the project’s activities and relevant action plan and timeline.

The new project, LRF 26, targets 2000 direct beneficiaries through the provision of small and medium equipment; and 1000 indirect beneficiaries through the capacity building component of the project

LRF 26 will introduce as well pilot demonstrations on improved milking goats to increase the income of poor families living from goat rearing.



Best Pruning Practices for viticulture conditions in Deir el Ahmar Area (UNDP)

Within the framework of the Flood Risk Prevention and Management Project in Baalbeck (LRF 17), on-site training session on the best pruning practices for viticulture conditions has been organized in Deir el Ahmar area on 22 March 2012. The training session introduced the farmers in the area to the different varieties of grapes for viticulture, in addition to the relevant irrigation needs and pruning methodologies.

A follow up training session on modern irrigation techniques of vineyards took place on 15 May 2012 during which pocket guides on vineyard pruning were distributed to the farmers and to the municipality.



Identifying the optimal crop type and cropping pattern in Marjeyoun areas (UNDP)

The Hydro Agriculture Development Project for Marjeyoun Area, LRF 23, has completed a study identifying the optimal crop type and cropping pattern for around 520 ha suitable for irrigation land distributed in the five villages (Borghouz, Blat, Jdeidet Marjeyoun, Debbine and Ebel el Saki) targeted by the project, taking into account the potential irrigation supply from CANAL 800. The objective of the cropping pattern is to propose the most suitable crop type and patterns that would maximize the benefit from the available water, increase the land productivity and raise farmers' income.

The study adopted the optimization models for the selection of the best cropping pattern with respect to the environmental parameters including climate conditions, agriculture structure and land tenure, socio-economic conditions of the farmers and the type of the water resources.

Furthermore, LRF 23 has designed a collective irrigation network for the targeted area. It is expected that the irrigation water supplied through the collective irrigation network will increase the area occupied with high value crops especially in the summer season. Compared with the current situation, the application of the adequate crop pattern with the amount of water supplied through the network will crease the income of farmers by about 235%.



Support for livelihoods and Economic Recovery Project LRF 2/20 (UNIDO)

One year after its closure in May 2011, the “Support for livelihood and Economic Recovery Project” in its two phases succeeded in restoring 85 agro-enterprises, creating 655 full-time jobs, and benefiting 490 beneficiaries through the capacity building program organized by the project in North Lebanon, Southern Suburbs of Beirut and Beqaa Valley. The success of the project has been rewarded by a new project adopting the same lines of interventions entitled “Community Empowerment and Livelihoods Enhancement Project” (CELEP), funded by the Government of Italy and implemented by UNIDO in partnership with an Italian NGO, the Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria (ICU) in close collaboration with both Ministries of Industry and Agriculture.

Today, six agro-food facilities that received initial support through the LRF 2 and 20 projects have benefited from the CELEP interventions in rehabilitating their workplaces according to International Hygiene and Safety Standards, and upgrading their equipment to improve the production capacity and quality to access the market places with a competitive chance. An impact survey is to be conducted at the end of the project to assess the improvement achieved with regard to the production capacity, job opportunities creation and products marketing.



Hot Water for Roumieh Prison (UNDP)

Within the framework of CEDRO Project, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and the Ministry of Energy and Water, UNDP has equipped Roumieh prison with solar water heater systems with a total cost of USD 500,000. Roumieh prison includes around 4,000 detainees distributed among five buildings with no centralized system to provide the prisoners with hot water, a necessary requirement to preserve the hygiene of the prison, especially in winter. The prisoners used to rely on personal methods of heating water such as electrical heating elements, mostly resistors, to heat their water. This method of heating water has several drawbacks, one of which is the increased electrical consumption in the prison. CEDRO set up an array of 738 square meters of solar panels on the roof of the five buildings, to generate and store 44,000 liters of hot water. The system is expected to save the prison up to USD 31000 per year.

The Village Dairy Producers Association in Ghazza and Surroundings – A successful development model (FAO)

One year after its establishment in May 2011, the Village Dairy Producers Association in Ghazza and Surroundings is achieving remarkable results through the cooperative work of the members. Around 50 dairy farmers in Ghazza village and surroundings are benefiting from the support of the milk collection center owned by the Association.

The Center provides the dairy farmers with milk cooling and testing services in addition to milk transportation to the dairy industries in refrigerated trucks. The farmers are paid 850LBP/liter of milk, while the association is selling the milk at 1025LBP/liter. The additional costs are intended to sustain the administrative and logistical work of the Association.

Today, the Association’s capital amounts to LBP 50 million. The Association was able to appoint a full time accountant to follow up on the financial aspects pertaining to its daily operations, in addition to the establishment of a small dairy factory to process the extra liters of raw milk and produce a variety of dairy products.



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