



Lebanon Recovery Fund

LRF Newsletter

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The Sun Shines on Lebanese Public School Students

Lebanon schools are benefitting from a constant supply of electricity in their classrooms and offices due to the installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems implemented by CEDRO , providing an alternative and cleaner source of energy.

The inauguration of the PV systems took place at Kfour Governmental School, in the Qaza of Nabatieh, under the auspices of the Spanish Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Juan Carlos Gafo, the UNDP Country Director, Mr. Shomby Sharp, and Ms. Nashat Habhab, Regional Educational Manager, representing the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.



The event was open to all students in the South of Lebanon aged between six and 12 belonging to schools in which CEDRO has implemented a PV project. Three hundred students attended the event in each of the South, Akkar, and the Bekaa, totaling 900 students.

The inauguration also drew the attention of children and parents to the importance of energy conservation through a theatrical performance of a comedy by Bee Event. “The Little Engineer,” a company committed to providing an educational environment for young children and teens through entertainment, directed workshops and demonstrated the effectiveness of power houses, teaching the 900 students to build solar miniature powered houses “Installing these systems must come with ingraining the necessary awareness of the relationship between climate change, energy efficiency, and renewable energy,” said Shombi Sharp. “We may think that the school children here cannot afford to purchase renewable energy systems, and therefore we should not really be building awareness on something that many cannot presently afford. However the children here are between six and 12 years old.

In 1980, the cost of PV panels was around USD 22,000 per KW. Today they are USD 4,000 per KW. I believe in 10-15 years, when these school children are working grown-ups, PV systems will be a competitive choice for these young kids,” he added.

The CEDRO project, which is funded by the government of Spain through the LRF, is part of a larger program being carried out by UNDP to assist in the country’s recovery from the 2006 conflict with Israel, which devastated the livelihoods of thousands of people, disrupted the education of all school-aged children, and destroyed a large part of the infrastructure in the south. Thirty-six more PV sites are being implemented by CEDRO across Lebanon, 17 of which are in schools.

These systems are providing energy autonomy for schools across Lebanon. Given that average blackouts in Lebanon amount to six hours per day but can last for much longer in some regions, the PV systems are providing schools with constant power supply. Many schools have told CEDRO that they no longer use back-up diesel for their electricity generation during blackouts, relying entirely on the PV system. The systems work best as schools they turn on their photocopying machines and other appliances when the sun is shining the brightest, as it does for at least 300 days per year in Lebanon.

Trading the bitter taste of tobacco farming for the freshness of oregano

Forty-one-year-old Hassan Bazzi has worked since the age of seven on the year-long cultivation of his family's 8,000 square meter tobacco farm. He is one of 25,000 families in southern Lebanon – some 60 per cent of the region's population – who rely on the state-subsidized tobacco sector for their livelihood. Much of the world's tobacco is farmed by working children, and Lebanon is no exception. Tobacco cultivation is often a family affair, leading to children being pulled out of school and women being overworked. Over a third of Lebanon's estimated 100,000 child labourers work on tobacco farms. Tobacco cultivation is both labour-intensive and exhausting. Men, women and children who work on tobacco farms endure long hours of stoop labour and suffer exposure to nicotine and pesticides. It also leads to environmental degradation: the use of wood for curing contributes to deforestation; pesticides pollute the soil and water supplies; and the great need for irrigation depletes water reserves. But despite its travails, tobacco has been the main cash crop in south Lebanon for centuries and it remains the only type of farming benefiting from state subsidies and a developed market infrastructure.



This renders farmers reluctant to transition to less hazardous, more profitable and environmentally sustainable alternatives. "I had long wanted to make a switch but wasn't aware of any viable alternatives until our local cooperative was approached by the International Labour Organization about oregano production," says Hassan. Oregano farming is part of a comprehensive support package launched by the ILO, and funded by the Lebanon Recovery Fund, in 2008 to assist socio-economic recovery in areas of south Lebanon affected by the 2006 July war. Through 12 partner cooperatives, ILO trained over 110 producers in 28 villages on how to prepare the soil, plant and cultivate oregano, and provided seeds and irrigation materials.

The oregano plants also served as aromatic flowers for the beehives being maintained by ILO-supported beekeepers nearby. "Our home had been badly damaged and our harvest burnt during the war, so we welcomed the ILO's assistance. At first, we planted one dunum (1000 square meters) each, as a trial. I'm now in my third season and have dedicated half of my land – four dunums – entirely to oregano," says Hassan. Hassan is making this transition because, compared with tobacco farming, oregano is low-cost, consumes less water and requires less effort. It can also be more profitable: harvesting oregano instead of tobacco can lead to an annual income increase of 850,000L.L per family. However, despite the success of individual producers in marketing their oregano, particularly for use in the Lebanese staple zaatar – which consists of dried oregano and sumac, sesame seeds and salt – sustained support at the national level remains a challenge.



News

A twelve minutes documentary has been designed and produced to present the major results achieved by the LRF in providing the people of Lebanon with direct and long-term socio-economic development after the 2006 war. The documentary has been finalized and will be available on the LRF webpage before the end of 2011.

Opening Ceremony of three Milk Collection Centers in Baalbeck

The FAO Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Beqaa and Hermel Project – LRF 21, organized a large ceremony in Kayyal and Labwe villages in Akkar uplands, on November 5th, to inaugurate 3 centers for milk collection equipped by the project. The ceremony was sponsored by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Hussein el Haj Hassan and the FAO Representative in Lebanon, Dr. Ali Moumen, in the presence of a large number of milk farmers and milk production employees.

The 3 centers will be handed over to the farmers' cooperative established previously by the project in the area. The centers are to serve as pilot facilities for milk collection and cooling for the small dairy holders and producers with a total capacity of 12 tons/day. The project equipped the centers with milk cooling tanks, milk reception tanks, weighing, filtering and pumping tools in addition to the necessary laboratory equipment for milk testing. Three electric generators were as well installed at the centers to ensure continuous circuit for milk conservation and hygiene.



Karkaf is a village in Akkar rich with olive trees. The olive farmers are facing a shortage in the availability of skilled labor force to harvest their crops, in addition to the increase in the cost of harvesting that can reach a peak of 50,000 LBP per 100 KG of olives. In a step to contribute to the recovery of the region and to improve the livelihood of olive farmers and their families, UNDP, through the LRF project, had provided the agricultural development cooperative in Karkaf with power olive harvesters that resulted in cutting down the harvesting cost by half for the farmers and the cooperative.

At the beginning, the cooperative faced challenges to convince the olive farmers to use the powered harvesters as they were not accustomed to use automated harvesting technologies. However, as soon as some of Karkaf's farmers started using the powered harvesters with satisfying results in terms of decrease in cost, time, and labor force, the remaining farmers were convinced and started requesting the cooperative's services to rent out the powered harvesters. A total of 120 farmers benefited from the powered harvesters in 2011. The daily rental fees of the harvesters reached a maximum of 75,000 LBP with almost 50% cut down in the harvesting cost. The farmers' cooperatives are planning to increase the number of the powered harvesters from their own resources.

Upcoming Events

The Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Beqaa and Hermel Project – LRF 21, will organize a big ceremony 4th of February, to grant 135 smallholders women-headed households from six caza in Akkar area with 135 medium and mini dairies with their accessories for making home processing dairy products.

Women Capacity Building Cooperative in Bebnine is succeeding in expanding the fishing nets market to Tabarja, Batroun and Saïda.

الجمعية التعاونية لتنمية قدرات المرأة في ببنين

قرار رقم 1/34 ت

الخدمات المقدمة

حياكة الشباك

ضرب كافة أنواع الشباك على مدار السنة لمعظم الأراضي اللبنانية

تأمين مواد أولية

بيع شباك الصيد على أنواعها بالإضافة إلى مستلزماتها: حبال، رصاص، قطين، خيطان ضرب

صيانة الشباك

إستصلاح الشباك الممزقة وتقرير الشباك القديمة من الرصاص والفلين

دورات تدريبية

تدريب الأفراد والجماعات النسائية على تقنيات حرفة حياكة الشباك



تطلب خدمات ومزيد من المعلومات الرجاء زيارة مركز التعاونية القائم في ببنين، الطريق العام مفرق حي العين أو الإتصل على الرقم التالي 71- 750265 البريد الإلكتروني itting-coop.Bebnine@hotmail.com



من نحن:

نحن عدد من سيدات ببنين العاملات في قطاع حياكة شباك الصيد. نوجدنا لجمعية التعاونية ضمن مبادئ المساواة، العدالة، الديمقراطية، والتضامن

ما هي أهدافنا:

تنمية قطاع حياكة شباك الصيد وتطوير الكفاءة الإنتاجية للسيدات، زيادة مداخيل الأعضاء وتحسين فرص الوصول إلى الأسواق

ما هي رؤيتنا:

رى أن العمل التعاوني هو ركيزة لتلبية حاجتنا الاقتصادية والاجتماعية من خلال مشروع تتوافق فيه الديمقراطية الإدارية والرقابية وان الشراكة بين التعاونيات والمؤسسات هي أساس لتجاح العمل التعاوني

تعاملوا معنا للحصول على خدمة حياكة الشباك بأحسن نوعية وكثافة وبطريقة شفافة ومستدامة

Funded by the LRF, UNDP implemented a project to improve the livelihood conditions of the communities surrounding Nahr el Bared Camp. The initiative taken in Bebnine village was the establishment of a cooperative for Bebnine's women who are known for mastering the art of producing fishing nets. The project intervened in providing the women with ergonomic tools to adjust their postures while stitching the nets in addition to creating the convenient working environment in terms of light and comfort. Bebnine's women has significantly increased.

In a step to promote and market their products, Bebnine's women expanded their market to other geographical areas through direct deals with the fishermen in North and South Lebanon. LBCI had an interview with the cooperative's Head and few members who acknowledged the positive impact achieved by the project intervention on their livelihood conditions. Bebnine's success project is to be replicated in similar potential villages in Lebanon .

Implementing UN Agencies



Governmental Partners

