



## **THREE-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT LEBANON RECOVERY FUND**

**Reporting UN Participating Organisation: FAO**

**Country: Lebanon**

LRF-21 OSRO/LEB/901/UNJ – Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Bekâa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Uplands

**Reporting Period: 1 May to 30 June 2010**

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### **LRF-21 OSRO/LEB/901/UNJ – Recovery of the Dairy Sector in the Bekâa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Uplands**

- **Main objectives and outcomes expected as per approved Project/Programme/project Document.**

The aim of this project is to enable the recovery-rehabilitation and assistance to the livelihoods of vulnerable livestock keepers (almost one-third of whom are female-headed families) from Central Bekâa Valley, North Akkar and Hermel-Akkar Highlands, who are currently unable to keep up with the serious competition in the sub-sector. Farmers will draw indirect benefits from the project through veterinary and artificial insemination services as well as training sessions. The proposed project therefore aims to provide the basic needs for livestock keepers and farmers to resume production and income-generation activities

- **Reference to how the project relates to the national priorities and how it aims to support national reconstruction goals of Lebanon.**

The aim of this project is to enable recovery-rehabilitation and assistance to the livelihoods of vulnerable livestock keepers in Central Bekâa Valley, North Akkar and Hermel-Akkar Highlands who are resource poor, with little or no assistance and currently unable to keep up with the highly competitive animal production sub-sector. Livestock farmers will draw indirect benefits from the project through veterinary and artificial insemination services as well as training sessions. The proposed project is also aiming to provide alternative income-generating activities to the poorest farmers with the highest level of socio-economic deprivation in Hermel-Akkar highlands in order to reduce their dependence on illicit crops.

- **A listing of the main international and national implementing partners involved.**

FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture

## **II. RESOURCES**

**Total Programme/Project Budget: US\$2 500 000**

LRF: US\$2 500 000

Government Input: US\$ 0

Other: US\$ 0

Total: US\$2 500 000

## **MAIN BUDGET ACTIVITIES:**

The procurement of milking machines and milk cans have begun during the second quarter and . In the last quarter of 2009, animal feed and milk collection equipment was purchased and distributed to farmers. The in the next reporting period; therefore, expenditures to report under this first reporting period of this project is low and covers mainly staffing. Animal production experts completed surveys and identifying project sites and beneficiaries all Central Bekaa and Hermel Highlands at the full satisfaction of the Ministry of Agriculture.

### **Budget: commitment and disbursement:**

<b>OSRO/LEB/702/LEB</b>		
Item	Approved Budget (in US\$):	Estimated Disbursement/ Commitment (in US\$)
Personnel and travel:	645 000	340 937
Contracts	100 000	0
Training	125 000	7 138
Equipment and supplies:	1 302 500	50 741
Miscellaneous/Other:	164 000	43 931
Agency Support Costs:	163 500	23 016
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2 500 000</b>	<b>465 763</b>

### **Personnel and travel costs:**

FAO expenditures for personnel and travel cover honorarium to the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and technical mission from FAO Headquarters Animal Production Officer to Lebanon for training of government counterparts. Costs for local technical consultants are also included in these expenditures.

Item:	Approved Budget cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement/Commitment (US\$)
Personnel and travel:	645 000	340 937

### **Equipment and animal production supplies:**

FAO plans to procure inputs valued at US\$1 302 500 and includes rehabilitation of six dairy collection centres , dairy equipment, artificial insemination, veterinary drugs, animal feeds, forage seeds and fertilizer. During the reporting period, FAO procured a 4WD pick up truck which will be retrofitted into a refrigerated truck for milk collection from farms to milk collection centres. In addition, tendering milking machines and milk cans are underway.

Item:	Approved Budgeted cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement /Commitment (US\$)
Equipment and feed:	1 302 500	50 741

### **Training**

FAO carried out training to livestock and veterinary field technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture during the reporting period.

Item:	Approved Budgeted cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement /Commitment (US\$)
Training:	125 000	7 138

### **Other costs (General Operating Expenses, and Miscellaneous):**

Expenses under "Other", which groups budget lines such as contracts, general operating expenses, miscellaneous and overhead costs are indicated below. Full charge to support costs appears only on delivery of project activities.

Item:	Approved Budget cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement/Commitment (US\$)
Other:	164 000	43 931

## **RESULTS**

### **Outcome:**

To enable recover-rehabilitation and assistance to vulnerable livestock keepers in Central Bekâa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Highlands and alternative income-generating activities to the poorest farmers to help reduce dependency on trading illicit crops.

### **Outputs:**

#### Output 1:

- Assist identified resource-poor families through restocking of livestock;

#### Output 2:

- setting up six primary milk collection points through the creation of “village dairy cooperative” in order to provide services to dairy farmers (extension and farm inputs);
- provision of milk collection trucks to provide collection services for farmers in remote areas. The milk in these remotest areas of Lebanon provide the best milk due to the excellent grazing conditions in the highlands;
- training on improved dairy production and hygiene to farmers, demonstration and study tours;
- artificial insemination services, distribution of veterinary drugs and forage seeds.

### **Progress:**

During the reporting period, the CTA carried out the training of livestock and veterinary field technicians from 14 to 20 June. The focus of the training was on feed management, profitability of dairy farms, animal diseases related to feeding disorders and animal disease prevention and treatment. The field technicians also participated in field visits to on-farm demonstrations of dairy production and processing.

In the Bekâa and Akkar region, there is a total of 2 065 dairy farmers, of which 310 farmers are women and their role is mainly to take care of the cows. The average number of dependants for farmers is five to eight family members. The majority of farmers have poor living standards. Milk production is low and the total quantity of milk produced daily is 28 tons with an average of nine kg of milk per cow per day. Farmers still use rudimentary utensils and the hygiene level is low. Through this project, FAO is planning to help farmers increase milk production, increase farmer’s knowledge and capacity and improve hygiene.

Poor milk practices and handling are the major causes of low quality standards and low milk prices. Almost all the farmers and milk dealers use obsolete milk cans and milk cows by hand. These unhygienic methods are the source of contaminated milk.

Therefore, in order to improve milk quality standards, FAO has begun the tendering of equipment as follows: 350 milking machines and 1200 stainless steel milk cans and 1200 milk filters. This equipment will be distributed to low-income and vulnerable beneficiaries that own between three to six cows.

### **Procurement and delivery of project inputs:**

The procurement of all project inputs will take place during the second and third reporting period in 2010. A procurement plan was developed during the reporting period, which includes dairy processing equipment, veterinary drugs, artificial insemination, feed concentrate and forage.

### **4. Training and Capacity Building:**

Training to livestock farmers is planned to be after the distribution of animal production supplies. Training to dairy processing plant staff and farmers will be provided before, during and after the delivery of dairy processing supplies.

**Implementation constraints, lessons learned from addressing these and knowledge gained from evaluations and studies that have taken place during the reporting period.**

As the project activities are just getting started, no current implementation constraints.

**Key partnerships and inter-agency collaboration: impact on results.**

- Close collaboration with the MOA as the main national counterpart is continuous.
- Close collaboration with UNDP.

**Other highlights and cross cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.**

FAO's livestock project has targeted the resource-poor livestock keepers in targeted villages and this support will help in various cross-cutting issues such as poverty alleviation and food security. Livestock around the world are considered a valuable asset and animal production provides needed household income and provides the necessary nutrients to supplement the family diet.

**FUTURE WORK PLAN**

- **Priority actions planned for the subsequent reporting period to overcome constraints, build on achievements and partnerships, and use the lessons learned during the previous period.**

None.

**Indication of major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs.**

As per the request of the Minister of Agriculture, the component of livestock distribution was replaced with rehabilitation of milk collection centres and purchase of trucks to benefit vulnerable communities living in the Bekâa region.

- **Estimated Budget required (including any major funding shortfalls).**

None.