



## **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 January to 31 March 2011

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

- **Project Summary:**

The project LRF-21 OSRO/LEB/901/UNJ, is aiming at recovery-rehabilitation dairy sub-sector Bekaa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Highlands with emphasis on increasing milk production and hygiene, farm dairying incomes and living standards, especially of the poor small dairy holders.

**During the reporting period the project achieved the major following activities:**

Support to the legal procedures for the establishment of five village dairy producers' association (VDPAs) covering all dairy villages and farmers in Akkar areas, in this way the project completed the establishment procedures for the 23 Village Dairy Producer's Associations in project areas (Beqaa and Akkar).

FAO project proceeded along with the comprehensive training already started beginning December 2011 in Beqaa-Hermel to help increase small livestock holder dairy productivity. Training sessions on: 1) improving milk hygiene and sanitary conditions with good practices of milking procedures and dairy feeding and fodder crops were also extended to the five VDPAs in Akkar, where 385 dairy farmers attended the training sessions (approximately 30% of the trainees are women who are mainly involved in milk production).

The project procured and delivered 350 milking machines, cleaning detergents and disinfectants (to 350 beneficiaries), and 1 200 stainless steel milk cans and 1 200 milk filters (to 1200 beneficiaries) for to low-income and vulnerable beneficiaries who own between 2 to 10 cows. The project applied transparent criteria for selecting the most eligible and needy ones.

Technical specifications for essential tools and utensils for milk testing, receiving, filtration and refrigeration such as: milk cooling tanks, generators, milk testing and analysis kits, detergents and utensils for cleaning of cooling were prepared and the tendering is now at stage of selection of suppliers, delivery of equipment is planned for second quarter of 2011.

Also technical specifications for essential tools and utensils for home dairy processing to support dairy smallholders and particularly women headed households for improving and upgrading their capabilities to produce healthy dairy products while getting added value to their milk, were prepared during this reporting period and are currently under tendering.

The LRF – FAO project personnel and vehicles were engaged during this reporting period with the MOA veterinarians and technicians to support a national vaccination campaign for the Foot and Mouth Disease in the Bekaa area (approximately 10 000 animals are vaccinated).

The FAO project has close collaboration with MOA, other UN agencies and partners. A workshop was held, jointly between FAO Dairy project / Royal Netherlands Embassy Beirut, for 33 veterinarians from Bekaa region. Also, the project participated to a dairy sector coordination meeting organised by the United Nations Resident Coordinator Sub-Office, North Lebanon.

The priority action plans for the project during the next reporting period include several interventions: preparation of technical specification for the remaining supplies, supervision of primary milk collection network at village levels, empowerment of dairy small producers and VDPA's in milk collection and marketing, through reviving the 8 existing MOA' milk transportation trucks, milk testing and analysis of milk samples and building capacity with production of extension materials.

- **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 Bekaa 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 Bekaa 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 is the implementing partner of operations, including the preparation of technical specifications for identified inputs to farmers, procurement, distribution and training.

The Ministry of Agriculture collaborates fully with FAO on validating all project inputs and beneficiary selection and locations of the field operations. In addition, the MoA provides staff for training of beneficiaries on animal production techniques and assistance in institutionalizing the Dairy Cooperatives in the Bekaa Valley.

## **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 delivery of milking machines and milk cans was completed during the reporting period. Training on good agriculture and dairy production techniques to farmers was conducted during the reporting period as well as continued milk testing and analysis of dairy farmers to measure the quality and safety of milk at the farm level. FAO initiated formalities for organizing farmer cooperatives in the project region and is working with the Ministry of Agriculture in rehabilitating the milk collection centres in Bekaa.

**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	328 828
Contracts	100 000	0
Training	125 000	36 273
Equipment and supplies:	1 302 500	408 780
Miscellaneous/Other:	164 000	146 245
Agency Support Costs:	163 500	112 258
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2 500 000</b>	<b>1 032 384</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. 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	328 828

**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, 300 milking machines and 1,200 milking cans were delivered to Lebanon. The distribution of inputs is to take place during next reporting period. Technical specifications were also prepared for milk cooling tanks and equipment and the tendering process is to be undertaken during the first quarter of 2011.

Item:	Approved Budgeted cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement /Commitment (US\$)
Equipment and feed:	1 302 500	408 780

**Training**

FAO carried out training to farmers and 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	36 273

**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	146 245

### **Main objectives and major monitoring arrangements:**

In order to achieve immediate and conspicuous impact, the project is carrying out the following major prioritized interventions:

- a. Building capacity of dairy farmers through extensive program of training sessions and demonstrations in improved dairy farm management, feeding, milk hygiene and processing hygienic dairy products and animal health.
- b. Support to dairy smallholders for reinforcing artificial insemination and veterinary services.
- c. Assistance to dairy smallholders in milk collection and marketing by Setting up primary milk collection centers at village levels through constitution of Village Dairy Producers' Association (VDPA's) grouping neighbouring villages which will be used as focal points for extension, training and provision of services to dairy farmers.
- d. Assistance to dairy smallholders for improving milk hygiene, through provision of small equipment for milk handling & processing at farm level.
- e. Empowerment of dairy small producers and VDPA's in milk collection and marketing (milk aggregation), through reviving the existing MOA' milk transportation trucks.
- f. All procurement activities are carried out under the rules and regulations of the FAO Procurement Unit.
- g. The project has continuous field visits to farms by technical experts to work with farmers and also the Village Dairy Producers' Association.

- **Results during the Reporting Period (First Quarter 2011)**

During the reporting (January-March 2011), the project has continued ongoing activities as well as other planned tasks.

### **Constitution of 5 Village Dairy Producers' Association (VDPA's) in Akkar**

FAO completed the legal procedures for the establishment of 23 Village Dairy Producer's Associations. FAO initiated the formation of milk producer's cooperatives and associations through the constitution of Village Dairy Producers' Association (VDPAs) to help improve the standard of the dairy sector in Lebanon. VDPAs' aim is to upgrade the dairy sector for better marketing and profitable return on dairy products and act as focal points for providing other services to farmers including artificial insemination, training programs to improve farm management practices, milk hygiene and feeding. FAO has already initiated constitution and organisation of 18 dairy cooperatives covering all dairy villages and farmers in Beqaa-Hermel areas.

### **Capacity Building**

During this reporting period, the FAO project proceeded along with the comprehensive training already started beginning December 2011 in Beqaa-Hermel areas and extended the extension and demonstration programme covering practical technical areas to help increase small livestock holder dairy productivity to the five VDPAs in Akkar. The farmers were very attentive and interested in the training topics where. They interacted very well with the trainers. 385 dairy farmers attended the training sessions and approximately 25% of the trainees are women who are mainly involved in milk production. As the training will be on-going over the next reporting period, an evaluation of the impact of skills strengthening will be undertaken in the third or fourth quarter after farmers had received follow up on-farm training.

<b>Dairy Coop</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Akkar: Aljouma & Kobayat	27 Januar 2011	85
Akkar: Dreib	10 February 2011	100
Akkar: Halba	12 February 2011	90
Akkar: Tal Abbas	17 February 2011	110
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>385 Participants</b>

The training sessions to farmers aiming to improve farm management practices, milk hygiene, animal feeding and animal health. The training methodology is focusing on easy-to-understand training materials, on-farm demonstrations and distribution of agriculture extension materials. At every opening of the training sessions, the project leader delivers a welcoming speech to the dairy farmers and afterwards he makes a detailed and extensive briefing about the current and the forthcoming activities and he emphasizes on the obstacles and drawbacks that we are facing in our daily work asking farmers to support project activities in their areas.

The training sessions includes three major topics: 1) the first topics is related improving milk hygiene and sanitary conditions with good practices of milking procedures (dealing with milk composition, sources of the milk contamination, factors affecting milk hygiene, good milking practices and utilisation of milking machine, cleaning up of milking utensils, steps to prevent mastitis for good animal health and dairy safety for the consumer and technical norms for hygienic cow milk), 2) the second presentation about milk testing and tests that should be done in the milk collection center and their importance; 3) the third topic is related to dairy cattle (dealing with: Importance of dairy feeding, composition of feedstuffs, techniques of production of fodder crops, formulation of concentrate feeds, ration formulations with practical examples and good practices for feed distribution and roughage utilisation to prevent diseases such as: acidosis, laminitis and displacement of abomasum. The training session was given with the assistance of a presentation on power point with distribution of two extension booklets well illustrated with photo presentation to make things clear as the impact of a photo is much more impressive than a text. The project has produced 3000 booklets entitled "Golden advises for improvement of dairy cow feeding"; and 4000 booklets entitled "Hygienic practices for improvement of milk quality for dairy smallholders".

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

The project procured and delivered 350 milking machines, cleaning detergents and disinfectants, 1 200 stainless steel milk cans and 1 200 milk filters for to low-income and vulnerable beneficiaries that own between 2 to 10 cows. The milking machines will not only provide more milk per milking, it will also imply less hours of work for women who are mostly in charge of the milking. The milk produced will also be more hygienic and thus of higher quality, in turn providing a higher price for the farmer at wholesale.

The project has organised two distribution ceremonies to distribute 350 milking machines with cleaning detergent and disinfectants for the project beneficiaries. The first ceremony was held on 5 February 2011 in Zahle in Beqaa Valley (Sugar Beet Cooperative building in Zahle) where 350 people attended this meeting in presence of officials and Press (refer to annex 1). The second ceremony was held in Akkar (municipality of Tall Abbas Al Gharbi) on 24 February 2011 with 250 people attended the distribution campaign.

**For delivery of 350 milking machines to 350 beneficiaries:** 1) poor smallholder dairy farmers (2-10 cows); 2) those who rely on milk production as their primary source of income, 3) priority to female-headed-households, 4) those who have a long experience in dairying activity and 5) those who collaborated with the project and participate regularly in training sessions

**For delivery of 1200 milk cans with filters to 1200 beneficiaries:** 1) poor smallholder dairy farmers (2-15 cows); 2) priority to small farmers who transport and sell their using plastic cans, 3) farmers who had already benefited from milking machines and 4) those who collaborated with the project and participate regularly in training sessions

During the reporting period, a procurement plan for setting up of primary milk collection network at village levels was initiated. Technical specifications for essential tools and utensils for milk testing, receiving,

filtration and refrigeration such as: milk cooling tanks, generators, milk testing and analysis kits, detergents and utensils for cleaning of cooling were prepared and the tendering is now at stage of selection of suppliers, delivery of equipment is planned for second quarter of 2011.

Also technical specifications for essential tools and utensils for home dairy processing to support dairy smallholders and particularly women headed households for improving and upgrading their capabilities to produce healthy dairy products while getting added value to their milk, were prepared during this reporting period and are currently under tendering. The medium and small size mini dairy unit consists of the following items: Batch pasteurizer, stainless steel working table, stainless steel labneh bag hanger, milk ladle, milk agitator, plastic buckets, cheese moulds, milk thermometers, cream separator, and butter churn).

As a support to small dairy farmers with veterinary services and artificial insemination, including a vaccination campaign and supply with appropriate veterinary drugs and equipment to control the major diseases, milk hygiene and reproduction. Veterinarians and technicians from MoA and among farmers within VDPA's will be fully involved in supporting this programme through their assignment to the VDPA's and FAO will support farmers through the distribution of veterinary drugs, vaccines and prevention and treatment kits for common animal diseases as well as equipment and training for artificial insemination. A procurement plan of necessary supplies was prepared during the reporting period and the tendering is to be completed during May 2011.

- **FMD Vaccination campaign**

The MOA has launched a national vaccination campaign for the Foot and Mouth Disease after recording many outbreaks in dairy cattle farms. The LRF-FAO project has a major intervention concern to improve the general health and veterinary standards of dairy cows in the targeted areas. It is also a strategic stand for us to support all the MOA field activities. For that reason, therefore the LRF – FAO project personnel and vehicles were engaged during this reporting period with the MOA veterinarians and technicians in covering the dairy farms in the Beqaa area. It should be noted also that most of the farms vaccinated in this campaign are of the small size 1 – 10 cows since most of the larger farms have their own veterinarians that can do the job using the MOA vaccine or purchased vaccines. The total number of cows vaccinated in Beqaa during this the reporting was 10 000 heads. This activity is continuing during the second quarter of 2011 with additional interventions for vaccination against bovine brucellosis and ear tag identification of dairy herd.

- **Project partners and inter-agency collaboration**

- Close collaboration with the MOA for technical support as the main national counterpart is continuous.
- Close collaboration with UNDP as administrator of LRF Funds and reporting.
- Close collaboration with UNRC Sub-Office, North Lebanon for visibility and coordination with overall UN programme in Lebanon.

**Workshop by FAO Dairy project / Royal Netherlands Embassy Beirut:** A workshop was held on Monday 14th February 2011 at Lebanese Sugar Beet Cooperative in Zahle, jointly between FAO Dairy project / Royal Netherlands Embassy Beirut, headed by the project Manager and Dr. Reinoud Van Gent, director of "Veepro Holland". The workshop was attended by 33 veterinarians from Bekaa region. The main topics presented were: 1) Presentation of project activities and animal health situation in project areas and proposed interventions and 2) Mastitis and Infection pressure for heifers. These technical knowledge sharing is part of international FAO standards for Good Animal Production Standards to help strengthen the skills of the trainees. This training has been carried out by FAO previously in Lebanon on LRF projects in cooperation with the Dutch counterparts and their participation in the recurring training indicates that this training is well received by the Dutch counterparts and participants as well. The list of participants is indicated in annex 2.

**Dairy Sector Coordination Meeting:** The United Nations Resident Coordinator Sub-Office, North

Lebanon has organised jointly with the LRF Dairy project a Dairy Sector Coordination Meeting which took place on 24 February 2011 at Tal Abbas Al Gharbi Municipality, Akkar (prior to the ceremony of distribution of milking machines). The workshop was attended by 8 local and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), 4 agricultural cooperatives, 4 United Nations agencies, and a representative of the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), were attending this meeting. The objective of the meeting was to present inputs of projects dealing with livestock implementation in the North for efficient complementary activities (the minute of the meeting is presented in annex 3). The Project Manager of "Recovery and Rehabilitation of Dairy Sector in Bekaa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Uplands" has delivered an extensive power point presentation on dairy sector issues and project activities in Akkar (details on project activities in Akkar were delivered in previous reports). The issues and recommendations include the following:

a) In Lebanon the milk quality problem is critical. It has been correlated and linked to serious health and food safety hazards and diseases. One of the most important goals of the FAO project OSRO/LEB/901/UNJ is the general improvement of raw milk quality at the different milk chain levels. Numerous diagnostic tests are used to evaluate the quality of milk. These tests can be grouped under the following major categories: biological and microbial tests, physical tests, chemical tests and adulteration tests.

b) The milk quality tests to evaluate the general milk situation in the areas covered by the project are: Total Aerobic Count or Standard Plate Count (SPC), Coliform Count, Titratable milk acidity, pH, Specific gravity (Density) and temperature, Fat, SNF (Solids Non Fat), protein content, Added water, freezing point, and added Carbonates.

c) The sampling activity was planned and studied to cover all the areas and cazas in the Beqaa Valley. For that purpose the project team collected 100 samples from farms and from milk dealers' transportation trucks, the results were very below standards:

d) The number of samples that scored for the Ecoli count less than 1000 cfu/gr was about 23%, whereas the number of samples for the total aerobic count that scored less than 100,000 cfu/gr was 14 (about 14 %). As for the pH, (32.8 %) were found to have values above the acceptable minimum of 6.6. All the other values were below 6.6 and 16 (27.6 %) were dangerously below 6.5. While as for the Dornic Acidity only 25 samples (31.6 %) were found to have values below or equal to the acceptable maximum of 18 degrees. All the other values (68.4 %) were above 18. Fifteen

**Project constraints, corrective measures and lessons learned:**

As any other project dealing with community development, the variety of stake holders involved in FAO's project made it sometimes difficult to coordinate among all the parties. Also the vast geographical expansion without the corresponding increase in funding, has forced the project to provide only to limited beneficiaries. FAO received continuous requests from needy farmers for assistance, but with the current level of funding FAO does not have the resources to reach all needy farmers. One can imagine the difficulty of serving more than 2 000 farmers with a budget intended to serve 600 (direct and indirect beneficiaries) and to cover an area that originally required USD 6.5 million with only 2.5 million. The areas of Akkar, Baalbeck, and El Hermel are mainly characterized with extreme poverty and most of the farmers in these areas are in grief need to any basic or essential support. The lack of funds has forced us to put very strict criteria for selection of direct beneficiaries among the poorest farmers.

Another major constraint faced by the project is the resistance of farmers to try new agriculture techniques. Unfortunately, the Lebanese farmers have formulated a wrong idea about cooperative work over the decades. The government and the international organizations have unintentionally contributed to such misguided beliefs. Usually, the agricultural development projects emphasized and were limited to the material support to the farmers. Very few projects stressed the importance of team work and self sustainability of farmers groups or cooperatives. That is why every farmer expects to receive material inputs

and less interested in looking at long term benefits or organized cooperatives. FAO is working tirelessly with farmers who joined the 23 cooperatives that their livelihoods will improve through organized associations.

Although the Minister of Agriculture fully supports the work of FAO, the Ministry staff is limited in its technical skills and capacities and their contribution in some cases, is not significant. However, through the training and capacity building of this project, FAO hopes Ministry staff will learn needed skills to carry on to serve the beneficiaries, particularly in extension, vaccination campaigns and quality controls.

### **Work Plan for the next reporting period (Quarter 2 & 3 of 2011)**

The priority action plans for the project during the next reporting period include the following interventions:

1. Technical specifications for all the equipment and materials to be used as support to animal health and artificial inseminations services will be completed (April – August 2011)
2. Receipt of all the equipment and materials to be used as support to needy farmers in order to upgrade the hygienic standards at all levels of milk production and handling (cooling tanks and mini dairies for home processing) (August – October 2011)
3. Supervision and follow up of civil works for setting up of primary milk collection network at village levels for milk testing, receiving, filtration and refrigeration (milk cooling tanks, generators, milk testing and analysis kits, detergents and utensils for cleaning of cooling) (June – October 2011)
4. Preparation of mutual agreement contract between the project and the VDPA's for the management of the primary collection centre, utilisation of equipment and collection and marketing of milk for dairy smallholders (April – August 2011)
5. Empowerment of dairy small producers and VDPA's in milk collection and marketing, through reviving the 8 existing MOA' milk transportation trucks (according to the project document with regard to the "contribution of Government in page 13 section 6, and the decree of MOA (decree n° 1/30 issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2011) putting the 8 trucks at the disposal of the project FAO to support the VDPA's for milk transport and marketing. During the coming reporting period, upon the registration of the trucks (responsibility of MOA), the FAO project will engage their maintenance, prepare an agreement contracts that contain all the details and laws and regulations that govern the relation between the project and the recipient groups of dairy cooperatives for utilisation of these milk transportation trucks. (April – October 2011)
6. Milk testing and analysis of milk samples collected randomly for different farms and milk dealers to evaluate the physical, chemical, and biological quality of the milk (started in June 2011)
7. Preparation, editing and printing of three extension booklets: 1) Improvement of cow fertility and prevention of metritis; 2) Good practices for drying off dairy cows and prevention of mastitis and laminitis and 3) Good practices for home processing Lebanese dairy products (labna, labneh and white cheese). Five thousands copies of each will be produced for distribution to project beneficiaries as well as to the other regions (South and Mont Lebanon) as requested by MOA (August – December 2011)
8. Launching the second round of the training sessions on the above three topics for project beneficiaries and MOA extension officers. (will start in September 2011)
9. Preparation and launching training programme on artificial insemination techniques for members of VDPA's to have their own inseminators (will start in September 2011).

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baselines</b>	<b>Planned Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Achieved Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>	<b>Comments (if any)</b>
<b>Outcome 1</b> <b>To enable recovery-rehabilitation to dairy sub-sector Bekaa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Highlands with emphasis on increasing milk production and hygiene, farm dairying incomes and living standards, especially of the poor small dairy holders.</b>							
<b>Output 1.1</b> Assist identified resource families through development of dairy production & milk hygiene	Indicator 1.1.1 # of dairy inputs distributed to farmers	Farmers able increase milk production and improve hygienic practices	Distribution of 1,200 milking cans, 350 milking machines,	yes		distribution campaign and farm visits for on-farm training of inputs	
<b>Output 1.2</b> Improve profit with small-scale dairying through constitution of Village Dairy Producers' Association (VDPA's) grouping neighbouring villages, for better marketing and bargaining.	Indicator 1.2.1 # of established 23 dairy cooperatives in the region (VDPA's).	Farmers have 24 primary collection points to bring milk for processing and marketing	Set up of 24 primary collection centres at village level from Rashaya to Akkar	yes		site visits and working with the Village Dairy Producer's Association	
Building capacity of dairy farmers through extensive programme of training sessions and demonstrations in improved dairy farm management	Indicator 1.2.2 # of farmers trained and distribution of extension materials	Farmers skills developed on improved dairy feeding, fodder crops and milk hygiene	385 farmers trained on dairy good practices	yes		Training of participants with distribution of extension materials	

## Annex 1: Newspaper articles related to distribution of milking machines in Beqaa and Akkar

## Al Balad Newspaper Article (translation below)

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## توزيع آلات حالبة على مربّي الأبقار في البقاع

تسلم نحو 239 مزارعا في البقاع امس الآلات الحالبية للابقار من منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة (FAO) كمرحلة أولى ستستكمل بتوزيع 111 آلة أخرى في عكار، وذلك في إطار مشروع انعاش وتأهيل قطاع الحليب في سهل البقاع وجروه الهرمل وعكار، الممول من صندوق إعادة الاعمار التابع للأمم المتحدة، والمنفذ من قبل الـ FAO بالتعاون مع برنامج الأمم المتحدة للتنمية (UNDP) ووزارة الزراعة اللبنانية.



البلد

العمل في لبنان هو الأكثر صعوبة بسبب غياب الإطار التنظيمي

لوسي بارسخيان

يهدف المشروع الى تحسين جودة الحليب عند صغار مربّي الأبقار، عن طريق اطلاقهم على التقنيات الحديثة في مجال تربية الأبقار وتغذيتها وتأمين رعايتها الصحية، وهو ما يسمح بتأمين كميات أكبر من الانتاج وبنوعية أفضل يسهل تزويجها في الاسواق المحلية.

وتم اختيار المستفيدين من المشروع من بين المزارعين الذين تشكل تربية الأبقار وانتاج الحليب مصدر دخلهم الاساسي، او ان

مزارعا

في البقاع

تسلموا آلات

حالبة من الـ

FAO

239

القواعد العلمية يساعد المزارعين على تحسين مردود الأبقار وبالتالي يحسن من مستواهم المعيشي».

المشروع، وتتضمن بعض النصائح لتحسين تغذية الأبقار الحلوب، والقواعد السليمة لتحسين جودة الحليب.

وقال الوزير الحاج حسن ان «هذا المشروع يتضمن مجموعة من الخطوات، بعضها يقع على عاتق المسؤولين وبعضها الآخر على عاتق المستفيدين من المشروع، وقمنا بما علينا من انشاء التعاونيات التي بلغ عددها 23، وتأمين سيارات النقل المبردة وتوزيع الحلابات الى جانب 1200 سطل ستانلس وتأمين الادوية والمطهرات، وعليكم الآن القيام بما يترتب عليكم من التزام بالقواعد السليمة لأنكم منتجون للحليب والانتاج له شروط عليكم الالتزام به»، لافتا الى ان «اتباع

كيولي وهو خبير دولي تولى مهام مشابهة من خلال منظمة الفاو في 120 دولة، الا انه لفت في حديث جانبي الى ان العمل في لبنان هو الأكثر صعوبة، بسبب غياب الإطار التنظيمي الذي يسهل بعض المهمات، فضلا عن الحاجة الدائمة الى المتابعة المباشرة للمشاركة المنفذة.

## نوعية الحليب

وحذر كيولي المستفيدين الى كون نوعية الحليب المنتجة في مزارعهم هي من النوعيات الاسوأ، داعيا اياهم الى الاستفادة من المعلومات المنشورة في كتيبات خاصة وزعت على المستفيدين من

يكونوا من السيدات المسؤولات عن اعادة عائلاتهم، او من صغار المزارعين الفقراء الذين يملكون من بقرتين الى عشر، او المربين الذين يتمتعون بخبرة طويلة في مجال تربية الأبقار والمتواجدين في مزارعهم بشكل دائم، واخيرا ان يكونوا من المتعاونين مع المشروع والمشاركين في الدورات التدريبية التي اعدتها.

حضر حفل توزيع الآلات الحالبية الذي اقيم في تعاونية الشمندر في البقاع وزير الزراعة حسين الحاج حسن، الدكتور علي مومن ممثلا منظمة الـ FAO في لبنان، مونيكا فينبرغ ممثلة عن الـ UNDP.. وتولى شرح تفاصيل المشروع د. الشاذلي



to achieve sales targets

## Translation of AL-BALAD newspaper Sunday 06/02/2011

### Distribution of milking machines to cattle breeders in the Bekaa

Yesterday, about 239 farmers received Milking Machines from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as a first stage and it will be completed by the distribution of 111 other machine in Akkar in the frame work of the recovery and rehabilitation of dairy sector in Bekaa valley Hermel Akkar uplands funded by the "reconstruction fund" and implemented by the "Food and Agriculture Organization FAO" in coordination with UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture .

The project aims to improve the quality of milk for the young cattle breeders by informing them of the new technologies in the field of cattle-breeding, nutrition and health care insurance, which allows secure larger quantities of production and facilitate the promotion of better quality in the local market.

The beneficiaries of the project were chosen among the farmers which the main source of income is cattle-breeding and milk production, or among the ladies who are responsible for supporting their family or small-scale poor farmers who own 2 to 10 cows or who have long experience in the field of breeding cows or who are in their farms permanently and finally to be collaborators with the project and the participants in training courses prepared by the project.

Beside Dr.Hajj Hassan, the participants were: Dr. Ali Al-Momen representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the main president of the Coordinating Bureau of the United Nations Monique Weinberg.

The international expert Dr.Chadli Kayuli. took to explain the project details who assumed similar projects through FAO in 120 countries, but he drew in an aside that work in Lebanon is the most difficult because of the absence of the regulatory framework which facilitates some tasks as well as the constant need to direct of the projects implemented.

### **Quality of milk :**

Dr. Kayouli warned the beneficiaries to the fact that the quality of milk produced on their farms is one of the worst qualities inviting them to take advantage of the information published in manuals distributed to the beneficiaries of the project and include some tips to improve the quality of milk

Dr. Hajj Hassan said that this project includes a series of steps, some of which is the responsibility of officials and others are the responsibility of the beneficiaries of the project, and we did what we can do by the establishment of cooperatives, which numbered 23, and refrigerated car for transport and distribution of milking machine along with 1200 Stainless barrels and secure medicines and disinfectants , and now you do what you have to commit the rules because you sound producers of milk production and the terms of its commitment to you, pointing out that " following the rules of scientific help farmers to improve yield cows and thus improve their standard of living".

## Al Nahar Newspaper Article (Translation below)

زحلة - الكرك اثر تجمع احتجاجي لعدد من المواطنين الغاضبين، بعدما تعطلت سياراتهم عقب تعيثها من تلك المحطة، اتهموه بتزويدهم بنزينا ممزوجا بالمياه، وارسلت العينات الى مصلحة حماية المستهلك لفحصها في المختبرات واتخاذ الاجراءات الضرورية في ضوء النتائج.

عكار، وتوفقت عن تزويد السيارات والمواطنين بكل انواع المحروقات (بنزين ومازوت وكاز)، فيما ابدى المواطنون خشيتهم من استمرار هذه الازمة التي لم يشهدها منذ عدوان 2006. وتفاوتت تعامل المحطات في البقاع الاوسط مع الازمة،

صائب الحاد لعربات عمال الصناعات الورقية ومستخدميها بمعالجة مشكلة البنزين قبل استفحال الامور، اذ ان استمرارها قد يولد ازمتا لا تحمد عقباهما".

## "الفاو" وزعت حلابات ومستلزمات في عكار



(ميشال حلاق)

وزير الزراعة حسين الحاج حسن خلال حفل توزيع الحلابات.

مشمش، دعا الى ضرورة المتابعة والتنسيق مع مؤسسات الوزارة في المنطقة، لافتاً الى وجود خطة تلقيح قطعان الابقار في مختلف المناطق لضمان هملتها من الامراض، اضافة الى توفير التلقيح الاصطناعي بهدف الانجاب، فضلاً عن وزعت شهادات تسلّم الحلابات على المزارعين والمربين

انتبعت على مدى اعوام طويلة". وشدد على ضرورة اصلاح الواقع الزراعي الذي تعانث منه اكثر من 200 ألف عائلة.

وعن المشروع اشار الى انه اعتمد خطوات عدة لاختيار المزارعين الاشد حاجة والاكثر فقراً عبر كشف ميداني دقيق ومتواصل. وعن موضوع تفوق الابقار في بلدة

عكار - "النهضة":

وزعت منظمة الامم المتحدة للاغذية والزراعة - "الفاو" في عكار، حلابات ومستلزمات الى صفار مربي الابقار، في حفل اقيم في "قصر عصام فارسي البلدي" في تل عباس الغربي، ضمن سياق مشروع "انعاش قطاع الحليب في سهل البقاع وجروود الهرمل وعكار وتأهيله".

وعرض وزير الزراعة حسين الحاج حسن المعوقات التي تعترض القطاع الزراعي والانجازات التي تحققت، مشيراً الى ان رئيسي الجمهورية وحكومة تصريف الاعمال والوزراء تعاملوا بايجابية مع مختلف المسائل الزراعية.

واعتر ان "ما انجز في الوزارة لا يعد شيئاً امام حاجات المواطنين"، لافتاً الى "ان وضع القطاع الزراعي سيئ بسبب سياسة الازمة التي

## تعزيز التبادل التجاري مع أستراليا

بحث رئيس مجلس ادارة المؤسسة العامة لتشجيع الاستثمارات نيبيل عيتاني في التبادل التجاري وتشجيع الاستثمارات المشتركة بين لبنان واستراليا مع السفير الاوسترالي لكس بارتلم الذي زاره امس.

وشدد بارتلم على ضرورة تعزيز العلاقات الاقتصادية بين البلدين وخصوصاً ان التبادل التجاري بينهما لا يزال محدوداً، مشدداً على دور الجالية اللبنانية الفاعل في هذا السياق. وأشار الى ان العديد من الاوستراليين من اصل لبناني يبدون اهتماماً بالاستثمار في لبنان، وذلك في ضوء النتائج الايجابية الجيدة التي حققها هذا البلد خلال العام الماضي وعدم تأثره بالازمة العالمية". وأكد في المقابل ضرورة ان يستثمر اللبنانيون في اوستراليا، بما يعزز العلاقات الاقتصادية بين الطرفين".

من جهته اكد عيتاني التعاون مع الجالية اللبنانية والاطراف المعنية من اجل استقطاب المزيد من الاستثمارات الى لبنان. وتحدث عن مناعة اقتصاده والمؤشرات الايجابية التي يحققها والتي تنعكس نمواً راوح بين 8 و9% خلال عام 2009. ولفت الى ان المناخ الاستثماري يزداد جاذبية مع الفرص الواعدة التي يوفرها في اكثر من قطاع حيوي. وقال ان "زيادة حجم الاستثمارات الاجنبية المباشرة تشكل احد اوجه الاداء الاقتصادي الجيد"، مشيراً الى ان هذه الاستثمارات تنمو بمعدل سنوي مقداره 16%، وهي سجلت 4,8 مليارات دولار عام 2009، اي ما نسبته 15% من الناتج القومي.

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أربعة أرقام فقط  
للإتصال بالنيهار

**النهار**

ما عدا الهاتف الخليوي

## Translation of AL-Nahar newspaper 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011 "الفاو" وزعت حلابات ومستلزمات في عكار

### The Food and Agriculture Organization "FAO" distributed milking machines in Akkar

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) had distributed milking machines and its equipment to smallholder cattle keepers in Akkar. This event was held at "Issam Fares municipal palace", in Tal Abbas Al Gharbi - Akkar, in the framework of "Recovery and Rehabilitation of Dairy Sector in Bekaa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Uplands" project.

Lebanese Minister of agriculture “Dr. Hussein Al Hage Hassan”, mentioned obstacles that hinder agricultural sector, and presented all achievements carried out in this context, pointing out that the president, the prime minister of the caretaker government, and ministers treated positively all agricultural issues.

“Dr. Hussein Al Hage Hassan” considered that all achievements carried out by the MOA are still not enough to citizens’ needs, pointing that agricultural sector is getting worse because of the indifferent attitude toward this sector since a longtime. He stressed on the need to recover agricultural sector, since agriculture is considered as the main source of income to more than 200 000 Lebanese families.

Regarding the FAO project, he said that they adopted many criteria in order to choose the poorest and vulnerable farmers, through an accurate and continuous field study. And concerning cows’ death in Mechmech village, he called for the need of coordination and follow-up with the ministry in their region. He also promised to start a vaccination campaign in all Lebanese regions to protect livestock from diseases, in addition to artificial insemination to improve fertility. Finally certificates were distributed to all farmers and keepers who received milking machines.

**Annex 2: Workshop by FAO Dairy project / Royal Netherlands Embassy Beirut:  
TRAINING SESSION FOR VETERINARIANS**

**Time and Place:** Monday 14 February 2011 At The Lebanese Sugar Beet Cooperative- Zahle

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2011, Dr.Ing. Reinoud Van Gent, director of “Veeopro Holland”, held a training session for veterinarians at the Lebanese Sugar Beet Cooperative in Zahle.

**Attendees:**

1. FAO staff project
2. Trainers: Dr. Reinoud Van Gent, from Holland, Dr. Chedly Kayouli.
3. A total of 33 veterinarians from Bekaa region.

The session began at 10 a.m. about 33 veterinarians were attending this training. At first Dr. Chedly Kayouli welcomed the attendees and the envoy of the Dutch Embassy, and then he thanked veterinarians for their cooperation with the organization. “We have finished the first stage of our project, and the second will be carried out by the first of April. We appreciate the cooperation between veterinarians and the 23 dairy cooperatives that we have already established. (18 cooperatives in Bekaa and 5 in Akkar). And we also thank the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) for supporting our project. We are here today to help veterinarians so they can give some instructions to farmers. Dr. Reinoud Van Gent will present for you some advices and instructions for diseases prevention. He is the director of “Veeopro Holland” which is the Information Centre for Dutch Cattle.

**Presentation of DR. Reinoud Van Gent:**

“Today I will give you 2 presentations concerning mastitis and Infection pressure & surroundings. I will help you to make prevention from all diseases, during this presentation i’m going to talk about how veterinarian can cooperate with farmer to help him.

**FIRST PRESENTATION:**

**Infection pressure and surroundings:**

At first: mastitis is influenced by 2 things, the infection pressure surroundings, and by the resistance.

We have 2 kinds of bacteria:

- 1- Milk transferable bacteria: bacteria transmitted from cow to cow by milk.
- 2- And then, environmental bacteria, bacteria coming from environment into the udder.

Some of the solutions to lower this infection pressure are the following:

- 1- Make group off high cellcount cows.
- 2- Lower number of infected cows through treating or culling.
- 3- Mark high cell count cows and clean milking gear with hot water(>85°C).

Some of environmental bacteria causing mastitis:

- 1- Escherichia coli
- 2- Klebsiella
- 3- Streptococcus uberis.

We find these kinds of bacteria in:

- a- Manure
- b- Milk
- c- Soil
- d- Strawlitter

The growth of the bacteria is caused by many factors: Temperature, humidity, and feeding. And the transmission of bacteria happens mainly through: bedding, claws and feet, floors, milking machine, tails, hands and pasture.

We have 2 sorts of cows also:

- 1- Clean cows: where they live in a clean environment so we have a low infection pressure risk.
- 2- Dirty cows: where they live in a dirty environment, so the infection pressure risk will increase.

In order to judge cows, you have to: Use hygiene score chart, have a close look, and judge udder hygiene, don't forget dry cows and heifers.

When we examine the score chart, we find that that dry period contains the lower percentage of infection risks.

From research we know that 65 % of the cases of clinical mastitis after calving is caused by environmental bacteria through infection during the dry off period.

In practice you should examine cows on: Udder, thighs, underfeet, and claws.

(The Dr. also posted many photos to demonstrate every information for attendees.)

He mentioned causes of contamination and detailed every cause:

Concerning udders:

- a- Fecal consistency, dirty lying boxes, boxing litter, box dimensions.
- b- Hair on udder.
- c- Out of box sleepers.
- d- Claws.

Regarding underfeet and claws:

- a- Fecal consistency: dirty sleeping box
- b- Manure on walking paths.
- c- Manure in waitingbarn
- d- Chase cows before milking.

Thighs: if tails are out of the box sleeper.

After he mentioned causes of mastitis and infection, he gave also some solutions to improve:

IMPROVEMENTS:

- a- Fecal consistency: thin manure and diarrhea.
- b- Sleeping boxes: you should pay attention to dimensions, litter.
- c- Barn: walking paths, climate, calving barn and dry of cows.
- d- Pasture.

Concerning thin manure and diarrhea, main causes of contamination are:

- Protein overfeeding
- Too much concentrates
- Insufficient structure in feeding
- Diseases and low rumen activity

And concerning dimensions of boxes, you should pay attention to the cow's behavior:

Cows should have appropriate beddings to meet:

- Room to move head while getting up
- Cow can lie on its side
- Cow can lie straight
- Budd at rear end of box
- Cow can stand square in box

About stable climate, you have to:

Keep stable dry, no draught, cow comfort, and smell inside should be the same as outside.

Dr. Reinoud Van Gent, also stressed on calving pen and dry cows.

Calving pen should be always clean and dry.

And about dry cows:

- Take good care of optimal transition
- Always use the same dry of antibiotics
- Take care of heifers
- Clean and dry bedding and floors

Some other points of concern in general, farmer should:

- 1- Prevent overcrowding
- 2- Prevent lying on walking paths (rearing)
- 3- Take care of enough day-and artificial light
- 4- Milk with milking gloves

5- Prevent commotion and agitation resistance manure splashing.

What are the farmers going to change in their own farm? They should control the effect objective with HYGIENE – SCORECHART.

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The second presentation began at 11h30:

In his second presentation, Dr. Reinoud Van Gent focused on MASTITIS affecting HEIFERS:

Heifers are important for every dairy enterprise.

So farmers should pay attention for young stock in practice:

- a- Vaccination
- b- Worming
- c- Feeding
- d- Breeding

Especially the should take good care of udder health.

We have a loss of 1 out of 4 heifers (during first lactation), due to many reasons:

- 30% low production
- 25% poor fertility
- 20% udder problems
- 9% poor locomotion
- 16% different causes

HEIFERS AND UDDER HEALTH:

You should pay attention to udder health:

- Abnormal teat
- Clinical mastitis
- Sub – clinical mastitis
- Teat and udder skin problems
- Mastitis can occur in accessory teats also.

Farmer risks facing a problem when:

- 1- Clinical mastitis around calving is > 15%
- 2- Cell count is > 150 000
- 3- Teat diseases > 5%
- 4- Remove heifers > 15%

So you should watch regularly:

- MPR results
- Own administration
- You have to look and see: cows signals, such as: udder edema, rumen fill, hygiene score, condition score, and locomotion.

Udder infection often decreases after calving in heifers, because milking bacteria are flushed out, and teat disinfection reduces new infections.

Agents that cause heifer mastitis:

- 1- Coagulasis negative staphylococci (CNS): hair, skin, bedding and declining after calving.
- 2- Staphylococcus aureus: skin, and increase after calving
- 3- Germs from environment: infection around calving

Calves and young stock:

- a- Milk sucker in herd
- b- Flies.

The Dr. also gave many solutions to prevent heifer mastitis:

You should control infection, especially concerning:

Milk suckers, housing, fly treatment, udder edema prevention, and good introduction in milk producing couple, minerals supply, milking, and control.

Some methods of treatment:

You have many possibilities, such as:

- 1- Dip: long working dips, contact dips.
- 2- Lactation antibiotics
- 3- Dry of antibiotics.
- 4- Treatment before calving.

He stressed on the prevention which can avoid treatment, but in case farmer decides to treat, treating results are better, when you have:

- Non chronic infection
- With younger animals
- In case of a lower SSC.

And once your treatment is effective, heifers will no longer be a threat for other animals.

This session was followed by an open debate, where veterinarians asked DR. Reinoud Van Gent, many questions concerning mastitis and diseases prevention.

List of participants on workshop with Dutch experts on 14 February 2011 at Lebanese Sugar Beet Cooperative in Zahle

<u>Name</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Profession</u>
Ali Neyif Masri	Male	veterinarian
Haysam hasan el Jamal	Male	veterinarian
Sajida Nasr Eldin Meldaz	Female	veterinarian
Mohamed Soukarieh	Male	veterinarian
Faraj Salem	Female	veterinarian
Zakariya Hasan Kasem	Male	veterinarian
Mahmoud Abdallah	Male	veterinarian
Ibrahim Matar	Male	veterinarian
Chebli Chebli	Male	veterinarian
Khaled Hsein El Moualem	Male	veterinarian
Tarek Al Werghi	Male	veterinarian
Walid Said	Male	veterinarian
Kassem Mazloun	Male	veterinarian
Mohamed Othman Mazloun	Male	veterinarian
Kamal Abou Adileh	Male	veterinarian
Ahmad Ajram	Male	veterinarian
Vartohi Korjian	Male	veterinarian
Nadim Telian	Male	veterinarian
Imad Sawan	Male	veterinarian
Ghada Mehdi Hajj Hasan	Female	veterinarian
Mohamed Mahmoud Zaytoun	Male	veterinarian
Issa Saleh Jbara	Male	veterinarian
Mohamad Said El Jawhari	Male	veterinarian
Ali Said El Jawhari	Male	veterinarian
Abed el Naser Kadri	Male	veterinarian
Mohamed Younes	Male	veterinarian
Kamel Fahed Hsein	Male	veterinarian
Abed el Hamid Majzoub	Male	veterinarian
Ali Raad	Male	Head of veterinarian department
Ali Haydar	Male	veterinarian
Haydar Ismail	Male	veterinarian
Wissam El Dahouk	Male	veterinarian

## Annex 3: Dairy Sector Coordination Meeting which took place on 24 February 2011 at Tal Abbas Al Gharbi Municipality

### محضر الاجتماع التنسيقي لقطاع الحليب ومشتقاته بلدية تل عباس الغربي، 24 شباط 2011

#### جدول الأعمال:

- افتتاح
- عرض مشروع انعاش وتأهيل قطاع الحليب في سهل البقاع وجرود الهرمل – عكار (منظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة)
- عروض عن المشاريع الزراعية والمشاريع التي تعنى بتربية الماشية (المؤسسات المحلية والدولية)
- نقاش حول سبل التعاون والتنسيق في المستقبل

#### محضر الاجتماع:

#### افتتاح

افتتحت مديرة مكتب المنسق المقيم للأمم المتحدة في شمال لبنان الاجتماع التنسيقي الأول من نوعه حول قطاع انتاج الحليب ومشتقاته الذي استضافته بلدية تل عباس الغربي في عكار. شارك في الاجتماع ثمانية منظمات غير حكومية دولية ومحلية، أربعة تعاونيات زراعية، أربعة وكالات للأمم المتحدة، وممثل عن وزارة الزراعة اللبنانية. في الافتتاحية، رحبت مديرة المكتب الفرعي للمنسق المقيم بالحضور شاكراً اهتمامهم وحرصهم على النهوض بلؤوضاع المزارعين لاسيما مربي الأبقار وقد شرحت أن هذا الاجتماع بمثابة منتدى لتبادل المعلومات والخبرات في القطاع، وقدمت خريطة الأنشطة التي قام المكتب الفرعي للمنسق المقيم للأمم المتحدة في الشمال باعدادها وتوزيعها في بداية اللقاء وسألتهم مراجعتها.

#### عرض مشروع انعاش وتأهيل قطاع الحليب في سهل البقاع وجرود الهرمل – عكار (منظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة)

رحب مدير مشروع "انعاش وتأهيل قطاع الحليب في سهل البقاع وجرود الهرمل – عكار" الممول من قبل الصندوق اللبناني للنهوض التابع للأمم المتحدة والمنفذ بواسطة منظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة بالتعاون مع وزارة الزراعة اللبنانية بالحضور وبدأ بتقديم نتائج الدراسة حول قطاع انتاج الحليب ومشتقاته التي أظهرت بأن القطاع واعد في لبنان وعرض أهداف المشروع التي تتلخص بتحسين الظروف المعيشية لصغار مربي الأبقار من جهة وتحسين كمية ونوعية الانتاج من جهة أخرى. وقد أفاد أن المشروع قد غطى 241 بلدة في البقاع، الهرمل وعكار التي يوجد فيها ما بين 75 – 80 % من مجمل الأبقار الحلوب في لبنان. غطى المشروع 94 بلدة واستفاد منه 530 مرباً للأبقار في عكار.

من ثم تطرق الى وضع القطاع من ناحية حجم المزارع، انتاج الحليب، تسويق وأسعار الحليب، نظافة الحليب، خدمات التلقيح، الخدمات البيطرية، الأعلاف وبرامج التغذية.

وقد تابع بعرض المشاكل الأولية التي يعاني منها القطاع والمزارعين واستعرض الأسباب الرئيسية لهذه المشاكل والحلول المقترحة، وعرض الأنشطة التي قامت بها منظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة في هذا السياق. واختتم العرض بالمعايير لانتقاء المزارعين المستفيدين المباشرين والحلول لتحسين القطاع.

#### عروض عن المشاريع الزراعية والمشاريع التي تعنى بتربية الماشية (المنظمات المحلية والعالمية)

قدم مسؤول التنمية الاقتصادية المحلية لدى برنامج الأمم المتحدة الانمائي أرت غولد، عرضاً حول خطة "دعم سلسلة الانتاج لقطاع الحليب ومشتقاته" من ضمن مشروع الأرت غولد. وقد ذكر سلاسل الانتاج التي ينوي البرنامج العمل عليها وهي: العسل، الحليب، الفواكه والخضار، الأسماك، والمنتجات الحرفية. من ثم عرض كيفية دعم البرنامج لسلاسل الانتاج من خلال دعم المشاريع التي تساهم في زيادة المدخلات، تعزيز التعاون اللامركزي، تأسيس وكالة/مكتب التنمية الاقتصادية المحلية. وعرض على الحاضرين أهداف وأنشطة مجموعة العمل الزراعية في عكار التي عمل على تأسيسها برنامج الأمم المتحدة الانمائي، ثم استعرض مع المشاركين المعوقات في سلسلة انتاج الحليب التي تلخصت بغياب الارشاد التقني، غياب خدمات الطب البيطري، ارتفاع أسعار الأعلاف، عدم وجود خطة تسويق، وضعف التصنيع المحلي للألبان والأجبان. واستعرض اقتراحات مجموعة العمل الزراعية وأهمها تفعيل دور وزارة الزراعة، تعزيز ودعم التعاونيات، تشجيع الاستثمار الزراعي، والدعم التقني من ناحية تلقيح الأبقار.

وفي ختام العرض استعرض المهندس تدخلات برنامج الأمم المتحدة الانمائي ارت غولد في قطاع تربية المواشي في عكار في المناطق التالية:

تعزيز دور تعاونيات مربي الأبقار في الارشاد وتقديم الخدمات للمربين



تعزيز الخدمات البيطرية وإدارة المزارع عبر التعاون اللامركزي مع بلجيكا  
تشجيع انتاج النوعية المميزة من الحليب ومشتقاته عبر التعاون اللامركزي مع ايطاليا

### نقاش حول سبل التعاون والتنسيق في المستقبل

- بعد تقديم العروضات علق ممثل مؤسسة فارس أن أهم المشاكل التي يعانها القطاع هي بسبب عدم التزام أصحاب المزارع بالمساحة القانونية للمزرعة وهي 3000 متر مربع، وقد ناشد المؤسسات الممولة الى احترام المعايير الرسمية قبل تمويل المزارعين فينقلص عدد المزارع العشوائية. علق ممثل مؤسسة كفاللات أن المؤسسة لا تقوم بوضع معايير تقنية لتمويل أي مشروع واعتبر أن المشاريع الزراعية لاسيما المزارع هي من الأكثر اشكالية خاصة بعد وضع معايير التنظيم المدني، علماً أن ليس كل المناطق مشمولة بالتنظيم المدني. كما أن من المعوقات التي تواجهها كفاللات هو افتقار المؤسسة للخبرات التقنية في هذا المجال، وأكد على أهمية منتديات مماثلة تسمح لهم بالاستفادة من ذوي الاختصاص، ودعا الى التوصل الى صيغة تسمح بطلب النصيحة من الأشخاص التقنيين. وعلق مستشار مؤسسة امكان أن الأولوية في حل مشاكل القطاع ليست المعايير الرسمية للمزارع ولكنها غياب الوعي والمعرفة لدى المزارعين وسوء أنظمة الادارة التي يتبعونها.
- صرح ممثل مؤسسة رينيه معوض بأن القطاع يعاني من مشاكل مختلفة على صعيد العناية الصحية، الأنظمة الغذائية للمواشي، تلقيح المواشي، كما هناك مشاكل في الدعم التقني، وعلق أن المؤسسات جميعها تعمل على معالجة نتائج المشكلة وليس أسباب المشكلة بحد ذاتها. شاكرًا مبادرة برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي على مبادرة "دعم سلاسل الانتاج" التي وصفها بالمهمة جداً وقد تكون الحل لمشاكل عديدة مشدداً على أهمية عدم معاملة كل مربي للماشية على أنه شراكة منفردة بل مطلوب أن تربط الخبرات ببعضها ونعزز مهارات كل شخص معني بحلقة معينة من السلسلة بهدف التكامل في ما بينهم، وقد أبدى استعداد المؤسسة للعمل مع برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي لتوحيد الجهود فيما بينهم خاصة أن مؤسسة رينيه معوض عملت جاهدة في هذ القطاع في مختلف المناطق اللبنانية لاسيما في مجال تجميع ونقل الحليب، وتدريب المزارعين.
- أضاف ممثل منظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة أنه من خلال خبرة سابقة في جنوب لبنان سنة 2003 (مشروع تدريب على التلقيح الاصطناعي) فان هذا المشروع اثبت نجاحه اذ ما يزال مربي الأبقار في الجنوب الأكثر حظاً في هذا المجال لاعتمادهم على التلقيح الاصطناعي بدل التلقيح الطبيعي والطرق التقليدية. تم التنويه أيضاً على أهمية تدريب المزارعين في م عاهد مختصة أسوةً بدول أخرى أصبح فيها تلقي الشهادة هو الحد الأدنى من المتطلبات لمزاولة مهنة تربية الماشية.
- في نهاية الاجتماع أجمع المشاركون على أن غياب مسح دقيق لهذا القطاع هو أيضاً من المشكلات الكبيرة التي يواجهها القطاع.
- اتفق المجتمعون على عقد اجتماعات دورية تهدف الى تبادل المعلومات والخبرات وتنسيق الجهود والأنشطة، حيث أن فريق العمل الذي سيجمع سوف يقوم بتحديد أهم الثغرات ووضع استراتيجية عمل لحل هذه المشاكل.

### نقاط المتابعة:

- تقوم المؤسسات بمراجعة خريطة الأنشطة واعلام المكتب الفرعي للمنسق المقيم في الشمال في حال ادخال التعديلات
- عقد لقاء تنسيقي آخر في شهر نيسان يهدف الى متابعة تنسيق الجهود

### لائحة المشاركين في الاجتماع:

المؤسسة	الاسم	العنوان الوظيفي	رقم الهاتف	البريد الإلكتروني
وزارة الزراعة	السيد معن جمال	مدير مكتب الشمال	03-828	
رئيس بلدية تل عباس الغربي	السيد خليل نديم فارس	رئيس بلدية	03-775	<a href="mailto:khailifares33@hotmail.com">khailifares33@hotmail.com</a>
بلدية تل عباس الغربي	السيد وليم ابراهيم	عضو مجلس بلدي	03-494	
الجمعية التعاونية لتربية المواشي و انتاج الاعلاف	السيد فاروق متري	مزارع	03-702	
الجمعية التعاونية	السيد ابراهيم الحسن			
الجمعية التعاونية، التدريب	السيد مخايل حيدر	مزارع	03-920	
الجمعية التعاونية لتربية المواشي	السيد وليد متري	مدير	03-642	<a href="mailto:walidmetri@yahoo.com">walidmetri@yahoo.com</a>
مؤسسة دروب	جوزف عبدالله	مدير الشركة	03-305	<a href="mailto:douroubmilk@hotmail.com">douroubmilk@hotmail.com</a>
مؤسسة فارس (شركة ودج الأخضر)	السيد مروان فارس	مدير القسم الزراعي	03-381 06-820	<a href="mailto:marwanesaba@hotmail.com">marwanesaba@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:marwanesaba@gmail.com">marwanesaba@gmail.com</a>

<a href="mailto:nidalk@arcenciel.com">nidalk@arcenciel.com</a>	03-243 03-407	مديرة مراكز حلبا	السيد نضال الخوري	جمعية قوس قزح
<a href="mailto:alinejoukhadar@hotmail.com">alinejoukhadar@hotmail.com</a>	03-063 71-695	مسؤولة منطقة عكار	الآنسة ألين جوخدار	صندوق التنمية الاجتماعية والاقتصادية ESFD
<a href="mailto:ahmad@kafalat.com">ahmad@kafalat.com</a>	03-977 01-351	ضابط المعلومات والدراسات	السيد أحمد شمس الدين	كفالات
<a href="mailto:ramziaf@emkan.com">ramziaf@emkan.com</a>	03-347	مدير المشروع	السيد رمزي عبد الفتاح	امكان
<a href="mailto:shady.hajjar@emkan.com">shady.hajjar@emkan.com</a>	70-965	منسق ميداني	شادي حجار	امكان
<a href="mailto:khazaalk@hotmail.com">khazaalk@hotmail.com</a>	03-492	مستشار	الدكتور كمال خزعل	امكان - الجامعة اللبنانية
<a href="mailto:toros_w@yahoo.com">toros_w@yahoo.com</a>	03-931	مهندس زراعي	وسيم طوروس	مؤسسة صفدي
<a href="mailto:can_rmf@hotmail.com">can_rmf@hotmail.com</a>	03-270	مدير تنفيذي	نبيل معوض	مؤسسة رنيه معوض
<a href="mailto:ritataleb@hotmail.com">ritataleb@hotmail.com</a>	03-155	مديرة تصنيع	ريتا طالب	مؤسسة رنيه معوض
<a href="mailto:bakernaim@hotmail.com">bakernaim@hotmail.com</a>	03-436	مهندس زراعي	بكر محمد نعيم	مؤسسة رنيه معوض
<a href="mailto:karima.nehmeh@one.unl.edu.lb">karima.nehmeh@one.unl.edu.lb</a>	70-118	مديرة المكتب	كريمة نعمة	المكتب الفرعي للمنسق المقام شمال لبنان
<a href="mailto:hicham.rizkallah@one.unl.edu.lb">hicham.rizkallah@one.unl.edu.lb</a>	70-943	مساعد التنسيق	هشام رزق الله	المكتب الفرعي للمنسق المقام شمال لبنان
<a href="mailto:elie.bou-mosleh@one.unl.edu.lb">elie.bou-mosleh@one.unl.edu.lb</a>	03-612	مساعد الشؤون الإدارية والمالية	إيلي بو مصلح	المكتب الفرعي للمنسق المقام شمال لبنان
<a href="mailto:joane.akl@hotmail.com">joane.akl@hotmail.com</a>	70-442	مترجمة	الآنسة جوان عقل	منظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة
<a href="mailto:solidate.silva@fao.org">solidate.silva@fao.org</a>	03-892	مساعدة العمليات	الآنسة سوليداد سيلفا	منظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة
<a href="mailto:chedlikayouli@yahoo.com">chedlikayouli@yahoo.com</a>	70-415	الخبير الدولي للانتاج الحيواني	الدكتور شانلي كيولي	منظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة
<a href="mailto:abdallah.muhieddine@unl.edu.lb">abdallah.muhieddine@unl.edu.lb</a>	03-297	مدير المكتب	الدكتور عبدالله محي الدين	برنامج الأمم المتحدة الأثمناء
<a href="mailto:ghassan.nehme@unl.edu.lb">ghassan.nehme@unl.edu.lb</a>	03-399	مسؤول التنمية الاقتصادية المحلية	السيد غسان نعمه	برنامج الأمم المتحدة الأثمناء
<a href="mailto:elhusseini@ilo.org">elhusseini@ilo.org</a>	03-337	مدير المشروع	السيد فادي حسيني	منظمة العمل الدولية