

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



The Foundation aims to develop the capacities of Lebanese farmers, especially in North Lebanon, in order to improve their production levels and boost their level of income. These goals are particularly important for the region because agriculture is the main source of income for a large portion of the working population of Northern Lebanon.

Goals

Our goals in this sector include:

- Adopt and disseminate the principles of sustainable agriculture;
- Improve agricultural production, helping Lebanese products become internationally competitive; and
- Enhance the role of agricultural cooperatives.

*The fruit of our
intellect...*

*High quality
agriculture*

Achievements

1. The Rural Development and Agricultural Quality Center

In 2003, the Foundation began the construction of the Rural Development and Agricultural Quality Center in the town of Deir Dalloum, Akkar. This center will provide agricultural extension and technical services to farmers, and will be equipped with a soil testing laboratory. Field tests in the agriculture and livestock sectors will be conducted in order to increase production-in terms of quantity and quality-which will measurably improve the standard of living of farmers.



The Rural Development and High Quality Agricultural Center

2. The North Lebanon Green Campaign for Forestation

As part of an initiative targeting agriculture and the environment, the Foundation launched a five-year Green Campaign for North Lebanon in 2002. Tens of thousands of fruit and forest trees have been, and will continue to be distributed as part of the campaign. To date, 80,000 seedlings have been provided to municipalities and civil associations in the North, covering the following geographic areas:

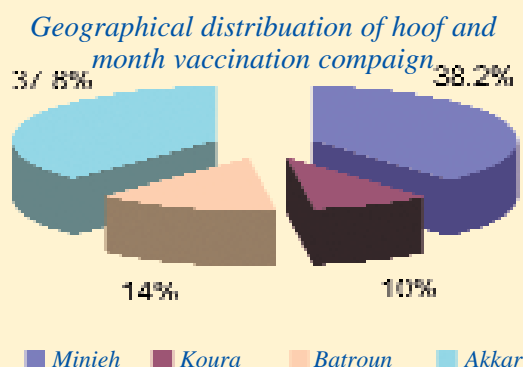
| Region | Number of fruit trees distributed | Number of forest trees distributed | Total |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Menieh | 15,611 | 9,547 | 25,158 |
| Dinnieh | 3,463 | 3,805 | 7,268 |
| Koura | 6,837 | 9,215 | 16,052 |
| Batroun | 6,436 | 4,477 | 10,913 |
| Akkar | 5,600 | 9,750 | 15,350 |
| Other areas (Tripoli and Zghorta) | | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Total | 37,947 | 38,294 | 76,241 |



Participating in the Green Campaign

3. Vaccination campaign against hoof and mouth disease

In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture's Animal Production Department, the Foundation carried out a vaccination campaign against hoof and mouth disease, covering villages and towns in the Dinnieh, Akkar, Koura and Batroun areas. In this campaign, 2,954 head of livestock were vaccinated:



| Region | Number of cows | Number of goats | Number of sheep | Total |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Menieh | 662 | 313 | 155 | 1,130 |
| Koura | 37 | 0 | 250 | 287 |
| Batroun | 422 | 0 | 0 | 422 |
| Akkar | 896 | 67 | 152 | 1,115 |
| Total | 2,017 | 380 | 557 | 2,954 |

4. The Third International Conference on Beekeeping and Honey Production

In coordination with Beekeepers Without Borders and Beekeeping Cooperatives in Lebanon, the Foundation organized the Third International Conference on Beekeeping and Honey Production, which resulted in a number of proposals and recommendations to improve product quality and marketing in this sector.



Participants at the conference's opening session



Participants and beekeepers at a seminar

5. Agricultural extension services: seminars and meetings

The Foundation has conducted a series of seminars on topics of interest to the agricultural community, including:

- Introducing foreign queen bees to improve the quality of bee production;
- Combating bee diseases with plant-based medicines;
- Olives and cultivation techniques;
- Producing biogas from organic waste; and
- Combating apple maggot disease.

These seminars took place in villages and towns in Batroun, Koura and Akkar.



Seminar in Tannourine on apple maggot disease