



Rural Development and Sustainable Agriculture

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The Foundation's work in the domain of rural development and sustainable agriculture is based on agricultural extension services as a basic tool for developing the agricultural sector and animal production, which represent an important portion of economic activity in North Lebanon. Agriculture is considered an indivisible part of the concept of rural development, which is based on the importance of the participation by various segments of local communities and encouraging the creation of development programs for villages and towns through the efficient exploitation of the available economic, tourist, cultural and social resources.

Goals

- Developing farmers' capacities and providing the necessary guidance, in order to improve production and boost incomes;
- Developing agricultural production, in order to enhance farmers' incomes and make the sector internationally competitive;
- Activating the work of cooperatives and improving marketing conditions; and
- Training farmers in the use of laboratory testing to improve their production.

Programs and Projects

The Agricultural Development Center

The Safadi Foundation began work in the Agricultural Development Center in Deir Dalloum (caza of Akkar) after completing the construction of the facility in 2004. The Center supports and develops the agricultural sector by providing agricultural extension, technical and marketing services to farmers and livestock breeders.

The Center focused on carrying out the following projects in 2006:

1. Agricultural extension services: seminars and workshops
2. A fruit tree nursery
3. A mobile laboratory for testing plant nutrition
4. The Agricultural Extension Project in al-Joumeh, in cooperation with the UNDP's Social Economic Development Program in Akkar





1. Agricultural extension services: Seminars and workshops

In 2006, the Safadi Foundation organized a series of conferences and workshops dealing with diverse topics, which meet the direct needs of farmers. These activities attracted 615 farmers from the different villages and towns of North Lebanon.

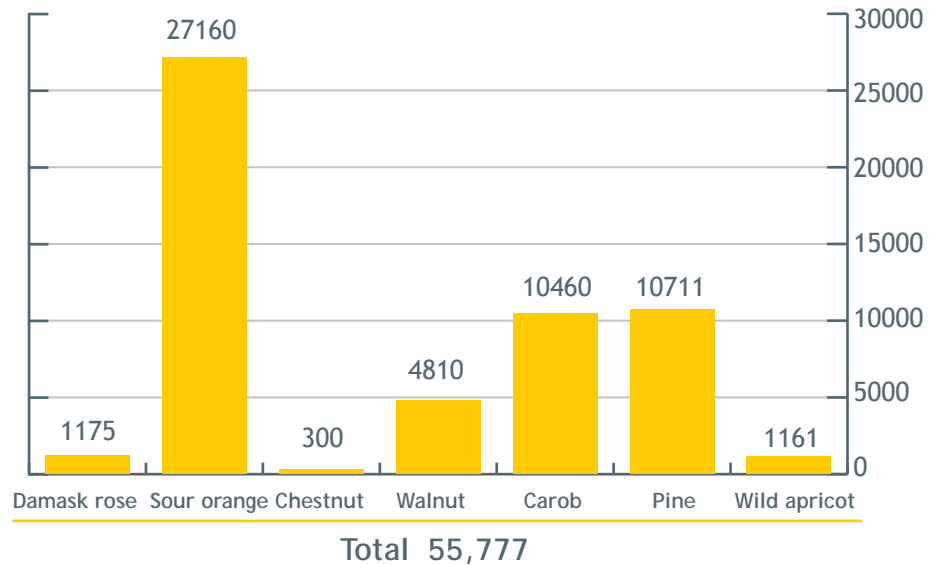
Title of lecture	Location	Nb.
For a Tripoli and Koura free of Avian Flu	NDU, Barsa, Koura	150
The Kafalat program at Credit Libanais Bank	SFADC, Deir Dalloum	76
Avian Flu and its Threats to Dinnieh	Beit al-Faqs, Dinnieh	120
Beekeeping- Problems and Solutions	Kfarhatta, Koura	33
Control of Olive Tree Pests	Mashha, Akkar	40
Fertilizing of apple trees	Fneidiq, Akkar	35
Uncontrolled Use of agricultural fertilizers on fruit trees	Taran, Dinnieh	60
Lectures	Location	Nb.
Integrated pest management of citrus pests	SFADC, Deir Dalloum	33
Control of Varroa pest on bees	SFADC, Deir Dalloum	36
Birth supervision and Breeding enhancement for sheep and goats	SFADC, Deir Dalloum	32

SFADC (Safadi Foundation Agricultural Development Center)



2. Fruit Tree nursery

During 2006, the Nursery produced the following saplings:



In addition to the ongoing production of various types of trees to meet the needs of surrounding areas, a total of 66 farmers benefited from this service in 2006; the farmers received 11,782 saplings at competitive prices, to help reduce their production costs.

3. Mobile laboratory for testing plant nutrition

The importance of this laboratory lies in its guidance for farmers regarding the proper use of fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation water, in order to reduce production costs and improve product quality. In this framework, the laboratory's work is based on two types of interventions:

One: Conducting tests on the nutritional components of planted crops, and particularly on

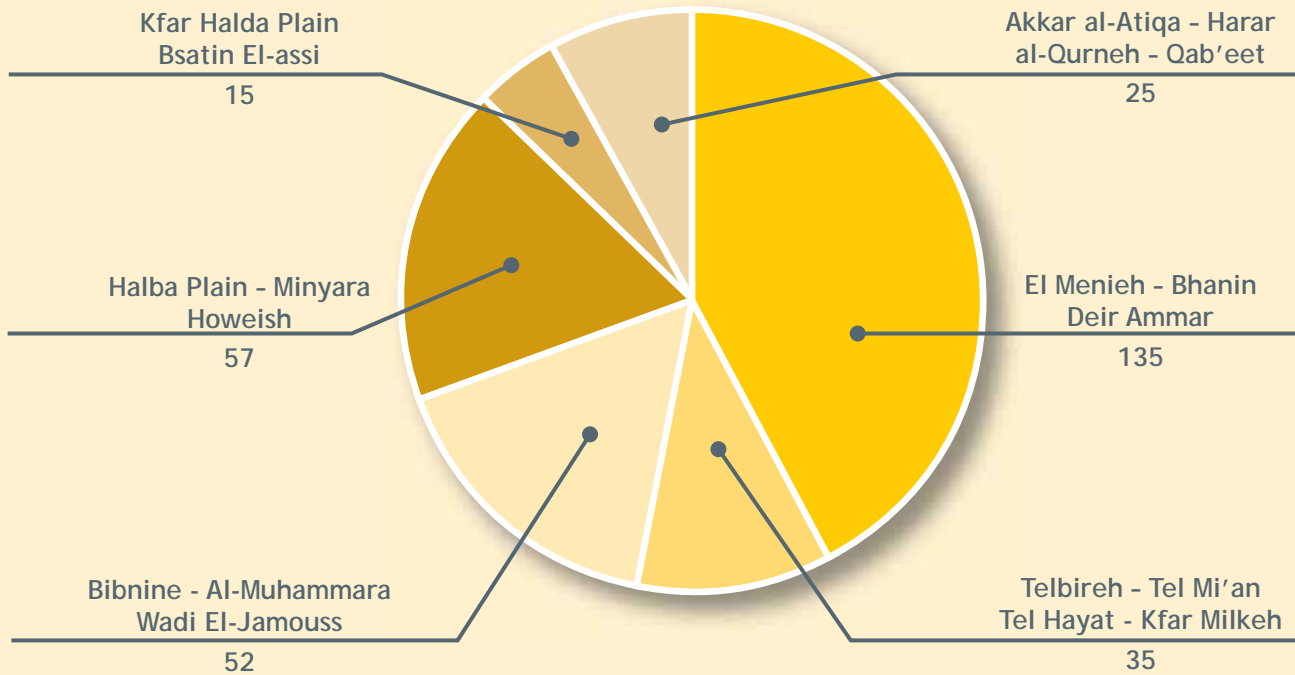
- salinity and acidity levels of soil and irrigation water
- soil compaction levels following cultivation
- soil humidity and temperature
- air humidity and temperature
- rates of nitrogen and potassium in plant sap
- fruit sugar rates





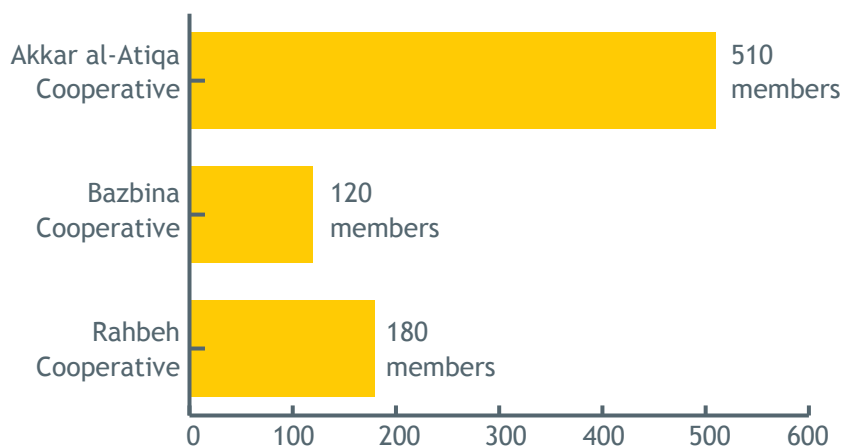
Two: Providing the proper agricultural extension services for farmers, based on the results of laboratory tests conducted on their fields.

Benefiting from the services of the Center were 319 farmers, distributed across various towns in the cazas of El Menieh - Dinnieh, Akkar and Batroun, as follows:



4. Project for developing the agriculture sector and cooperatives in al-JoumeH, Akkar

This project resulted from a partnership initiative between the Safadi Foundation, the Socio-Economic Development Program in Akkar (United Nations Development Program and Council for Development and Reconstruction), and the United Cooperative Association (al-JoumeH, Akkar), which comprises agricultural cooperative associations in the following villages: Akkar al-Atiqa, Bazbina, and Rahbeh. The project has helped provide the necessary agricultural extension services to cooperative members of these cooperatives, as follows:



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Activities were distributed among the following:

- setting up four weather stations (two in Akkar al-Atiqa, one in Bazbina and one in Rahbeh) to measure temperature, humidity and leaf moisture. These factors are necessary to monitor the appearance of agricultural pests in crops such as apples and pears, which are the basic crops in the villages
- daily monitoring of climate changes, via the weather stations installed in the villages
- informing the cooperatives of the need for farmers to intervene in their orchards according to climate changes.
- establishing weekly field schools for a group of farmers selected from each cooperative of the United Cooperative Association, where integrated orchard management methods and their relation to climate changes are explained; establishing field visits to enable farmers to become acquainted with pests, identifying them, and controlling them.



Cooperation agreement with the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute

The agreement calls for cooperation in the development of various agricultural areas

in North Lebanon, in the plant and animal sectors, at the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute.

In the plant sector, the agreement stipulates:

1. Working to encourage farmers to use an integrated management for pest control; providing the required technical expertise, as well as natural enemies of certain pests.
2. Helping to secure disease-free grafts for types of citrus fruits, especially lemons, which are required by farmers, as well as types of grapes.





3. Preparing and participating in seminars and workshops; disseminating the results of studies and scientific methods that have been prepared at the Abdeh station to farmers from various sectors.

In the animal sector, the agreement stipulates:

1. Cooperating on topics related to developing the raising of ruminants in North Lebanon, such as transferring useful methods to livestock breeders; participating in the holding of seminars on health and extension services.
2. Carrying out the scientific application on ruminants in Abdeh station, as prototypes of intensive animal husbandry.
3. Cooperating in the application of practical methods for livestock breeders (non-intensive animal husbandry); the head of the animal husbandry sector in the Research Department in Abdeh station will conduct all of the follow-up and supervision of experiments, cooperation and coordination.
4. Conducting a study on the cultivation of different types of fodder and their effectiveness on small ruminants.
5. Publicizing the results, in cooperation between the Agricultural Research Institute in Abdeh and the Safadi Foundation, for livestock breeders and veterinarians.

According to the agreement, the Safadi Foundation shall rely on the Agricultural Research Institute in carrying out agricultural projects carried out by the Foundation within the limits and capacities offered by the institute.

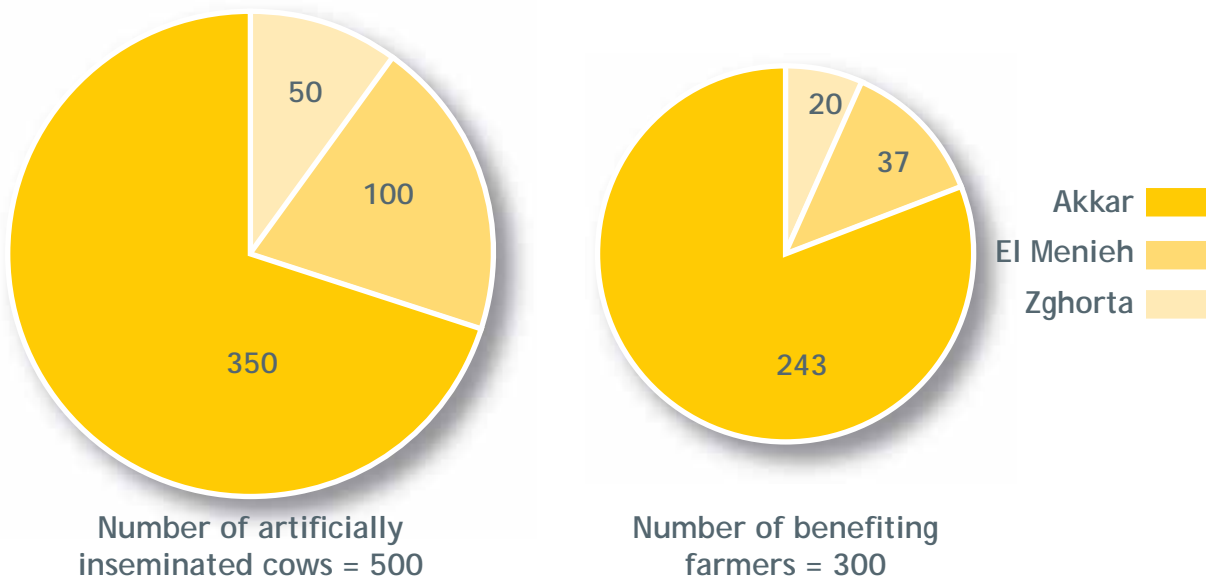


Animal livestock development project

The Safadi Foundation began implementing this project in 2004, with support from the British Embassy. It was updated in 2006 to expand the services in order to benefit a larger number of farmers. The project involves two types of interventions:

1. Conducting artificial insemination
2. Testing pregnant cows

In 2006, the Foundation artificially inseminated 500 cows, as a total of 370 farmers benefited, distributed as follows:



Also, a total of 200 pregnant cows were tested, as 50 farmers benefited, from all towns.

