



Lebanon Recovery Fund



LRF Newsletter

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Another success for the Recovery and Rehabilitation Project of the Dairy Sector in the Beqaa, and Hermel - Akkar Uplands (LRF 21)



The LRF 21 project (Recovery and Rehabilitation Project of the Dairy Sector in the Beqaa, and Hermel – Akkar Uplands) has succeeded in formulating legal contracts between the milk farmers and the dairy factories in Lebanon. Under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Agriculture Dr. Hussein Hajj Hassan, a launching ceremony was held on 5 February 2012, at the Chamber of Economy and Trade in Beqaa to sign the contracts and announce the new milk price set at L.L. 1,025/liter instead of L.L. 800 as set formerly.

This improvement in the milk price will be supported by a moving scale that takes into consideration the unstable price of the concentrated feeds. A joint committee including the farmers, the dairy industry owners, and the Ministry of Agriculture will set convenient prices regularly.

During the ceremony, the Minister conveyed to the farmers the good news that the Council of Ministers has approved the subsidy project supporting the forage cultivation and milk production with a budget of 28 billion Lebanese pounds for this year.

The subsidy project aims to improve the capacities of the farmers and develop the production of milk in terms of quality and quantity. It is expected that the project will result in an increase of the number of milking cows in Lebanon from 40 thousands to 70 thousands heads. The support scale will not be static but dynamic in the sense that the farmers that will be more active, cooperative and show initiative will benefit the most. It is required that the farmers improve the quality of their milk through proper feeding and nutrition to be eligible to benefit from the funds.

Hydro Agriculture Development Project – Marjeyoun (LRF 23)

The LRF 23 project (Hydro Agriculture Development Project) held its first stakeholder meeting on 24 January 2012 at the Holiday Inn Dunes Hotel, in the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Mr. Juan Carlos Gavo, the Country Director of UNDP, Mr. Seifeldin Abbato and representatives from the Litani River Authority, in addition to the project’s Team, the concerned UN Agencies and the government counterparts.

Discussions focused on the success of the Water User Associations (WUAs) in a centralized Governmental system, the necessity for a revision of the proposed costs for water usage, the water quality problems in the Litani river basin and the Qaraoun lake, the agricultural guidance and its importance on the national level, the sustainability of the project after implementation and the project importance on the national level as a pilot.



“Nature Festival” Play In All Lebanon Schools



Another output of CEDRO Project - A “Nature Festival” Play was launched at the UNESCO Palace on 20 February 2012, under the patronage of H.E. the President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Najib Mikati.

The play, jointly produced by UNDP Energy and Environment Program and Bee Event, addresses the critical environmental issues and challenges facing Lebanon, and aims at raising awareness at the primary education level in all the Lebanese Schools.

The play is produced in an accessible format designed especially for children. It tackles the issues of climate change, the benefits of energy and water conservation, and renewable energy. As well, it presents solutions and practical examples to protect the environment.

“Nature Festival” will be played in almost all the Lebanese public and private schools in many Lebanese regions.



Municipalities in Lebanon Directly Involved in Renewable Energy Projects (LRF 1-10-16)

CEDRO Project launched a Renewable Energy Competition for the Municipalities in Lebanon. All the Municipalities were invited to submit a Renewable Energy and/or Energy Efficiency project proposal before 30 September 2011 for a chance to win one of three project grants amounting to LBP 180,000,000.

The Municipalities of Aley, Kobayat and Roumin won each a grant of LBP 60,000,000 to implement their projects in collaboration with CEDRO's Team.

Grants were distributed to the winners in a ceremony held at the UNDP HQ on 17 February 2012, in the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Mr. Juan Carlos Gavo.



Municipalities in Lebanon Directly Involved in Renewable Energy Projects (LRF 1-10-16)

Under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Energy and Water, Gebran Bassil, and the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Juan Carlos Gavo, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Robert Watkins; CEDRO project has launched the National Bioenergy Strategy for Lebanon, on 5 March 2012 at the Habtoor Hotel.



The strategy aims at mapping the biomass streams including the organic part of the municipal solid waste in each of the Lebanese area and the convenient techniques for power production. A summary of the strategy's findings will be available online on both LRF (www.un.org.lb) and CEDRO's websites(www.cedro-undp.org)

News

- LRF Steering Committee (SC) approved on 7 February 2012, the "Recovery and Rehabilitation of Dairy Sector in Bekaa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Uplands – phase II" for an amount of USD 1.2M. The project aims at strengthening the role of the dairy producers' associations to ensure the provision of raw milk with high quality and reach good price deals with the dairy manufacturers, in addition to the empowerment of the female headed households through the provision of small equipment, artificial insemination and veterinary services.

- In a step to disseminate the lessons learnt through the implementation of the LRF projects, LRF news, outcomes, and success stories will be shared on the websites of the Ministry of Economy and Trade (www.economy.gov.lb)

A clear sign of recovery from flash floods in North Bekaa (LRF 9-17)

Local communities in the Northern Bekaa have been facing Flash floods during the past decades resulting from severe human interventions and climate change. In order to help in the recovery of local livelihoods, the LRF initiated the Flood Project for supporting the remote area of Baalback-El Hermel to face its natural hazard through raising community awareness, implementing a flood risk management and conducting a study pertaining to the potential influence of flash floods on the public health. This project aimed at reducing the flood risk, induce better availability of water irrigation and networks needed to achieve crop diversification and improved productivity.

A first phase of the project has been implemented in Arsal Area, where eight reservoirs with different water retaining capacities have been established to mitigate the flood damages and protect the village.

An evaluation of the LRF project (phase I) emphasized on the success of the project implementation through the constructive feedback received from local villagers. As well, the beneficiaries expressed their willingness and commitment to maintain the operations after the LRF project closure, which will ensure long term sustainability of the project outcomes.



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