Agriculture and Irrigation

1 - General Overview of the Agriculture Sector

Current state of the agricultural sector

Agriculture in Lebanon counts on individual initiatives, under a liberal and open economic system. During the past three decades, this sector has undergone major changes, among which:

An increase of 36% in the number of farm holders working in agriculture to reach 195 thousand agricultural investors; an increase of 155% in irrigated lands to 142 thousand hectares of 277 thousand hectares of cultivated lands; the fragmentation of agricultural lands in such a manner that 75% of farming units do not exceed 1 hectare and represent 20% of the total cultivated area.

Despite the decrease in the sector’s contribution to 6.3% of the GDP, it covers 17% of the value of exports, and it is either the sole or an additional source of income for a large portion of the Lebanese rural population.

Agriculture consumes 85% of available water supplies. Increased water needs result in additional pressure on irrigated agriculture, leading to an increase in the number of abandoned lands due to lack of water or low investment opportunities and agricultural profits for smallholders.

The Lebanese agricultural production is mainly characterized by its high production cost and limited competitiveness due to the openness to international markets and to the signed trade agreements.

Nevertheless, Lebanon’s geographical location, its diversified climate and its production are a strong asset if only it can seize available opportunities, make rational use of its natural resources - especially water-, overcome the obstacles limiting its competitiveness, and preserve the environment.

The sector’s main problems

There are two types of agriculture in Lebanon: commercial agriculture,
generally efficient, modern, depending on adequate financial resources for investment and exploiting every profit possibility. This type of agriculture is practiced in around 35 thousand farming units and covers about 25% of total agricultural holdings. It is based on the integration of pre-production and post-production agricultural activities, and on openness to foreign markets. The second type is an agriculture mainly devoted to the preservation of cultural and family heritage. It is practiced in smallholdings with no investment or profit opportunities, and considered as extra income and as subsistence agriculture. Most rural farmers practice this type of agriculture.

It is therefore important to distinguish between means intended to support the rural community, and those destined for the economic activation of the agricultural sector, and which target farms able to respond effectively.

As for agricultural markets, they are unstable and have an adverse effect on farmers’ income due to the weakness and lack of transparency of marketing operations. This is also due to the marketing policies of operators in the agribusiness which are not usually in the farmer’s interest. Therefore, structures for three types of markets should be established: (1) the local market for fresh produce, (2) a market for products intended for processing, (3) a market for fresh agricultural produce and processed products intended for export. Agricultural and rural cooperative movement is characterized by a lack of transparency and a disparate application of laws, and is thus far from the desired goals of collaborative work.

The agricultural sector also lacks the state’s active role in keeping pace with technical developments in the fields of agricultural research, training and extension. The state failed to activate its role and coordinate between administrations concerned with the agricultural sector. Moreover, the technical and marketing information related to agriculture is insufficient, despite some achievements in the context of the comprehensive agricultural census, and despite the support provided by the national program of agricultural export support, “Export Plus”, launched by IDAL.

Furthermore, the growing water demand in the upcoming years will require: (1) providing additional sources by building water storage dams, lakes and facilities, (2) rehabilitating and modernizing surface water and groundwater facilities, (3) regulating water use in order to make it more efficient, by adhering to a suitable legal framework.

The Israeli war of July 2006 had a very negative impact on the Lebanese economy in general, including the agricultural sector which, in addition to its original problem of lack of outlets, incurred heavy losses that exhausted those working in it and increased Lebanese farmers’ frustration. To face all these challenges, it was imperative to assess damages, make a quick contingency plan and provide the necessary funding for it, simultaneously with the initial plan intended for this sector.

A Vision for the Future

The growing water demand will require putting in place an integrated development plan for using available water resources by rehabilitating existing facilities, finding additional water sources and building dams and lakes, and by rationalizing water use and management, including maintenance and operating.

The implementation of irrigation projects will increase the area of irrigated lands between 36 and 50 thousand hectares in the next thirty years, which will result in an increased agricultural production and improve farmers’ income, provided that the agricultural
produce has the competitiveness related to production and marketing factors, namely: 1) selecting processed agricultural products with value-added features, 2) ensuring continuous market supply of quality products, in sufficient quantities and in the required times, and 3) examining the development of investable farming units.

In view of the leading role of technical, statistical and marketing data in the field of agricultural development, administrative utilities and professional organizations are expected to attach great importance to the creation of an information system that allows all those working in the sector, farmers in particular, to get the information they need, in timely fashion.

The future role of the state is to develop strategies and work plans. It will also have a legislative, follow up and control role, in consultation with private sector representatives. In this context, the 2010-2014 strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture focused on the main sectors with development potential (such as olives, grapes, certified seeds, flowers, organic agriculture and the development of the fisheries sector), and on projects involving the modernization of production and exports chains. It also focused on developing laws regulating the exploitation of agricultural lands, quality assurance and quality control, as well as laws on the work of agricultural and marketing organizations, taking into consideration the importance of providing agricultural extension services at all levels and in all agricultural areas, in coordination with local authorities.

Moreover, rural development has become a necessity for balanced development. It is based on the establishment of integrated anti-poverty programs taking into consideration the particularities of rural areas, and involving the development of social sectors and the provision of minimum living allowances and job opportunities. The implementation of an integrated plan related to the preservation of environment and natural resources, and the coordination and integration with concerned parties, as well as the adoption of a participatory approach with local communities, are therefore required.
2 - Main achievements until 2013

The CDR worked on the implementation of the agricultural projects it has been preparing over the past years within the scope of sectoral development programs such as the National Emergency Rehabilitation Plan (NERP), in collaboration with the concerned ministries.

Before putting the agricultural strategy in place, the CDR carried out urgent projects that are likely to contribute to the development of the agriculture and irrigation infrastructure, in particular the rehabilitation of agricultural schools (Fanar, Ghazir, Abdeh, Baqleu, Nasriyet Rizk and the Kfarshima silk factory) through a loan provided by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD).

In view of MoA’s need for technical assistance in conducting sectoral studies and agricultural surveys, the CDR sought a grant from the European Union to finance and implement a project to support agricultural planning, which resulted in setting forth the elements of the agricultural policy and its master plan, in coordination with the agricultural census technical assistance project implemented by CDR through a contract with FAO partially financed by a World Bank’s loan. The project set forth the agricultural strategy and MoA’s agenda for five years (2005-2009).

Concerning irrigation, around 27 thousand hectares of agricultural lands were rehabilitated through a World Bank’s loan allocated for the rehabilitation of irrigation projects in Qasimiya (3600 ha), West Bekaa (2000 ha), Yammouneh (4500 ha), Denniyeh (4400 ha), Akkar el Bared (1500 ha) in addition to medium and small projects in the North and Mount Lebanon (7500 ha) and in the South (3200 ha). This loan also served to finance the capacity building of the Ministry of Hydraulic and Electric Resources (MHER) and the Litani National Authority (ONL), and to procure vehicles, equipment, instruments, advisory contracts, training and conduct studies that facilitated the implementation of these projects. A part of the advisory functions pertaining to the Canal 800 Project aimed at transporting water from the Litani River to South Lebanon to be used in irrigation and drinking water supply – Phase I., was completed.

In addition to the above, the CDR has contributed to raising external funding for the implementation of the Agricultural Infrastructure Rehabilitation project in favor of the Green Plan/MoA, which includes land reclamation, agricultural roads and support walls. It also contributed to the provision of local funding, from its own budget, for the project on the rehabilitation of livestock production for smallholders in Bekaa.

The CDR also participated, through coordination committees, in the implementation of several projects, among which the agricultural support project provided in the framework of the Italian/Lebanese Protocol (1997) and (1998-2000) signed with the CDR, of which a part was allocated to the Baalbeck-Hermel agriculture development project and to the certified plant production project.

CDR also followed up with the olive cultivation development project in marginalized regions with the help of IAM-BARI, thanks to a grant allocated to the project by the Italian project,
among many other projects.

Moreover, a loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) financed the implementation of projects aiming at strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture and its affiliated institutions (the Green Plan and the Agricultural Research Center); Contracts were signed to supply vehicles and necessary equipment and instruments, and contracts for the rehabilitation of agricultural extension centers in Sour and Abdeh, and the rehabilitation and equipment of laboratories and greenhouses for research institutes in Sour, Fanar and Tal Amara. Technical assistance, studies, training and maintenance necessary for these institutions were provided through advisory services contracts.

The IFAD loan also allowed the provision of agricultural extension services in all areas of irrigated agriculture, through the implementation of advisory contracts with NGOs, as well as the construction of small mountain lakes in locations specified by the Green Plan in Bcharre, Mechmech, Bkaasfreen, Bkoufa, Hermel, Deir el Ahmar and Kfarmishki, and As for the mountain lakes already carried out by the CDR through the IFAD loan, all related works concerning lakes in Bkaasfreen (Minieh-Diniyeh Caza) and the lake of Bkoufa (Zgharta Caza) were delivered. Concerning the lake of Mechmech (Akkar Caza), the CDR conducted the study related to the necessary repair works.

The CDR also secured US $ 4 million of the IFAD loan and US 8.4 million of the OPEC loan to finance the Hilly Areas Sustainable Agricultural Development project "Hasad" aiming at constructing mountain lakes for agricultural development as an additional irrigation source during summer in poor rural areas where water is scarce.

Also in 2012, the following works were wrapped up: 1) construction of an irrigation line in Khiam, 2) construction of a rainwater drainage network in Nabatiyeh, 3) rehabilitation of a water pond in Bint Jbeil (Nabatiyeh District) and 4) construction of agricultural roads in Aarkoub, Yohmor and Tibeh (Nabatiyeh District). The CDR had commenced these works in 2010 owing to an EU grant (Grant ENP/2007/018-882).

In addition, the CDR continued to oversee the implementation of the Water Development Project in Marjeyoun that has been officially launched in mid April 2010. This project prepared the infrastructure and facilitated the installation of an irrigation distribution system in the northern part of Marjeyoun, into which water will be supplied from Canal 800. The project also conducted trainings on modern irrigation techniques and cropping patterns that have socioeconomic impacts. The project targets 522 hectares and is expected to benefit 1259 farmers in the area. This initiative is funded by the Government of Spain through the “Lebanese Recovery Fund” established after the July 2006 War and managed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in close collaboration with the Litani River National Authority and Association of Friends of Ibrahim Abdel (AFIAL).

Regarding the Canal 800 Project aimed at transporting water from the Litani River to the South of Lebanon, to be used in irrigation and in supplying drinking water– Phase I:

- The CDR signed an advisory contract with the merger group Lahmeyer Int. GmbH/IBJ Gauff/ingenieur/D.A.H “Shair & Partners”, according to which the advisory groups charged with the completion of the executive studies of all contracts. The advisory group also provided technical assistance in awarding the contract related to the execution of works. After eliminating the administrative barriers faced by the project, the
The final draft of the contract was approved by the Arab Fund and the consulting group in terms of the supervision of the works execution until 2017.

- In 2012, the CDR awarded the implementation of the project to Kharafi/Veziroglu/Guris until 2017.
- Also in 2012, the CDR completed the execution of the contract related to the provision of institutional support and technical assistance to the Litani River Water Authority in terms of overseeing the project that has commenced in 2007.
- Moreover, the CDR has started the implementation of the "Local Development Project in Northern Lebanon", since the signature of its financing agreement in July, 6 2009. This project is funded by a European Union grant.

- As an initial phase, the CDR sought the assistance of a delegation of technical experts from the European Union (Framework Agreement I and II) to identify a list of priority projects related to agricultural infrastructure and prepare the social development component of the project and its requirements. In a second phase, the CDR signed a technical assistance contract with the merger group (GFA-ELARD) on the October, 18 2010 for a period of 33 months. The technical assistance staff is currently proceeding with the implementation of the project's agricultural and social components under the supervision of the CDR.

It is worth mentioning that the technical assistance staff is located at the MoA’s office in Abdeh in the region of Akkar, according to a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the CDR and the MoA, through which the latter puts a part of its Abdeh office under the project’s disposition. In return, the project commited to rehabilitate and equip the building in order to allow its technical staff to implement the project’s activities and be in constant contact with local authorities.

The CDR also appointed a supervisor who is present daily at the project station in Abdeh, to oversee the management of the project, under the direct guidance of the CDR.

In the framework of the same project, the CDR has awarded the necessary studies and works supervision for the implementation of the infrastructure component, which includes the rehabilitation of agricultural roads, as well as the rehabilitation of irrigation channels and the construction of water collection ponds. These projects were planned in the Framework Agreement I and examined by the technical assistance staff; these projects target all rural areas situated 400m above sea-level in the Akkar District as well as the mountainous areas of the Districts of Hermel and Denniyeh, namely: Akroum, Wadi Khaled, Kobayat, Dreib, Joumeh, Al-Qayteh and Al-Jurd, Hermel and Denniyeh.

In 2012, the CDR received the feasibility studies and the detailed designs awarded in 2011, in relation with projects aimed at rehabilitating agricultural roads and irrigation canals and constructing water collection ponds for 6 clusters of villages targeted by the project.

With regard to the implementation of the process of awarding studies and works supervision tasks, the projects were classified into 6 groups, each including a list of agricultural projects, whereby group No.6 includes only the preparation of detailed studies and the supervision of agricultural roads rehabilitation projects. Whereas groups 1 to 5 include the preparation of feasibility studies as a first step, and as a second step they include the preparation of detailed studies and supervision of projects for the construction of agricultural roads, irrigation canals and mountain ponds, in all the areas targeted by the project.
Also in 2012, the CDR awarded the works for the infrastructure component composed of 6 groups of projects aimed at rehabilitating agricultural roads and irrigation canals and constructing water collection ponds, to a group of contractors after releasing calls for tenders in due form of law and in accordance with the European Union norms. Also the CDR extended the contracts awarded to the consultants charged with the elaboration of the detailed designs for the implementation of executive works in all areas covered by the project.

Furthermore, within the framework of the local development component of the ADELNORD project, clusters were identified in 2011. The elaboration of a Local Development Plan for each cluster has commenced through a participatory approach between local authorities and civil society organizations, with the support of the ADELNORD technical assistance team and under the supervision of the Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD).

In 2012, Local Developments Plans were put in place for 9 clusters distributed within the area targeted by the project, through a participatory approach between local authorities and civil society organizations. These plans led to the identification of 9 socio-economic development projects that respond to the needs of these rural areas. The CDR signed contracts with the local official actors representing these villages to implement these projects.

To set forth the requirements (terms of reference) relating to the development of a Sustainable Strategic Plan for the Districts of Akkar, Hermel and Diniyeh the ADELNORD project - in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and in cooperation with the administrations involved in the development sector - suggested an initiative to establish a standard methodology for regional development plan studies, after several donors expressed their readiness to finance regional development plan studies. The CDR will adopt this methodology in the preparation of the tender document of the strategic plan for the District of Akkar and the highlands of Hermel and Diniyeh.

And as part of the technical assistance provided for the creation of a national park in the mountainous areas of Akkar, ADELNORD project agreed with the Ministry of Environment to set forth the requirementsto award a technical study on the creation and management of regulated natural reserves in Lebanon as a preparatory step for the creation of a national park in Akkar.

In 2012, as part of ADENLNORD’s activities, the said technical study commenced in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment. The study resulted in a detailed technical report and a draft law on natural reserves, which have been referred to the Ministry of Environment for review and approval.

Within the context of fire suppression and forest protection and management, ADELNORD started in 2012, the preparation of 2 management plans for the forests of Andaket-Akar and Safira-Deniye, that led to setting forth the terms of reference relating to forest management including pruning, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Also contracts were signed with suppliers to purchase communication and advertising materials for ADELNORD Project, through the release of a call for tenders in accordance with the applicable laws and under the supervision and upon the approval of the European Union.

It is worth noting that 160 contracts were signed in the agriculture sector between 1992 and the end of 1993, of which 134 were wrapped up and 26 are underway, with a total value of US$ 45, 43 million.

**Work Progress in 2013**

Regarding the Canal 800 Project – Phase I, aimed at transporting water from Litani River to southern Lebanon to be used in irrigation and in supplying drinking water, Kharafi/Veziroglu/Guris has commenced the execution of works, which are supervised by Lahmeyer Int. Gmbh/IBJ Gauff/ingenieur/D.A.H “Shair& Partners”.

Several agricultural and irrigation projects are underway at municipal level, at the initiative of the Social Development Fund, through a European Union grant and contributions from concerned
municipalities in particular in the South and Akkar.

Moreover, the CDR, through its participation in coordination committees, is following up on projects implemented by the MoA, among them:

1) The committee formed to solve the issue of forbidden crops and propose alternative ones in the Bekaa.
2) The coordination committee for the “Economic and Social Development Project for Olive Producers in Poor Areas”.
3) National Food Security Program committee in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
4) The guiding committee of the Hilly Areas Sustainable Agricultural Development Project “HASAD”.
5) The steering committee of the Lebanese Observatory for Agricultural Development.
6) The guiding committee for the Coordination Project between the Ministry of Agriculture and Italy.
7) The steering committee of Promoting the Production and Marketing of Lebanese Agricultural Production.
8) The coordination committee for the Agricultural and Rural Development Project (ARDP) funded by the European Union.
9) The national coordination committee for FAO.

Through these committees the CDR get an insight of the main results of their implemented work and upcoming activities and of the problems and challenges that they face.

In the framework of the “Local Development Project in Northern Lebanon” ADELNORD, funded by a European grant, CDR continues the implementation of the project since 2010 in coordination with the technical assistance staff (GFA-ELARD) and the operational director, as well as the Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD), in terms of implementing the different components of the project.

During the implementation of this project, and in the framework of the agricultural infrastructure component, the CDR in 2012 took over the feasibility studies and detailed designs for the rehabilitation of agricultural roads, as well as the rehabilitation of irrigation canals and the construction of water collection ponds, grouped in the six clusters of villages as within the scope of the project, and as defined by the CDR in 2011.

In 2012, the CDR awarded the works of infrastructure component composed of six groups of projects aimed at rehabilitating agricultural roads and irrigation canals, and constructing water collection ponds, to a group of contractors, after releasing call for tenders in due course of law and in accordance with the requirements and under the supervision of the EU. The CDR also extended the contracts signed with consultants charged with the elaboration of detailed designs to oversee the implementation works in different areas of the project.

As for the local development component, and with the help of the technical assistance staff and under the supervision of ESFD, ADELNORD accomplished local development plans in 2012 for nine clusters of villages within the scope of the project, according to a participatory approach between local authorities and civil society. This resulted in nine economic and social development projects that respond to the needs of those areas. Accordingly, the CDR worked with all these organizations represented by local official activities to implement the nine projects.

Concerning the environmental component of ADELNORD Project, the following was achieved in 2013:

1) The development of a sustainable strategic plan for the Denniyeh of Akkar, Hermel and Denniyeh has been launched, in coordination with a team of experts specialized in environmental and economic sciences, urban planning and social development, assigned by the technical assistance team (GFA ELARD) for this purpose.

2) The Ministry of Environment approved the Natural Reserves Draft Law that the CDR had drafted and referred to the MoE in 2012, through ADELNORD. The Draft Law has been afterwards referred to the concerned parliamentary committees for review and approval.

In 2013, the CDR continued, through the ADELNORD Project, the preparation of a technical study on the creation and
management of natural reserves in Lebanon, and on the elaboration of the implementing decree of the Natural Reserves Draft Law, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment.

3) The CDR, through the ADELNORD Project, submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture the final report on Fire Suppression and Forest Protection and Management, which includes 2 management plans for the forests of Andaket Akkar and Safira Denniyeh, and 2 terms of reference for forest management including pruning, as a preparatory step for obtaining the approval of the final report by the MoA.

Contracts were signed, through ADELNORD Project, with suppliers to purchase communication and advertising materials for the project through the release of a call for tenders in accordance with applicable laws and upon the approval of the EU.

Main Contracts Signed in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Estimated Value (USD)</th>
<th>Source of Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appointment of pragmatic supervisor for the Local Development Support project in Northern Lebanon</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>CDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of the duration of a contract to conduct an executive study and supervise agricultural roads (Group n°6) in Akkar, Denniyeh and Hermel</td>
<td></td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of the duration of a contract to conduct a preliminary study, a feasibility study and executive studies related to irrigation projects and agricultural roads (Group n°2) in the highlands of Denniyeh</td>
<td></td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of the duration of a contract to conduct a preliminary study, a feasibility study and executive studies related to irrigation projects and agricultural roads (Group n°3) in the highlands of Hermel</td>
<td>58,032</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of the duration of a contract to conduct a preliminary study, a feasibility study and executive studies related to irrigation projects and agricultural roads (Group n°5) in Akroum and Al-Jurd</td>
<td>36,036</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Execution of infrastructure works: agricultural roads, irrigation and mountain ponds in Wadi Khaled (Group n°1)</td>
<td>1,669,592</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Execution of infrastructure works: agricultural roads, irrigation and mountain ponds in Denniyeh (Group n°2)</td>
<td>1,513,510</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Execution of works for the rehabilitation of agricultural roads in Akkar, Hermel and Denniyeh (Group n°6)</td>
<td>1,528,416</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Execution of infrastructure works: agricultural roads, irrigation and mountain ponds in Hermel (Group n°3)</td>
<td>3,553,689</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Execution of infrastructure works: agricultural roads, irrigation and mountain ponds in Wadi Khaled (Group n°4)</td>
<td>938,796</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Execution of infrastructure works: agricultural roads, irrigation and mountain ponds in Akkar (Group n°5)</td>
<td>2,355,197</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
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Main Contracts Signed in 2013 (Continue)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Estimated Value (USD)</th>
<th>Source of Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renewal of the technical assistance contract for ADELNORD, to include many activities among which the development of a Sustainable Strategic Plan for Akkar, Hermel and Denniyeh</td>
<td>645,000</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarding local development projects in Akkar, Denniyeh and Hermel</td>
<td>3,250,000</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of communication and advertising materials for ADELNORD</td>
<td>48,347</td>
<td>European Union (grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litani River Canal 800 Project to transport water from Litanai River to the South of Lebanon to be used in irrigation and drinking water supply - Phase I</td>
<td>333,303,081</td>
<td>- AFESD</td>
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<td>- KFAED</td>
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5 - Main projects under preparation for 2014 - 2015:

The CDR will continue securing the OPEC loan valued at US$ 8.4 million for the Hilly Areas Sustainable Agricultural Development project "Hasad".

In the framework of the “Local Development Project in Northern Lebanon” ADELNORD, funded by grant n° ENPI/2008/019-623, the CDR is working on the following:

- Supervising the awarding of works and executive functions of the infrastructure component, i.e. the rehabilitation of agricultural roads, as well as the rehabilitation of irrigation canals and the construction of mountainponds for water harvesting, in light of the results of the feasibility and detailed studies carried in 2011.
- Putting in place a Sustainable Strategic Plan for the Districts of Akkar, Hermel and Denniyeh.
- Supervising the implementation of priority local development projects in the different clusters under the supervision of the Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD).
- Continuing to receive ADELNORD media and communication material.
- Renewing the pragmatic supervisor’s contract.
- Coordinating with the Ministry of Environment with regard to the approval and application of the draft law on natural reserves and its draft implementing decree.
- Coordinating with MoA with regard to the approval and ratification of the two management plans of the forests of Andaket in Akkar and Safira in Denniyeh, and the terms of reference for forest management including pruning, in the framework of fire suppression and forest protection and management.

As for the Canal 800 Project – Phase I:

- The CDR will continue the implementation of the project which was awarded to Kharafi/Veziroglu/Guris in 2012.
- The CDR will continue overseeing the implementation of the project through the advisory contract with the merger group LahneyerInt.GmbH/JBJ Gauff/ingenieur/D.A.H “Shair& Partners.
- In 2014, the CDR will award the SCADA contract, with the technical assistance of the consultant and in agreement with the Arab Fund.

It is worth mentioning that the implementation of this project will result in providing 90 million m$ annually by gravity irrigation for around 13,000 ha between the 800 m and 400 m levels of the Qaraoun Lake, in addition to providing 20 million m$ annually.
of drinking water. The project will be financed through two available loans, the first provided by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the second by The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). Concerning the locally funded project for the restoration of the lake of Mechmech in the Akkar District, the CDR is currently preparing the tender document in order to start the implementation after having received the study related to the necessary repair works for the lake.

**Main projects under preparation (2013–2014)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Estimated value US$</th>
<th>Source of Funding</th>
<th>Expected date to resume work</th>
<th>Expected completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restoration of the lake of Mechmech</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>CDR</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pragmatic supervisor for the Local Development Support project in Northern Lebanon</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>CDR</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Litani River Canal 800 Project to transport water from Litani River to the South of Lebanon for drinking water and irrigation–(Awarding SCADA Contract)</td>
<td>2,242,000</td>
<td>AFESD - KFAED</td>
<td>February 2014</td>
<td>February 2016</td>
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