

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

1-Overview of the Agriculture Sector

- Current situation 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:

-The number of farm holders working in agriculture grew by 36% to reach 195 thousand agricultural investors;

- The size of irrigated lands grew by 155% to reach 142 thousand hectares out of 277 thousand hectares of cultivated lands;

-The agricultural lands witnessed fragmentation, whereas the size of 75% of plots do not exceed 1 hectare and represent only 20% of the total cultivated area.

Despite the decrease in the sector's contribution to 6.3% of the GDP, agriculture accounts for 17% of the value of exports, and constitutes the sole source of income 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 faces many challenges among which the high production costs and the limited com-

petitiveness.

Nevertheless, Lebanon's geographical location, its diversified climate and its production remain strong assets should the country seize available opportunities, make rational use of its natural resources –in particular water –, overcome obstacles in order to enhance its competitiveness, and preserve the environment.

• Main Challenges

There are two types of agriculture in Lebanon: commercial agriculture, generally efficient, modern, depending on adequate financial resources for investment and exploiting every potential profit. 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

To address the growing water needs in the future, an integrated development plan should be put in place to manage the use of available water resources by rehabilitating existing facilities, finding additional water sources, building dams and lakes and rationalizing water use.

The implementation of irrigation projects will increase the area of irrigated lands to around 36 to 50 thousand hectares in the next thirty years, which will increase the agricultural production and improve farmers' income. It all depends on the competitiveness of agricultural products in terms of production and marketing factors e.g. 1) selecting processed added-value agricultural products 2) ensuring continuous market supply of quality products in sufficient quantities and on time, and 3) examining the development of investable farming units.

Technical, statistical and marketing data play a pivotal role in agricultural development, therefore management facilities and professional organizations are likely to attach great importance to the creation of an information system that allows all the persons working in agriculture, farmers in particular, to obtain the information they need promptly.

The Lebanese government should develop future strategies and plans and create agricultural policies and legislations. It should also provide oversight and control in consultation with

private sector stakeholders. 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 aimed at modernizing production and exports chains. The strategy focused also on developing laws regulating the exploitation of agricultural lands, quality assurance and quality control, as well as the creation of policies and laws regulating the activities of agricultural and marketing companies, with due regard to the importance of provision of 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 to preserve the environment and the natural resources, in complementarity with concerned parties, as well as the adoption of a participatory approach with local communities, are therefore required.

2- Main achievements until 2014

The CDR initiated the implementation of agricultural projects that have been prepared 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 implemented 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, Baaqleen, Nasriyet Rizk and the Kfarshima silk factory) through a loan provided by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD).

In view of the Ministry of Agriculture'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. As a result, the elements and the master plan of the agricultural policy were set out, in coordination with the agricultural census technical assistance project implemented by the CDR under a contract signed with the FAO and partially financed by a World Bank's loan. The project led to the creation of the agricultural strategy and a five-year agenda for the Ministry of Agriculture (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), WestBekaa (2000 ha), Yammouneh (4500 ha), Danniye (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 external fund raising 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. The CDR also allocated funds from its annual budget to 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 Baalback- Hermel agriculture development project and to the certified plant production project.

The 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 institu-

tions (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 permitted 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. As for the mountain lakes already constructed by the CDR through the IFAD loan, all related works concerning lakes in Bkaasfreen (Minieh-DiniyehCaza) and the lake of Bkoufa (Zgharta Caza) were completed. Concerning the lake of Mechmech (AkkarCaza), the CDR conducted the study related to the necessary repair works.

The CDR also allocated US\$ 8,4 million of the OPEC loan to the “المشروع الأخضر – «Green Plan»” with a view to finance the Hilly Areas Sustainable Agricultural Development Project “Hasad” aiming at constructing hills lakes to promote agricultural development as an additional irrigation source during summer in poor rural areas where water is scarce.

In 2012, the following projects were also completed: 1) construction of an irrigation line in Khiam, 2) construction of a

rainwater drainage network in Nabatiyeh, 3) rehabilitation of a water pond in BintJbeil (Nabatiyeh District), and 4) construction of agricultural roads in Aarkoub, Yohmor and Tibeh (Nabatiyeh District). The CDR had initiated these works in 2010 owing to an EU grant (Grant ENP/2007/018-882).

In addition, the CDR continued to provide oversight over 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 socio-economic 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 the 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 drinking water supply– Phase I:

- The CDR signed a consultancy contract with the LahmeyerInt. GmbH/BJJ Gauff/ingenieur/ D.A.H “Shair& Partners” Group, whereby the completion of the executive studies of all contracts is awarded to the Group. The consultant 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 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 to provide oversight of the project that has commenced in 2007.

- Moreover, the CDR has initiated the implementation of the "Local Development Project in Northern Lebanon" ADELNORD, on the date of signature of its financing agreement on 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 October, 18 2010 for a period of 33 months. The technical assistance staff continued 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, stipulating that the latter puts a part of its Abdeh office under the project's disposition. In return, the project committed 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 field 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.

Within the framework of the same project, the CDR has awarded in 2011 the feasibility studies and the detailed designs related to the infrastructure component, which includes the repair of agricultural roads, as well as the repair and renovation of irrigation channels and the construction of water collection lakes. 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 Danniyeh, namely: Akroum, WadiKhaled, Kobayat, Dreib, Joumeh, Al-Qayteh and Al-Jurd, Hermel and Danniyeh.

With regard to the award of contracts for feasibility studies and supervision tasks, the projects were merged into 6 groups, each including a list of agricultural projects, whereby group No.6 consists only of preparation of detailed studies and supervision of agricultural roads repair and renovation projects. Whereas groups 1 to 5 include the preparation of feasibility studies as a preliminary step, and the preparation of detailed studies and supervision of construction of agricultural roads, irrigation canals and hill lakes as

a second step, in all the project target areas.

During 2012, feasibility studies and detailed plans were completed and delivered to the CDR.

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 lakes 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 to design the detailed plans for the supervision of implementation works in all areas covered by the project.

Furthermore, within the framework of the local development component of the ADELNORD project, nine village clusters were identified in 2011 distributed across the project target areas. The elaboration of a Local Development Plan for each cluster has been initiated 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 Development Plans were completed for 9 clusters, and led to the identification of nine socio-economic development projects that respond to the needs of these rural areas. Based on this, contracts were signed between the CDR and each cluster represented by official local actors to implement these nine projects.



The environment component of the ADELNORD Project:

Moreover and in the context of setting out the requirements (terms of reference) relating to the development of a Sustainable Strategic Plan for the Districts of Akkar, Hermel and Danniye, the ADELNORD project - in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and in cooperation with the public administrations involved in the development sector - launched 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 requirements to 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 ADELNORD's activities, the said technical study was initiated 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 presented to the Ministry of Environment for review and approval.

Within the context of fire suppression and forest protection

and management, ADELNORD initiated in 2012 as a first phase the preparation of two management plans for the forests of Andaket-Akkar and Safira-Danniye, that resulted in the elaboration of the terms of reference relating to forest management including pruning, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

In 2013, the CDR presented to the Ministry of Agriculture a final report encompassing two management plans and two terms of reference related to the forests of Andaket-Akkar and Safira-Danniye, awaiting the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Also contracts were signed with suppliers to purchase communication and advertising materials within the framework of ADELNORD Project, through the release of a call for tenders in accordance with 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 2014, of which 134 were completed and 26 are current active projects, with a total value of US\$ 45, 96 million.

3- Work Progress in 2014

Regarding the Canal 800 Project – Phase I, aimed at transporting water from Litani River to southern Lebanon to be used in irrigation and in drinking water supply, Kharafi/Veziroglu/Guris has initiated the implementation plans, which are supervised by Lahmeyer Int. GmbH/JBJ Gauff/ingenieur/D.A.H “Shair& Partners”.

Several agricultural and irrigation projects are currently 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.

Regarding the Hilly Areas Sustainable Agricultural Development Project “Hasad”:

- In 2014, the CDR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the “Green plan”, regarding the implementation and disbursement mechanisms of OFID loan No. 1337PB allocated to this project;

- Twenty hill lakes locations were identified, and are scheduled for implementation under the Hasad project, across five Mohafazat as follows: Bawadi, Younin, Amayriye el Moudwe, Barqa, Zrazir, Ain El Benieh, Nahle (Bekaa), Aita el Chaab, Aitroun, Beit Lif, Chebaa, Kfarchouba, Majdel Selm (Nabatiyeh); Ehmej, Baadran, Kfarmatta, Kornayel, Mechmech (Mount Lebanon); Karm el Mahr (North) and Minjiz (Akkar).

- Contracts were awarded to implement and supervise works related to eight hill lakes as a first phase – that are: Bawadi, Ain El Benieh, Nahle (Bekaa), Aita el Chaab, Aitroun, Beit Lif, Chebaa (Nabatiyeh) and Ehmej (Mount Lebanon).

In the framework of the “TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROJECT IN NORTH LEBANON” ADELNORD, funded by the European Commission, the CDR continues the implementation of the project launched in 2010 in coordination with the technical assistance staff (GFA-ELARD) and the field supervisor, as well as the Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD), in terms of implementing the different components of the project.

In the context of the same proj-



ect, and under the agricultural infrastructure component, the CDR initiated the supervision of implementation plans in different target areas.

In 2014, the CDR initiated the activities of the infrastructure component composed of six groups of projects i.e rehabilitation of agricultural roads, restoration of irrigation canals and construction water collection lakes.

As for the local development component of ADELNORD, in 2014, the nine development and social plans were still active under the supervision of ESFD, in nine clusters of villages across the project target area, summarized as follows:

| Cluster | Proposed Project |
|----------------------|---|
| Fnaideq | - Creation of waste treatment plant |
| Machta Hassan | - Equipping of medical center |
| Hrar | - Rehabilitation of irrigation canals |
| | - Equipping of vocational training center |
| | - Socio-cultural municipal complex |
| Beit Youness | - Rehabilitation of irrigation canals |
| | - Purchase of waste containers and waste collection vehicles |
| Old Akkar | - Installation of an integrated system for waste water treatment |
| Wadi Khaled | - Equipping and improvement of the services of Makassed Health Center |
| | - Equipping Schools and improvement of vocational and school education |
| Kfarbanine- Dinniyeh | - Rehabilitation of drinking water and irrigation network |
| | - Equipping of a health center |
| | - Construction of a school playground |
| | - Development of capabilities and skills of civil societies in the region |
| South Hermel | - Digging wells, rehabilitation of networks and drinking water storage |
| | - Support agricultural cooperatives |
| North Hermel | - Digging wells, rehabilitation of networks and drinking water storage |

Concerning the environmental component of ADELNORD Project, the following was achieved in 2014:

1)The “Development of a Sustainable Strategic Plan for Akkar, Hermel and DanniyeH” has been initiated, in coordination with a team of experts specialized in environment and economic sciences, urban planning and social development, assigned by the technical support company (GFA -ELARD) established for this purpose. In this context, the chapter on Current Diagnostic and the draft plan were completed, in coordination and consultation with local authorities.

2)The concerned parliamentary committees approved the Natural Reserves Draft Law that was drafted by the CDR and presented by the Ministry of Environment. In 2014, the CDR, with the support of ADELNORD, completed the Draft Implementing Decree of the Law on Natural Reserves and presented it to the Ministry of Environment.

3)Within the framework of Fire Suppression and Forest Protection and Management, the CDR initiated the Phase II of this mandate, upon the request of the Minister of Agriculture, in particular the following:

1. Implementation of a training program targeting forests guards and local activists;
2. Supply of forest management tools and supplies;
3. Propose a follow up mechanism to implement the two management plans of the Forest of Andekt and Safira.



Moreover, the CDR, through its participation in coordination committees, is following up on projects implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture:

1. The committee formed to solve the issue of forbidden crops and propose alternative crops 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 the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Through these committees the CDR get an insight of the main results of completed project and planned activities and the problems and challenges encountered.

4- Main Contracts Signed in 2014

| Project | Estimated Value (USD) | Source of Funding |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| ADELNORD | | |
| Appointment of field supervisor for the Local Development Support project in Northern Lebanon | 315,000 | CDR |
| Extension of the duration of a contract to conduct a preliminary study, a feasibility study and implementation plans for irrigation and agricultural roads projects (Group no. 2) in the highlands of Danniye | 26,712 | European Union (grant) |
| Extension of the duration of a contract to conduct a preliminary study, a feasibility study and implementation plans related to irrigation projects and agricultural roads (Group no. 3) in the highlands of Danniye | 59,345 | European Union (grant) |
| Execution of infrastructure works: agricultural roads, irrigation and hill lakes in WadiKhaled (Group no. 1) | 25,773 | European Union (grant) |
| Execution of infrastructure works: agricultural roads, irrigation and hill lakes in Danniye (Group no. 2) | 121,826,817 | European Union (grant) |
| Execution of infrastructure works: agricultural roads, irrigation and hill lakes in Hermel (Group no. 3) | 2823242,80 | European Union (grant) |
| Execution of infrastructure works: agricultural roads, irrigation and hill lakes in Wadi Khaled (Group no. 4) | 42623 | European Union (grant) |
| Execution of infrastructure works: agricultural roads, irrigation and hill lakes in Akkar (Group no. 5) | 341863 | European Union (grant) |
| Extension of the technical support contract for ADEL-NORD | 394674,67 | European Union (grant) |
| Litani River Canal 800 Project to transport water from Litani River to the South of Lebanon to be used in irrigation and drinking water supply - Phase I | | |
| Works | 1,462,803 | - CDR |
| | | - AFESD |
| | | - KFAED |
| Studies and supervision | 3,850,000 | - CDR |
| | | - KFAED |
| Hilly Areas Sustainable Agricultural Development project «Hasad» | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Bawadi el Bekaa | 487.737 \$ | OPEC + OFID |
| Ayn el Benieyh - Bekaa | 445.714.97 \$ | OPEC + OFID |
| Nahlet - Bekaa | 318.122.25 \$ | OPEC + OFID |
| Ain el Chaab – Nabatiyeh | 295.895.45 \$ | OPEC + OFID |
| Aitroun – Nabatiyeh | 119.927.27 \$ | OPEC + OFID |
| Beit Lif – Nabatieh | 363.295.15 \$ | OPEC + OFID |
| Chebaa – Nabatieh | 313.176.99 \$ | OPEC + OFID |
| Ehmej-Mount Lebanon | 260.654.69 \$ | OPEC + OFID |

5- Main projects under preparation for 2015:

In the context of the Hilly Areas Sustainable Agricultural Development project “Hasad”:

The CDR will continue to provide oversight over the completion of works in the eight lakes awarded in 2014; the CDR will also continue to secure funding from the OPEC loan to construct the remaining planned lakes, in close collaboration with the “Green Plan – المشروع الأخضر”.

In the framework of the “Technical Assistance to the local development support project

In North Lebanon” ADEL-NORD, funded by grant n ENPI/2008/019-623, the CDR will assume the following:

- Continue to supervise the completion of the infrastructure component, i.e. the renovation and repair of agricultural roads, as well as the rehabilitation of irrigation canals and the construction of hill lakes for water harvesting.

- Draft the final version of the Sustainable Strategic Plan for Akkar.

- Continue to supervise the implementation of priority local development projects in the different village clusters under the supervision of the Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD).

- Coordinate with the Ministry of Environment with regard to the approval and enforcement of the draft implementing decree on natural reserves.

- Coordinate with MoA with re-

gard to the endorsement of the two management plans of the forests of Andaket in Akkar and Safira in Danniye, and the two 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 (Transfer of Litani River Water to the South of Lebanon)– 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 LahmeyerInt.GmbH/JBJ Gauff/ingenieur/D.A.H “Shair& Partners.

- In 2015, the CDR will seek to award the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) contract, with the technical assistance of the consultant and in agreement with the Arab Fund.

- The CDR will also seek to secure the necessary loan (approximately US\$ 18,000,000) to implement Phase II of the project, expected to extend from 2015 to 2020, inclusive of studies, supervision and works phases.

It is worth mentioning that the implementation of this project will result in providing 90 million m³ 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 m³ annually

of drinking water. The project is financed through two approved 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 Akkar, the CDR completed the tender document awaiting initiation of bidding process.

The CDR will continue to provide oversight over the work of the coordination committees in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, to follow up on the different agricultural projects and get an insight of the main results of completed works, upcoming activities and the problems and challenges encountered.



5- Main projects under preparation (2015)

| Project | Estimated value (\$US) | Source of Funding | Expected date to resume work | Scheduled completion |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Restoration of the lake of Mechmech | 000 ,300 | CDR | Jun-15 | Sep-15 |
| Water transfer from Litani River to the South of Lebanon for drinking water and irrigation-(Awarding Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Contract SCADA) – under Phase I | 2,242,000 | AFESD - KFAED - | Feb-14 | Feb-17 |
| Water transfer from Litani River to the South of Lebanon for drinking water and irrigation (Canal 800) – Phase II: Studies, supervision and works | 18,000,000 | KFAED - CDR - | Jun-15 | Jul-20 |



Aakar Agricultural Road



Aakar Agricultural Channel

Agriculture & Irrigation Completed, Ongoing & Under Preparation Projects

