



SYRIA CROSS-BORDER HLG (NWS)  
FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS  
CLUSTER



GUIDELINES

# Strategic Plan 2024

Agricultural Technical Working Group (ATWG)

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## 1. Executive Summary:

**Objective:** Develop a strategic plan for the agriculture working group to prioritize and address the complex challenges and leverage the strengths of the agriculture sector in Northwest Syria, enhancing resilience and food security of vulnerable population.

The current agricultural landscape in Northwest Syria (NWS) is a mix of both resilience and vulnerability. Despite facing severe impediments due to ongoing conflict, environmental challenges, and economic instability, the sector demonstrates remarkable strengths. These include a diverse range of crops, experienced farmers and agronomists, resilient local farming communities, and the invaluable support of humanitarian assistance. However, these strengths are counterbalanced by pressing issues such as infrastructure damage, water scarcity, limited market access, high input costs, and the lack of government support and mechanization.

This strategic plan aims to create a sustainable, resilient agricultural sector in NWS, reducing dependency on external support and adapting to future challenges. The ATWG is committed to implementing this plan in collaboration with all stakeholders, fostering resilience and self-sufficiency among the farming communities in NWS.

## 2. Background

The Food Security (FSL) Cluster, in collaboration with the Agricultural Technical Working Group (ATWG) has developed this comprehensive strategic plan for the year 2024. The plan plays a pivotal role in steering our collective efforts towards enhancing agricultural resilience and food security in the context of Northwest Syria (NWS), a region that has witnessed significant challenges and transformations in its agricultural sector.

Prior to the crisis in Syria, agriculture was considered as the main source of income and agriculture production was the main driver for food security. The contribution of agriculture used to be nearly 30%, employing 25% of the total labor force. Agriculture also played a vital role in providing raw materials for the food manufacturing sector and the food industry. Syria was able to grow a wide variety of agricultural products due to the diversity in the climate of the country.

The main crops in NWS Syria were wheat, vegetables, barley, and some legumes and pulses such as fava bean, chickpeas, and lentils, in addition to cash crops and maize. There are also orchard trees such as olives, pistachios, and cherries. Farmers were generally well-off with an adequate access to income and livelihoods. Inputs for farmers (seeds, fertilizers, and fuel) were accessible and supported (even subsidized), local markets were functioning, especially for strategic crops such as wheat and cotton.

The Government used to procure production from farmers with competitive prices through the Syrian Public Establishment for Grains (SPEG). Additionally, the olive sector was supported through providing farmers with subsidized seedlings via the government-established nurseries. Furthermore, agricultural guidance and support centers were available across all governorates. In general, the agriculture sector was a striving one with strong policy and extension services.

Following thirteen years of conflict, most if not all the support provided to the agriculture sector diminished, especially in NWS. A lack of functional agricultural infrastructure continues to constrain production in Idleb and Aleppo. The area that is planted with cereals in this year's cropping season is the smallest ever. The volatility in the exchange market continued to raise most prices of agricultural inputs, making them out of the reach of vulnerable farmers in NW Syria. By the beginning of 2012, all the agriculture directorates ((related to the Government of Syria) had stopped working in NW Syria, which resulted in a decrease in the livelihoods of farmers, increasing prices and reducing availability of agricultural inputs, increasing transportation, storage and irrigation fees due to the high prices of fuel and electricity outages and halting most of the machinery used for agriculture. The markets became limited and dependent on supply and demand. Moreover, cold-storage warehouse units and vegetable processing centers diminished due to the security situation and the high cost of production. All these factors led to a decrease in vegetable production "fresh or/and processed" limiting availability of staple food in NWS markets.

Climate change also plays a key role in the reduction of agriculture production in NWS. Changes in precipitation disrupt a wide range of agriculture productions. Many farmers replanted their land with the same or other crops due to reduced rainfalls and degraded irrigation systems. Water scarcity resulted in a decrease in crop production that, in consequence, deepened the gap in the food security of the people in NW Syria. The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) images indicate low vegetation percentages compared to the previous years. This has come as an additional burden to the prolonged crisis of the last ten years.

In addition, wildfires in NWS adversely affected production of wheat, barley, olives and other tree crops over the summer months of 2020. The crop fires burned cereal crops and destroyed olive trees, fruit trees and forest cover in the coastal areas. Furthermore, local Syrian wheat varieties have suffered in quality and production capacities, especially after seed quality and proliferation programs from ICARDA have stopped.

In NWS, the main actors supporting the agriculture value chain are INGOs/ NGOs, agriculture departments, the General Organization for Seed Multiplication (GOSM) and the Grain Foundation (SPEG).

Recognizing these challenges in NWS, this strategic plan aims to highlight strategic objectives that can benefit the agriculture sector, farmers, and overall food security. It not just about addresses immediate needs but also about fosters long-term sustainability and resilience of the sector. This involves a holistic approach, integrating immediate relief with sustainable development, local governance, international aid, and private-sector engagement. Key to this strategy is the prioritization of sustainable practices and empowerment of farming communities to foster resilience and self-sufficiency.

### 3. ATWG Objectives in NWS:

- ❖ **Strategic Objective 1: Identify and Prioritize Critical Interventions for the agriculture sector.**
  - Establish a framework/dashboard for the critical and priority activities in the agricultural sector.
  - Establish a dashboard/product for the agricultural interventions to analyze assistance and gaps across years.
  - Create a contingency plan and Risk Reduction Plan for the agricultural sector.
  - Prepare Position papers (regularly per intervention/type).
  - Donor's mapping and Engagement Plan to ensure resource mobilization for and maintenance of critical activities.
  
- ❖ **Strategic Objective 2: Ensure evidence-based Water Scarcity and Security Interventions.**
  - Establish a knowledge-base and database/resources mapping on water for irrigation in NWS, including irrigation stations, canals, coverage, water access, and irrigation practices for farmers in NWS.
  - Develop key guiding documents for minimum standards for irrigation water system support in NWS.
  - Analyze capacity and gaps in the irrigation system in NWS and prioritize a number of interventions accordingly.
  - Develop a mapping of existing waste (gray water) water treatment and management systems in NWS.
  
- ❖ **Strategic Objective 3: Develop a knowledge-base and best practices for market access and integration support.**
  - Develop strategic guidelines for market integration of FSL agriculture income-generating activities (with the support of ERL).

- Complete one market and value chain assessment to identify gaps and intervention opportunities.
  - Fundraise for one key market intervention in NWS.
  - Develop a set of market-based intervention minimum standards and guidelines.
- ❖ **Strategic Objective 4: Develop evidence-based interventions in Sustainable Farming Practices.**
- Complete assessments and establish a database on farming practices (KAP: knowledge attitude practices) in NWS.
  - Analyze gaps for modern and sustainable practices including climate-smart agriculture in NWS.
  - Prioritize key interventions in the agriculture sector for CSA and sustainable farming practices.
- ❖ **Strategic Objective 5: Develop guidelines and Interventions to support and expand capacity of agriculture facilities.**
- Develop a database on agriculture facilities in NWS.
  - Analyze gaps in the production and market integration of these facilities.
  - Develop a set of guidelines to support farming facilities.
  - Develop a priority list of interventions in community-based Ag extensions support.
- ❖ **Strategic Objective 6: Develop guidelines and mobilize resource for Seed Security and Plant Genetic Resources.**
- Complete a seed security assessment for wheat in NWS to determine access to, usage, quality, storage, and sale of wheat seeds.
  - Analyze gaps in the seed system for wheat in NWS.
  - Determine key interventions in the wheat seed system in NWS.
  - Fundraise for a seed security project in NWS.
  - Map technical human resources and centers for seed proliferation in NWS.

### 3.1: Prioritization of objectives:

Prioritization of objectives from 1 to 5 (5 is the most prioritized objective)	Score from the highest
Identify and Prioritize Critical Interventions for the agriculture sector	5
Ensure evidence-based Water Scarcity and Security Interventions:	5
Develop a knowledge-base and best practices for market access and integration support	4
Develop evidence-based interventions in Sustainable Farming Practices	4
Develop guidelines and Interventions to support and expand capacity of agriculture facilities	3
Strategic Objective 6: Develop guidelines and mobilize resource for Seed Security and Plant Genetic Resources	4

### 3.2: Prioritization of Sub-objectives:

Prioritization of sub-objectives from 1 to 5 (5 is the most prioritized objective)	Score from the highest
<b>Strategic Objective 1: Identify and Prioritize Critical Interventions for the agriculture sector</b>	
Establish a framework/dashboard for the critical and priority activities in the agricultural sector.	5
Establish a dashboard/product for the agricultural interventions to analyze assistance and gaps across years.	5
Create a contingency plan and Risk Reduction Plan for the agricultural sector.	4
Prepare Position papers (regularly per intervention/type).	4
Donor's mapping and Engagement Plan to ensure resource mobilization for and maintenance of critical activities.	5
<b>Strategic Objective 2: Ensure evidence-based Water Scarcity and Security Interventions:</b>	
Establish a knowledge-base and database/resources mapping on water for irrigation in NWS, including irrigation stations, canals, coverage, water access, and irrigation practices for farmers in NWS.	5
Develop key guiding documents for minimum standards for irrigation water system support in NWS.	4
Analyze capacity and gaps in the irrigation system in NWS and prioritize a number of interventions accordingly.	4
Develop a mapping of existing waste (gray water) water treatment and management systems in NWS.	4
<b>Strategic Objective 3: Develop a knowledge-base and best practices for market access and integration support</b>	
Develop strategic guidelines for market integration of FSL agriculture income-generating activities (with the support of ERL).	4
Complete one market and value chain assessment to identify gaps and intervention opportunities.	5
Fundraise for one key market intervention in NWS.	4
Develop a set of market-based intervention minimum standards and guidelines.	4
<b>Strategic Objective 4: Develop evidence-based interventions in Sustainable Farming Practices</b>	

Complete assessments and establish a database on farming practices (KAP: knowledge attitude practices) in NWS.	5
Analyze gaps for modern and sustainable practices including climate-smart agriculture in NWS.	4
Prioritize key interventions in the agriculture sector for CSA and sustainable farming practices.	5
<b>Strategic Objective 5: Develop guidelines and Interventions to support and expand capacity of agriculture facilities</b>	
Develop a database on agriculture facilities in NWS.	5
Analyze gaps in the production and market integration of these facilities.	4
Develop a set of guidelines to support farming facilities.	4
Develop a priority list of interventions in community-based Ag extensions support.	5
<b>Strategic Objective 6: Develop guidelines and mobilize resource for Seed Security and Plant Genetic Resources</b>	
Complete a seed security assessment for wheat in NWS to determine access to, usage, quality, storage, and sale of wheat seeds.	5
Analyze gaps in the seed system for wheat in NWS.	5
Determine key interventions in the wheat seed system in NWS	5
Fundraise for a seed security project in NWS	5
Map technical human resources and centers for seed proliferation in NWS.	4

## 4. List of Activities for Sub-objectives and Timeline:

### 4.1: Activities of Objective 1: Critical interventions

Sub-objective	Activities	2024	2024	2025	2025
Establish a framework/dashboard for the critical and priority activities in the agricultural sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Literature review for the critical cases in the Agriculture Sector</li> <li>5Ws/Gap Analysis</li> </ul>	50%	50%		
Establish a dashboard/product for the agricultural interventions to analyze assistance and gaps across years.		50%	50%		
Create a contingency plan and Risk Reduction Plan for the agricultural sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop to validate the plan</li> </ul>	50%	50%		
Prepare Position papers (regularly per intervention/type).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop to validate the plan</li> </ul>	25%	75%		
Donor's mapping and Engagement Plan to ensure resource mobilization for and maintenance of critical activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FSL cluster to prepare list of interested donors</li> </ul>	50%	25%	25%	



#### 4.2: Activities of Objective 2: Water Scarcity and Security

Sub-objective	Activities	2024	2024	2025	2025
Establish a knowledge-base and database/resources mapping on water for irrigation in NWS, including irrigation stations, canals, coverage, water access, and irrigation practices for farmers in NWS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult stakeholders and members on capacity for data collection and geographical coverage</li> <li>Complete assessment on water source mapping for NWS</li> <li>Draft report and share</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%	
Develop key guiding documents for minimum standards for irrigation water system support in NWS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of minimum standards</li> <li>Coordination and collaboration with all relevant clusters</li> <li>Dissemination of standards to members</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%	
Analyze capacity and gaps in the irrigation system in NWS and prioritize a number of interventions accordingly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint assessment (sources of water, Agro-Ecological zone, used irrigation system, water harvesting area based, community need of water “drinking and irrigation”)</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%	
Develop a mapping of existing waste (gray water) water treatment and management systems in NWS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sewage water mapping (possible options for water treatment)</li> <li>Coordinate with Technical cluster (WaSH)</li> </ul>	25%	25%	25%	25%

#### 4.3: Activities of Objective 3: Market access and integration

Sub-objective	Activities	2024	2024	2025
Develop strategic guidelines for market integration of FSL agriculture income-generating activities (with the support of ERL).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult technical stakeholders</li> <li>Develop Guidelines</li> <li>Validate Guidelines</li> <li>Disseminate Guidelines</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%
Complete one market and value chain assessment to identify gaps and intervention opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with REACH on the planned market and value chain assessment</li> <li>Consult stakeholders to prioritize value chains</li> <li>Data collection and Analysis</li> <li>Report drafting and sharing</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%
Fundraise for one key market intervention in NWS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop fundraising appeal based on findings of the market and value chain assessment</li> <li>Share appeal with donors and follow up on possible resource mobilization</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%
Develop a set of market-based intervention minimum standards and guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult with technical stakeholders</li> <li>Draft standards</li> <li>Validate with members.</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%

#### 4.4: Activities of Objective 4: Sustainable Farming Practices

Sub-objective	Activities	2024	2024	2025	2025
Complete assessments and establish a database on farming practices (KAP: knowledge attitude practices) in NWS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult with stakeholders on scope of work of assessment, tools, and data collection</li> <li>Collect and analyze data</li> <li>Draft report and share</li> </ul>	25%	25%	25%	25%
Analyze gaps for modern and sustainable practices including climate-smart agriculture in NWS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify gaps from KAP report</li> <li>Prioritize based on scale, needs, and impact</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%	
Prioritize key interventions in the agriculture sector for CSA and sustainable farming practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a list of priorities for CSA practices</li> <li>Validate with stakeholders</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%	

#### 4.5: Activities of Objective 5: Agriculture Facilities

Sub-objective	Activities	2024	2024	2025	2025
Develop a database on agriculture facilities in NWS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design assessment/survey</li> <li>Training</li> <li>Data collection</li> <li>Conduct assessment</li> <li>Analyzing</li> <li>Report including the gaps</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%	
Analyze gaps in the production and market integration of these facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyzing</li> <li>Report including the gaps</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%	
Develop a set of guidelines to support farming facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical workshop to prepare guideline and TOR supporting farming facilities</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%	
Develop a priority list of interventions in community-based Ag extensions support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish technical group at the field (to be part of any technical discussion)</li> </ul>	25%	25%	25%	25%

#### 4.6: Activities of Objective 6: Seed Security and Plant Genetic Resources

Sub-objective	Activities	2024	2024	2025	2025
Complete a seed security assessment for wheat in NWS to determine access to, usage, quality, storage, and sale of wheat seeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination between with FSL cluster, ATWG INGO, NGOs and Stakeholders, universities, research centers</li> <li>• Design assessment/survey</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Data collection</li> <li>• Conduct assessment</li> <li>• Analyzing</li> <li>• Report including the gaps</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%	
Analyze gaps in the seed system for wheat in NWS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify gaps based on findings of seed security assessment.</li> <li>• Prioritize based on scale and impact</li> </ul>	25%	50%	25%	
Determine key interventions in the wheat seed system in NWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop interventions scope based on gaps identified in the seed security assessment</li> </ul>		25%	50%	25%
Fundraise for a seed security project in NWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an appeal paper based on the findings of the assessment and scope of interventions.</li> <li>• Share with donors and follow up on possible resource mobilization</li> </ul>		50%	50%	
Map technical human resources and centers for seed proliferation in NWS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop mapping tools for human resources and centers.</li> <li>• Complete consultations and data collection</li> <li>• Finalize mapping and share</li> </ul>		50%	50%	

#### 5. Features of Agriculture Sector in NWS:

This section presents a detailed Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the agricultural landscape in NWS. It identifies key elements that shape the sector's current dynamics and future potential.

The strengths of NWS's agriculture reflect its resilience and diversity, crucial in a region marred by conflict and challenges. The weaknesses, including infrastructural and economic hurdles, underscore the critical areas needing attention. Opportunities abound in sustainable practices and external support, presenting pathways for growth and development. Conversely, threats such as ongoing conflict and environmental issues pose significant risks.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Diversity in Agriculture:</b> The range of crops produced in NWS indicates a robust agricultural system.</li> <li>❖ <b>Expertise:</b> The presence of experienced farmers and agronomists contributes greatly to the sector.</li> <li>❖ <b>Community Resilience:</b> Local farming communities are adaptive and continue farming despite adversities.</li> <li>❖ <b>External Support:</b> There is significant humanitarian assistance available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Conflict Impact:</b> Ongoing conflict has led to infrastructure damage and displacement of communities.</li> <li>❖ <b>Water Scarcity:</b> The region faces issues with water scarcity and inadequate irrigation systems.</li> <li>❖ <b>Market Access:</b> Disrupted transportation routes limit market access.</li> <li>❖ <b>Economic Challenges:</b> High input costs and weak marketing efforts are prevalent.</li> <li>❖ <b>Lack of Mechanization:</b> There's a deficiency in government support and mechanization.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Local and International Support:</b> Continued aid and initiatives can revitalize the sector.</li> <li>❖ <b>Fertile Land Utilization:</b> Leveraging fertile land for crop diversification.</li> <li>❖ <b>Humanitarian and Development Integration:</b> Balancing immediate relief with long-term sustainable development.</li> <li>❖ <b>Community Empowerment:</b> Fostering community engagement and cooperation for resilience.</li> <li>❖ <b>Sustainable Practices:</b> Introducing and prioritizing sustainable farming practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Continued Conflict:</b> Ongoing instability poses a constant threat to agriculture.</li> <li>❖ <b>Environmental Degradation:</b> Climate change and poor land management lead to soil erosion.</li> <li>❖ <b>Economic Instability:</b> Fluctuating prices and costs affect sustainability.</li> <li>❖ <b>Land Access Issues:</b> Displacement and territorial changes hinder land use.</li> <li>❖ <b>Technological Lag:</b> A gap in adopting modern agricultural technologies.</li> </ul>

## 6. Stakeholder and Engagement:

The ATWG recognizes the critical role of various stakeholders in this endeavor, including all groups of stakeholders in all agricultural interventions in NWS. Effective collaboration and coordination among these stakeholders are vital for achieving our goals. Based on the information provided by our partners, the key stakeholders in the agriculture sector in NWS and strategies for engaging each group in the new strategic plan for the Agricultural Technical Working Group (ATWG) listed below:

### Strategic Objective 1: Identify and Prioritize Critical Interventions for the agriculture sector:

Stakeholder	Engagement	interest	impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework/dashboard for the critical and priority activities in the agricultural sector.</li> <li>Establish a dashboard/product for the agricultural interventions to analyze assistance and gaps across years.</li> <li>Create a contingency plan and Risk Reduction Plan for the agricultural sector.</li> <li>Prepare Position papers (regularly per intervention/type).</li> <li>Donor’s mapping and Engagement Plan to ensure resource mobilization for and maintenance of critical activities.</li> </ul>	Local Authorities	5	5
	Farmers and Farming Communities	5	4
	Local and International NGOs	4	5
	UN Agencies (e.g., FAO, WFP)	4	5
	Donors/Funders	3	5

### Strategic Objective 2: Ensure evidence-based Water Scarcity and Security Interventions:

Stakeholder	Engagement	interest	impact
Establish a knowledge-base and database/resources mapping on water for irrigation in NWS, including irrigation stations, canals, coverage, water access, and irrigation practices for farmers in NWS. Develop key guiding documents for minimum standards for irrigation water system support in NWS.	Local Authorities	4	4
	Farmers and Farming Communities	4	4
	Local and International NGOs	4	3

<p>Analyze capacity and gaps in the irrigation system in NWS and prioritize a number of interventions accordingly.</p> <p>Develop a mapping of existing waste (gray water) water treatment and management systems in NWS.</p>	UN Agencies (e.g., FAO, WFP)	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
	Educational and Research Institutions	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
	Donors/Funders	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
	Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

**Strategic Objective 3: Develop a knowledge-base and best practices for market access and integration support**

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Engagement</b>	<b>interest</b>	<b>impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop strategic guidelines for market integration of FSL agriculture income-generating activities (with the support of ERL).</li> <li>Complete one market and value chain assessment to identify gaps and intervention opportunities.</li> <li>Fundraise for one key market intervention in NWS.</li> <li>Develop a set of market-based intervention minimum standards and guidelines.</li> </ul>	Local Authorities	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
	Farmers and Farming Communities	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
	Local and International NGOs	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
	UN Agencies (e.g., FAO, WFP)	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
	Market Traders and Agribusinesses	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
	Consumers and Food Producers	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
	Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
	Donors/Funders	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

**Strategic Objective 4: Develop evidence-based interventions in Sustainable Farming Practices**

Stakeholder	Engagement	interest	impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete assessments and establish a database on farming practices (KAP: knowledge attitude practices) in NWS.</li> <li>Analyze gaps for modern and sustainable practices including climate-smart agriculture in NWS.</li> <li>Prioritize key interventions in the agriculture sector for CSA and sustainable farming practices.</li> </ul>	Local Authorities	3	3
	Farmers and Farming Communities	4	3
	Local and International NGOs	4	4
	UN Agencies (e.g., FAO, WFP):	4	4
	Market Traders and Agribusinesses	3	3
	Consumers and Food Producers	4	3
	Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster	5	3
	Donors/Funders	4	4

**Strategic Objective 5: Develop guidelines and Interventions to support and expand capacity of agriculture facilities:**

Stakeholder	Engagement	interest	impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a database on agriculture facilities in NWS.</li> <li>Analyze gaps in the production and market integration of these facilities.</li> <li>Develop a set of guidelines to support farming facilities.</li> <li>Develop a priority list of interventions in community-based Ag extensions support.</li> </ul>	Local Authorities	4	3
	Farmers and Farming Communities	3	2
	Local and International NGOs	3	3
	UN Agencies (e.g., FAO, WFP):	3	3
	Market Traders and Agribusinesses	4	4
	Donors/Funders	3	3
	Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster	3	2

**Strategic Objective 6: Develop guidelines and mobilize resources for Seed Security and Plant Genetic Resources:**

Stakeholder	Engagement	interest	impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a seed security assessment for wheat in NWS to determine access to, usage, quality, storage, and sale of wheat seeds.</li> <li>• Analyze gaps in the seed system for wheat in NWS.</li> <li>• Determine key interventions in the wheat seed system in NWS</li> <li>• Fundraise for a seed security project in NWS</li> <li>• Map technical human resources and centers for seed proliferation in NWS.</li> </ul>	Local Authorities	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	Farmers and Farming Communities	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
	Local and International NGOs	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
	UN Agencies (e.g., FAO, WFP)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
	Market Traders and Agribusinesses	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
	Donors/Funders	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
	Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
	Educational/Academic, Research Institutions and local technical experts	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>



## 7. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Develop a workplan and tracking table for the strategic objectives and activities therein
- Regular assessment of progress against objectives for each strategic objective.
- Continuous revision of the strategy based on changes in context and resources.

## 8. Risks That May Prevent Adopting This Plan:

### Strategic Objective 1: Identify and Prioritize Critical Interventions for the agriculture sector:

Risk	Mitigation	Likelihoods	impact
Conflict and Instability: Displacement of farming communities, disruption of traditional farming practices, and loss of access to land and resources will lead to the inability to apply this strategic plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support short-term agricultural intervention.</li> <li>• Apply contingency plan.</li> </ul>	2	1
Economic Instability: Inflation and increased costs of agricultural inputs affect farmers' purchasing power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial assistance</li> </ul>	4	1
Limited Fund: withdrawing from NWS and/or supporting emergency interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keep strong advocacy with donors.</li> <li>• Prioritization</li> </ul>	4	4

### Strategic Objective 2: Ensure evidence-based Water Scarcity and Security Interventions:

Risk	Mitigation	Likelihoods	impact
Conflict and Instability: Displacement of farming communities, disruption of traditional farming practices, and loss of access to land and resources will lead to the inability to apply this strategic plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support short-term agricultural intervention.</li> <li>• Apply contingency plan</li> </ul>	5	1
Economic Instability: Inflation and increased costs of agricultural inputs affect farmers' purchasing power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial assistance</li> </ul>	4	1
Environmental Degradation: Climate change and unsustainable practices lead to soil erosion and degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of sustainable land management practices and promotion of water conservation.</li> <li>• Training and awareness sessions</li> </ul>	3	5

**Strategic Objective 3: Develop a knowledge-base and best practices for market access and integration support:**

Risk	Mitigation	Likelihoods	Impact
Conflict and Instability: Displacement of farming communities, disruption of traditional farming practices, and loss of access to land and resources will lead to the inability to apply this strategic plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support short-term agricultural intervention.</li> <li>Adapt with feasible modalities</li> </ul>	5	5
Economic Instability: Inflation and increased costs of agricultural inputs affect farmers' purchasing power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial assistance and livelihood support programs help farmers access necessary inputs.</li> </ul>	5	4
Limited Fund: withdrawing from NWS and/or supporting emergency interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong advocacy with donors.</li> <li>Prioritize top needed intervention.</li> </ul>	4	4

**Strategic Objective 4: Develop evidence-based interventions in Sustainable Farming Practices**

Risk	Mitigation	Likelihoods	Impact
Conflict and Instability: Displacement of farming communities, disruption of traditional farming practices, and loss of access to land and resources will lead to the inability to apply this strategic plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support short-term agricultural intervention.</li> <li>Apply contingency plan</li> </ul>	5	4
Economic Instability: Inflation and increased costs of agricultural inputs affect farmers' purchasing power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial assistance</li> <li>Increase stocks and enhance local production</li> </ul>	4	3
Limited Fund: withdrawing from NWS and/or supporting emergency interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep strong advocacy with donors.</li> <li>Prioritization.</li> </ul>	4	4
Environmental Degradation: Climate change and unsustainable practices lead to soil erosion and degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply DRR</li> <li>Training and awareness sessions</li> </ul>	3	5

**Strategic Objective 5: Develop guidelines and Interventions to support and expand capacity of agriculture facilities:**

Risk	Mitigation	Likelihoods	Impact
Conflict and Instability: Displacement of farming communities, disruption of traditional farming practices, and loss of access to land and resources will lead to the inability to apply this strategic plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative facilities establishment.</li> <li>Apply contingency plan.</li> <li>Equip the facilities with safety and security measures.</li> </ul>	5	4
Economic Instability: Inflation and increased costs of agricultural inputs affect farmers' purchasing power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial assistance.</li> </ul>	4	1
Limited Fund: withdrawing from NWS and/or supporting emergency interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep strong advocacy with donors.</li> <li>Prioritization.</li> </ul>	4	4

**Strategic Objective 6: Develop guidelines and mobilize resources for Seed Security and Plant Genetic Resources:**

Risk	Mitigation	Likelihoods	Impact
Conflict and Instability: Displacement of farming communities, disruption of traditional farming practices, and loss of access to land and resources will lead to the inability to apply this strategic plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and preserve the existing seeds varieties (store).</li> <li>Apply contingency plan.</li> </ul>	5	3
Limited Fund: withdrawing from NWS and/or supporting emergency interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep strong advocacy with donors.</li> <li>Prioritization.</li> <li>Approach traditional farmers and origin places.</li> </ul>	4	4
Environmental Degradation: Climate change and unsustainable practices lead to soil erosion and degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of sustainable land management practices and promotion of water conservation.</li> <li>Training and awareness sessions.</li> <li>Cultivation on small scale and use the stocks from seed bank.</li> </ul>	4	5

## 9. Conclusion:

This strategic plan aims to create a sustainable, resilient agricultural sector in NWS, reducing dependency on external support and adapting to future challenges.

There are five objectives prioritized by the members of ATWG ( I/NGOs, FAO and FSL cluster) those objectives considered the most important needs in the agriculture sector of NW Syria, and in light of fund cut by most of donors at the beginning of 2024, climate changes and water scarcity, increments of population in NWS, and the global inflation which led to the increment of food prices and therefore increase the vulnerability and food insecurity in NW Syria.

In addressing the multifaceted challenges within the agricultural sector, it's imperative to adopt a comprehensive approach that encompasses critical interventions, water scarcity and security, market access and integration, sustainable farming practices, agriculture facilities, and seed security and plant genetic resources. By implementing targeted strategies outlined in the interventions above, stakeholders can significantly enhance agricultural productivity, resilience, and sustainability in the NWS.

Establishing frameworks, dashboards, and contingency plans will provide a structured approach to prioritize activities, monitor progress, and mitigate risks. Additionally, focusing on water scarcity and security, market access, sustainable farming practices, and agriculture facilities will bolster the resilience of farmers and communities while promoting inclusive growth and development. Moreover, initiatives such as seed security assessments and fundraising efforts for critical interventions underscore the importance of ensuring access to quality inputs for sustainable agricultural practices.

Collaboration among stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, donors, and local communities, is paramount for the successful implementation of these interventions. Through concerted efforts, we can work towards a more resilient, productive, and sustainable agricultural sector that not only addresses immediate challenges but also contributes to long-term food security and economic development in the NWS region.

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