

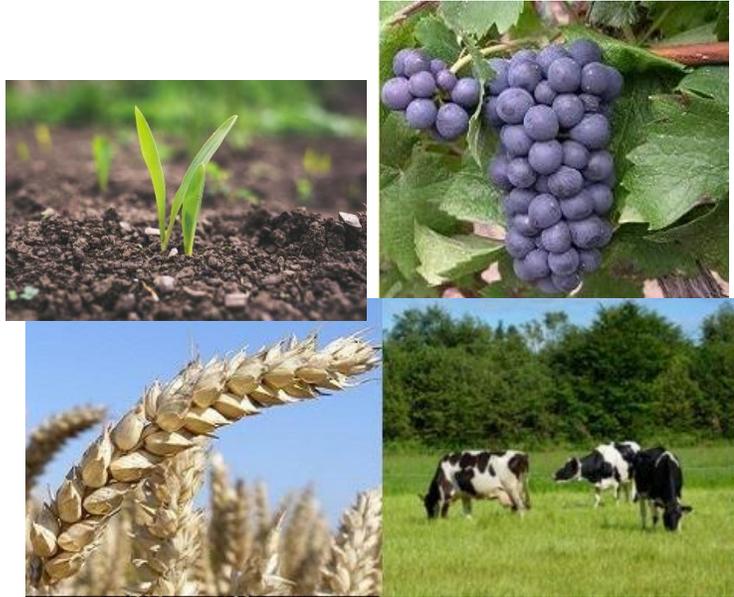


Emergency Plan Ministry of Agriculture

April 2020



- ➔ Emergency plan aims directly to encourage the increase of the local agricultural production in order to accomplish food security to reach a maximum degree of food security possible in these extraordinary conditions and intensify the efforts in order to narrow the gap between the food demand and production in society. Achieving these goals in a short period of time within an emergency plan in the coronavirus spread conditions requires certainly from the government in general and the ministry of Agriculture in particular to help the farmers directly in order to overcome a set of accumulating obstacles in order to achieve the objectives of the foreseen plan.
- ➔ **The ministry of Agriculture prepared an agricultural emergency plan 2020 – 2021 that includes initiatives and it is endeavoring to implement it during the specific conditions**



The agricultural emergency plan includes six intervention areas, which are:

Chapter I: Preserving the quantities produced from the agricultural areas as well as the quality of the agricultural plant production and increasing the agricultural areas as well as the productivity of the main commodities.

Chapter II: Enhancing the marketing capacities of the agricultural products.

Chapter III: Enhancing the agricultural technical education and extension.

Chapter IV: Supporting small and medium agricultural producers.

Chapter V: Supporting agricultural irrigation water.

Chapter VI: Adopting an agricultural information policy.



Chapter I: Preserving the quantities produced from the agricultural areas as well as the quality of the agricultural plant production and increasing the agricultural areas as well as the productivity of the main commodities.

1. Preserving the Produced Quantities and the Quality of the Plant Production:

◀ **Taking the necessary measures by the Lebanese government to facilitate the provision of the main agricultural inputs** to the farmers in order to continue their agricultural production (whether plant or animal), and the majority of these inputs are imported, by opening credits lines for the importers of agricultural production inputs and supplies, and **the government will also offer direct financial support to the farmers in order to enable them to buy the agricultural inputs in affordable prices and determine the prices of the agricultural production inputs in Lebanese Pounds**, in order to limit the increase of the production costs, thus limiting the increase in the prices of the final agricultural products due to the low purchase ability to the Lebanese consumers.

Table I: Quarterly and annual cost of the imported inputs and supplies that are classified for agricultural production / one thousand USD

Category	Trimester I	Trimester II	Trimester III	Trimester VI	Total
Irrigation and equipment	0	2,860	1,340	0	4,200
Greenhouses	970	3,280	1,450	0	5,700
Mechanization	210	735	945	210	2,100
Vegetable seeds	5,250	2,600	3,500	2,300	13,650
Potato tuber	12,049	0	0	5,433	17,482
Pesticides	5,000	3,550	3,900	6,300	18,750
Granular fertilizers	9,575	1,774	1,516	10,443	23,308
Soluble fertilizers	3,429	6,540	2,136	1,534	13,639
Specialized fertilizers (leafy plants and minor elements)	2,047	2,170	780	1,630	6,628
Agricultural milieu- culture media	417	388	623	477	1,906
Animal feed	36,153	42,099	31,675	33,364	143,291
Veterinary medicines, vaccines and raw materials to manufacture veterinary medicines	3,730	3,730	3,730	3,730	14,920
Livestock (milk and dairy production)	4,010	4,010	4,010	4,010	16,040
Other irrigation equipment, supplies and greenhouses parts	6,577	343	4,581	7,166	18,667
Machines and devices (heating and cooling for greenhouses and horticulture, cooled warehouses for potatoes and apples, mechanization for chicken farms)	11,472	15,384	15,167	7,926	49,949
Other seeds (grain seeds, field crops, seedlings, etc...)	2,743	3,805	3,496	2,762	12,806
Other pesticides (public health, pesticides for pets and farms, aerosols).	5,296	8,450	6,510	2,584	22,840
Seedlings (strawberries, horticulture trees, etc.)	4,322	4,322	4,322	4,322	17,287
Livestock to produce meat	75,097	75,097	75,097	75,097	300,388
Total	188,347	181,137	164,779	169,288	703,551



◀ **Providing in-kind assistance to the farmers**, in particular small-scale farmers in order to provide them with the agricultural inputs, since they are considered as the most vulnerable and less able to cope with the burden of the financial crisis (various vegetable and fruit seeds, various vegetable and fruit feeds, traps and pheromones) within the agricultural pest control program, with the estimation cost is equivalent to 400 thousand LBP minimum for every beneficiary, and the aids' cost is estimated at about 10 billion LBP.

◀ **Helping agricultural cooperatives and motivating them to invest all the cultivable holdings** that are within the scope of their activities, by providing in-kind assistance in order to increase the cultivated areas with planting seeds, fruit seedlings and fertilizers.

◀ **Issuance of a decision concerning the measures that shall be implemented in the agricultural sector during the health emergency phase, according to the public health necessities**, preserving the citizens' safety and preventing the spread of the coronavirus epidemic. The decision is divided into several articles:

Article I: Implementing these measures in all farms (plant and animal production):

- Working in agriculture when really necessary only.
- Implementing the biosecurity measures for livestock and poultry.
- Decreasing the number of workers as much as possible.
- Not implementing rotation among the workers (same agricultural workers every day) and compelling them to implement the precautionary measures (masks, gloves, sterilization,...).

Article II: The following measures shall be implemented in the agricultural institutions and companies:

These specialized institutions and companies shall provide the farmers with all the agricultural inputs in order to conserve the agricultural production. They shall abide by the following measures:

- Decreasing the number of workers in the institution or company as much as possible in order to decrease the rate of direct contact between the workers.
- Abiding by the necessary precautionary measures (sterilizing the hands upon entry and exit, using masks and washing hands regularly with soap and water...).
- Adopting one entrance (for entry and exit).
- Commitment to keep a minimum one meter distance from one another among workers.
- Organizing the selling process in order to avoid overcrowding in the institution or company (waiting outside in order to preserve the allowed distance that shall be kept between customers, which is equivalent to one meter minimum between one customer and the other).



◀ **Securing a sufficient and appropriate reserve strategic stock** that shall be a security, social and food defense line to face the importation of this essential commodity, we suggest to adopt the strategy of **providing a food stock of the main grains by importing them directly from the countries of origin**, taking into consideration that some countries are heading towards closing importation for national food security reasons or for health security reasons in order to control the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, by closing the ports. Therefore, in order to preserve the food balance, sufficient reserve quantities of the essential commodities shall be provided, as well as warehouses to stock these commodities that abide by specific technical conditions.

The tables number II and III show the rate of the local market needs for some essential agri-food commodities from 2011 till 2019 value and quantity wise, in addition to the estimation of the local market needs for these commodities for 2020 (February and December), the value of which exceeds one billion and a half USD.

Table II: the local market needs for some essential agricultural commodities from February till December 2020 quantity wise

Commodity	Rates 2011- 2019/ton			Rates January 2020/ton			The local market need during the remaining period (February – December 2020)
	Imports	Exports	Consumption	Imports	Exports	Consumption	
Wheat	11993	567959	555967	287	70,253	69,966	486001
Barley	1560	83726	82166	0	0	0	82166
Corn	734	482280	481546	3	29,122	29,119	452427
Rice	2835	71017	68182	806	8,268	7,462	60720
Salt	735	70335	69600	98	7,034	6,936	62664
Vegetable oils	17496	130863	113367	1,608	12,590	10,982	102385
Chickpeas	1110	14051	12942	173	1,922	1,749	11193
Lentils	674	11859	11185	199	1,666	1,467	9718
Beans	1978	7341	5363	30	635	605	4758
Frozen peas	8	1206	1198	1	37	36	1162
Sugar	56562	267343	210781	1,941	14,157	12,216	198565

Table III: the local market needs for some essential agricultural commodities from February till December 2020 value wise

Commodity	Rates 2011- 2019/thousand USD			Rates January 2020/ thousand USD			The local market need during the remaining period (February – December 2020)
	Imports	Exports	Consumption	Imports	Exports	Consumption	
Wheat	3358	567,959	564601	73	15961	15,888	548,713
Barley	460	83,726	83265	0	0	0	83,265
Corn	232	482,280	482048	3	5,598	5,595	476,453
Rice	1992	71,017	69025	608	5,503	4,895	64,130
Salt	154	70,335	70181	24	174	150	70,031
Vegetable oils	34017	130,863	96845	3722	10,232	6,510	90,335
Chickpeas	1100	14,051	12951	148	1,320	1,172	11,779
Lentils	676	11,859	11183	137	935	798	10,385
Beans	1025	7,341	6316	40	407	367	5,949
Frozen peas	12	1,206	1193	3	37	34	1,159
Sugar	29373	267,343	237971	921	5,763	4,842	233,129

◀ **Implementation of the grains and legumes production increase program to include (wheat, barley, lentils, chickpeas and beans)**, by providing seeds for planting. The total cost to provide these quantities of seeds is about 3385000000 billion Lebanese Pounds.

- **Increasing the production of the soft wheat** that is used in the manufacturing of bread, about 2000 tons, by increasing the cultivated area about 2600 dunums.
- **Increasing the production of the hard wheat** that is used in the manufacturing of bulgur, freek, and others, about 1700 tons, by investing in a 2400 dunum area.
- **Increasing the production of barley about 65 tons**, to use it as a feed for animals, by planting 170 dunums.
- **Cooperation between the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), ACSAD and ICARDA** to propagate seeds for planting lentils, chickpeas and beans crops and distributing them on the farmers to use them in the year 2021.

◀ **In case of aggravation of the coronavirus pandemic and stopping the exportations to Lebanon**, the emergency plan requires starting with quick productive cultivations in order to compensate for the required quantities, such as the cash crops (tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, etc.) as well as the leafy ones (spinach, Mulukhiyyah, parsley, etc.).





◀ **providing supplies for the MoA and LARI laboratories** in order to carry out the necessary laboratory tests on the exported and imported agricultural commodities and production inputs in order to make sure that they are free of any pollutants and pests. These measures aim to guarantee the validity and safety of the products and them abiding by the national criteria pertinent to plant and animal health and food safety, and that they are in conformity with the pertinent specifications, by facilitating the process of opening credits lines and/or covering the USD exchange rate.

Table IV: Annual cost for providing the laboratory supplies in USD

Kfarshima laboratories for the examination of pesticides and their residues	229.333 USD
LARI laboratories	700.000 USD
Total	929.333 USD (equivalent to 2323332500 LBP)

◀ **Working on increasing the productivity in the cultivated areas** by rationalizing the implementation of good agricultural practices (GAP) and urging to test the soil before planting it, install the appropriate agricultural inputs and use the Crop Water Requirements in modern irrigation methods, which reflects positively on the increase of the production quantity in the cultivated areas in comparison with the quantity that is produced in the same area through conventional methods.

2. Attempt to increase the agricultural investment rate in the Arable land areas:



The utilized cultivated area in Lebanon reached about 288.951 hectares in 2017. It includes the areas planted with seasonal crops inside and outside the greenhouses and fruit trees as well as the fallow agricultural areas (around 11.072 hectares). The plan shall be annexed with an electronic copy of the cultivated and abandoned areas in Lebanon, within the governorate, district and village, in addition to the altitudes and the type and quality of cultivable crops in these areas, in order to facilitate the transfer of these data to all the concerned and interested parties such as civil society associations, national and international organizations, national authorities, universities, farmers and individuals to help them choose the adequate plantations for their lands

What happened recently in Lebanon, i.e. the economic crisis and spread of the coronavirus pandemic in Lebanon and for the purpose of maintaining food security, we highlight the rationalization of land utilization in Lebanon, the land properties, communal lands, abandoned, protected state-owned lands and the endowment lands.

◀ **Program encouraging the utilization of owned cultivable** unutilized or abandoned lands and linking this to in-kind assistance from the MoA (fruit trees, seeds,...) and facilitating the mechanism of implementation of the work of reclamation of owned arable lands (in complete coordination with the ministry of Interior), whether in the Directorate of Rural Development in the ministry of Agriculture or the Green Plan by accelerating the study of the file and giving license in two weeks maximum for the beneficiaries in order to motivate them to plant and linking the license or the approval of the application requesting from the Green Plan to the existence of productive agricultural projects.

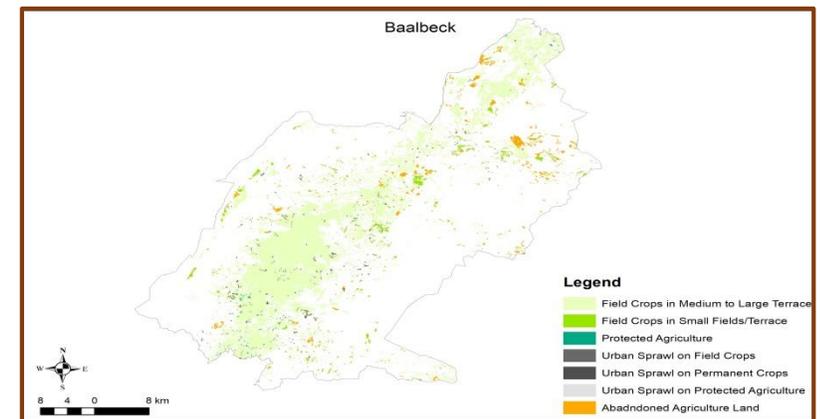
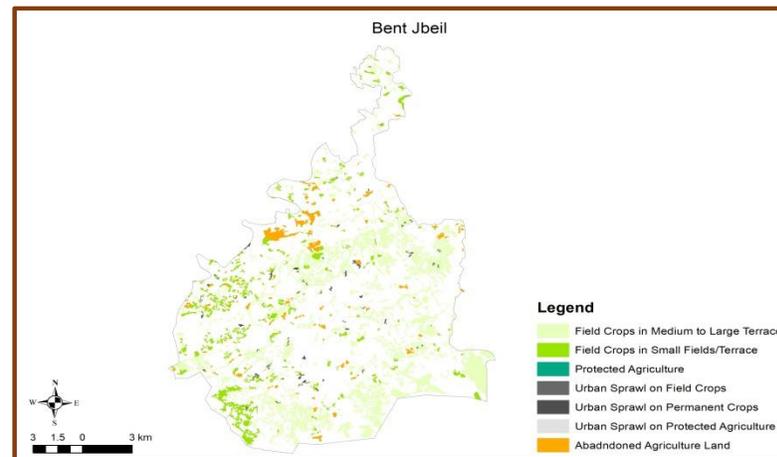
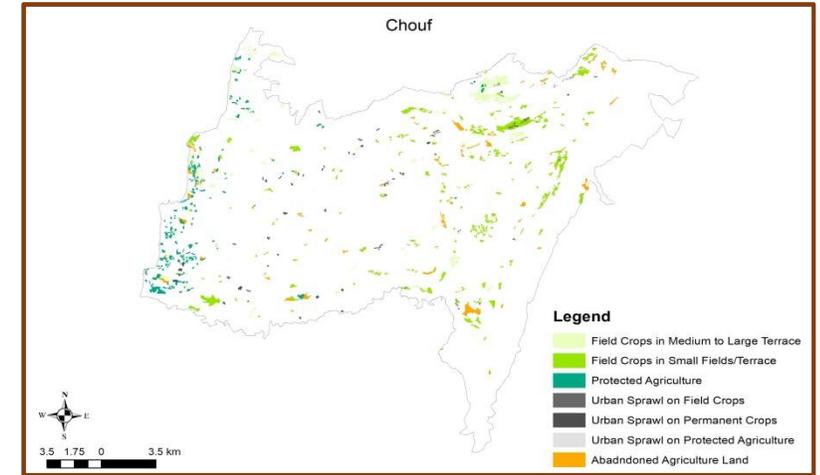
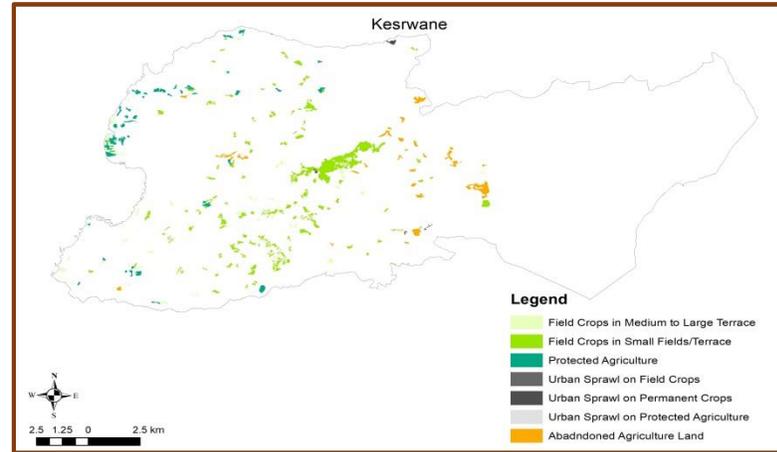
The Green Plan receives annually about 800 land reclamation applications. About 23% of the applications are implemented annually, with an amount of 6306307 Lebanese Pound for each land reclamation application, with an average of about 5 dunums of lands, in order to increase the cultivated area and preserve food security and to execute all the submitted applications, the Green Plan needs **around 5 billion LBP annually**, with media highlighting the way the citizens could benefit from the Green Plan (submit the application and the requires documents).

In this context, the role of the Green Plan shall in this plan be centered on increasing the efforts in reclamation cultivable lands and construction of roads in agrarian areas in the villages.



Electronic Copy of the cultivated and abandoned areas in Lebanon, within the governorate, district and village, in addition to the altitudes and the type and quality of cultivable crops in these areas

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Mohafaza	Mohafaza	Caza	Caza	ACS_CODE	Village	Village	Cultivated Type	Area (Ha)	Area (m2)	Minimum Elevation ^m	Maximum Elevation ^m	Average Elevation ^m
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63214	A'in El-Mir (El A'in)	عين المر	Abandoned Agriculture Land	1.83	18320.56	330.12	437.27	389.75
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63214	A'in El-Mir (El A'in)	عين المر	Citrus Fruit Trees	1.94	19524.81	354.56	386.09	377.12
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63214	A'in El-Mir (El A'in)	عين المر	Field Crops in Medium to Large Terrace	3.26	32562.63	382.25	390.51	385.84
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63214	A'in El-Mir (El A'in)	عين المر	Field Crops in Small Fields/Terrace	49.03	49033.65	238.67	390.85	348.74
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63214	A'in El-Mir (El A'in)	عين المر	Fruit Trees	4.02	40188.95	300.13	387.44	356.97
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63214	A'in El-Mir (El A'in)	عين المر	Olives	32.83	328283.22	319.38	458.53	385.05
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63214	A'in El-Mir (El A'in)	عين المر	Protected Agriculture	4.08	40807.71	344.65	380.16	363.83
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63214	A'in El-Mir (El A'in)	عين المر	Urban Sprawl on Permanent Crops	1.93	19394.12	332.86	333.90	343.53
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63111	Aaramta	عرامش	Abandoned Agriculture Land	3.24	32430.96	967.33	988.89	979.04
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63111	Aaramta	عرامش	Field Crops in Small Fields/Terrace	53.33	533347.46	920.15	1136.49	1046.50
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63111	Aaramta	عرامش	Fruit Trees	3.51	35069.25	1029.91	1076.25	1047.04
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63111	Aaramta	عرامش	Olives	46.25	462466.01	889.90	1110.10	1012.06
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63111	Aaramta	عرامش	Urban Sprawl on Field Crops	1.02	102031.42	1047.48	1053.86	1049.85
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63131	Aaray	عارة	Abandoned Agriculture Land	0.06	601.52	1037.81	1040.04	1039.29
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63131	Aaray	عارة	Field Crops in Small Fields/Terrace	16.51	165148.92	540.24	1038.45	734.10
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63131	Aaray	عارة	Fruit Trees	12.75	127461.14	590.15	819.98	691.12
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63131	Aaray	عارة	Olives	19.87	198671.86	494.91	840.05	653.29
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63355	Aaychly?	عاشية	Abandoned Agriculture Land	14.15	141542.31	560.02	670.10	628.75
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63355	Aaychly?	عاشية	Field Crops in Medium to Large Terrace	0.39	3904.91	588.19	590.29	589.52
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63355	Aaychly?	عاشية	Fruit Trees	12.04	120381.47	556.85	740.21	600.76
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63355	Aaychly?	عاشية	Olives	87.34	873365.75	480.16	742.84	634.86
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63355	Aaychly?	عاشية	Urban Sprawl on Permanent Crops	1.11	11140.04	653.42	670.12	662.99
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63184	Aazour	عازور	Field Crops in Medium to Large Terrace	0.34	3422.56	514.27	512.94	512.76
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63184	Aazour	عازور	Fruit Trees	5.36	53566.22	660.02	770.01	707.98
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63184	Aazour	عازور	Olives	16.56	165604.80	660.07	909.91	794.00
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63274	Anane	انان	Citrus Fruit Trees	3.20	31948.96	578.25	607.13	593.10
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63274	Anane	انان	Field Crops in Small Fields/Terrace	4.36	43597.98	590.24	631.33	621.33
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63274	Anane	انان	Fruit Trees	0.43	4331.88	653.87	680.17	669.81
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63274	Anane	انان	Olives	16.37	163684.55	538.71	680.07	607.67
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63274	Anane	انان	Protected Agriculture	2.66	26639.76	600.16	609.44	606.58
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63174	B7b?	بته	Abandoned Agriculture Land	0.11	1077.12	715.20	720.25	719.18
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63174	B7b?	بته	Field Crops in Small Fields/Terrace	3.25	32535.24	665.52	715.26	690.29
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63174	B7b?	بته	Olives	11.90	118954.00	620.22	730.30	687.24
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63174	B7b?	بته	Urban Sprawl on Permanent Crops	2.60	25956.34	674.67	705.44	687.62
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63221	Bayssour Jezzine	باصور	Citrus Fruit Trees	0.40	4041.08	254.36	274.29	264.83
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63221	Bayssour Jezzine	باصور	Field Crops in Small Fields/Terrace	8.03	80294.03	250.15	361.49	344.32
South	الجنوب	الجنوب	الجنوب	63221	Bayssour Jezzine	باصور	Fruit Trees	5.02	50138.05	276.35	321.68	303.07





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◀ **Program encouraging the use of the communal – abandoned – protected – public and endowment lands** in cooperation with the municipalities and public administrations to cultivate them in order to preserve food security and provide job opportunities, in particular for the youths and women, and to compensate for the waste in the utilization of these lands. The utilization and investment shall be rationalized in various mechanisms, **mainly the suggestion of authorizing the ministry of Agriculture to use these areas of arable lands by authorizing the farmers who do not own arable properties** to invest in them in agriculture according to strategic instructions by the ministry of Agriculture to specify the types of plantations such as legumes (wheat, lentils, barley...), cash crops (tomatoes, cucumber, zucchini...), leafy crops (spinach, Mulukhiyyah, parsley...) and fruits trees such as apples, avocados and stone fruits according to each region, depending on the local needs, altitudes, climate and suitability of each region for specific plantations, which increases the agricultural production and decreases the importation.





◀ **Program providing small soft medium- term loans to the farmers** for productive, economically feasible projects, which are concerned with new plantations such as cash crops, aquaculture and other profitable projects. The value of the project is estimated at about 75 billion Lebanese Pounds.

◀ **Endeavoring to postpone the settlement of the due payments of the agricultural loans** within the economic crisis period



Chapter II: Enhancing the marketing capacities of the agricultural products

- 1. Reducing the import bill and protecting the national production** by organizing the importation of the agricultural and agro-processing products, controlling land borders and increasing the taxes on some of these products or banning the importation of some locally-produced commodities and covering the market need (poultry, eggs, some fresh fruits and vegetables...).
- 2. Enhancing agricultural exportations** by eliminating constraints for the exportation of agricultural products to the markets of some countries, in particular Iraq and implementing the program concerning the exportation of potatoes intended for human consumption to the European Union and the program concerning the exportation of annona to the United States.
- 3. Stimulate the factories towards using locally- produced raw materials mainly** and linking industry to agriculture according to a contract that is signed between the farmer and the factory, under the supervision of the two ministries. Both ministries will allocate support and facilities to all farmers and manufacturers that will take part in this program, as well as enhancing control on these factories, imposing taxes on some imported raw materials that compete with the local ones (powder milk,...) and **launching the one hundred percent Lebanese products program.**
- 4. Increasing the production of locally-produced white cheese,** in parallel with the decrease of the demand on imported yellow cheese, with an emphasis on ameliorating the quality of the production and implementing food safety criteria.

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Chapter III: Enhancing the Agricultural Technical Education and Extension

The agricultural extension aims to train the farmers and convince them to refrain from some traditional incorrect agricultural practices and substitute them for modern agricultural techniques that include increasing the productivity of the agricultural unit and ameliorating the quality of the final product.

Therefore, the agricultural emergency plan will include two initiatives to support distance technical education and agricultural extension, which are:

- 1. Launching the distance education service for public agricultural technical schools** and allocation an amount of the internet cost to the students in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the lessons will be displayed to the students through a special program on the MoA official website: www.agriculture.gov.lb
- 2. Launching the distance extension service** which aims to give technical advice in agriculture (plants and animals) in support of the farmers in order to protect their production and develop the sector by using modern practices and techniques and raising awareness among farmers concerning limiting water depletion, thus encouraging the Lebanese citizens to plant. The service will be displayed through a special program on the MoA official website: www.agriculture.gov.lb



Chapter IV: Supporting Small and Medium Agricultural Producers

- 1. Program supporting the planting of feeds for the small and medium dairy cow breeders in Lebanon** by presenting the project to the Council of Ministers in order to provide sustainable human development in the rural areas and contribute to stopping rural migration and increasing investment in the plant and animal sectors, increasing job opportunities in both sectors, ameliorating the marketing of other crops by substituting some plantations the discharge of which constitutes a main problem in the cultivation of feeds. The details of the plan are represented in two main subjects, which are supporting the cultivation of feeds and supporting small dairy cow breeders. The project requires implementing it an additional human cadre for the technicians of the ministry of Agriculture from veterinarians to agricultural engineers and technical assistants. The project's value is estimated at about 696800000 billion Lebanese Pounds.
- 2. Program supporting small and medium sheep and goat breeders**, which is based on distributing vaccines and veterinary medicines. The program's value is estimated at about three billion Lebanese Pounds.
- 3. Program supporting beekeepers**, valued at 2 billion Lebanese Pounds, which relies on distributing beehives and pertinent tools to beekeepers.
- 4. Program supporting marine fishing and helping fishermen**, which includes distributing tools and fishing nets in order to motivate the youth to invest in fishing in order to get a job opportunity as a source of income and increasing the incomes of the fishermen. The support's value is estimated at about five billion Lebanese Pounds.
- 5. Program supporting small and medium river fish producers** which relies on distributing fish feeds and seeds and encouraging aquaculture within the existing culture ponds at a value of 3 billion Lebanese Pounds.



Chapter V: Supporting Agricultural Irrigation Water

Supporting the irrigation program in cooperation and coordination with the ministry of Energy and Water and its institutions, since it is the administration that is in charge of water management, in order to reduce the irrigation cost in conjunction with an informative program in order to shed light on the modern irrigation methods and their essential role in the rationalization of water consumption and conservation of natural resources such as groundwater and others as a main element in the development of the agricultural sector and achievement of food security, which requires coordination and integration between the ministry of Agriculture that manages the agricultural sector that need and consumes water with the ministry of Energy and Water and its institutions that manages water resources in order to reach points of convergence that enable the ultimate utilization of water in the agricultural sector, taking into consideration the spread of pollution and controlling the use of polluted water resources as well as the necessity of putting an end to this health and food crime.



Chapter VI: Adopting an Agricultural Informative Policy



In accordance with the development that the media is witnessing and its effective role in diffusing information and its influence on the public opinion, we consider **it necessary to work on activating the agricultural media to raise awareness about the importance of the agricultural sector** as an income-generating vital sector for a large category of citizens, and it is an alternative, to which we can have recourse in order to face the health and security crises that we might encounter, and shed light on its role in reducing the food gap resulting from the dependence on importation mainly during the current financial crisis, and the possibility of the contribution of every individual in overcoming this crisis, through:

- 1. Providing agricultural extension to the professional and unprofessional farmers**, so that the agricultural methods available to the citizen to invest in agriculture in every arable land, even if the areas were small, in order to meet the family or household needs in cooperation with the ministry of Information, in particular Télé Liban.
- 2. Launching awareness campaigns in order to increase the consumption of local products and traditional food products and encouraging their processing** (Lebanese “Mouneh”, fruits and vegetables, honey, olive oil, cheese and dairy products...) and coordinating with the civil and military public institutions in order to buy these products.
- 3. Raising awareness among consumers concerning food waste** in order to conserve the food loss by motivating to perform some practices, changing consumption and shopping behavior and habits with regards to consumers in cooperation with the ministry of Information.



It is to mention in conclusion that it is necessary to accelerate the preparation of executive programs for this plan in cooperation with the concerned parties in the public and private sectors under the supervision of the ministry of Agriculture, and as a first step, agricultural material shall be purchased, including without limitation wheat and potato seeds, imported and local certified fruit trees, veterinarian vaccines, traps and pheromones at favorable prices in its purchase value as a direct support to the farmers, in order to enable the lower-income farmers to obtain the materials, preserve social balances and prevent the monopoly of these materials and price manipulation by the big farmers or traders, provided that this program shall be linked to directions, guidance and technical assistance by the ministry of Agriculture technicians





Thank you for your attention