Lebanon National Agriculture Strategy
NAS 2020 – 2025

NAS Flagship Programmes
Operationalizing the National Agriculture Strategy 2020-2025

Food Security Sector Working Group meeting

8th June, 2021
Presentation prepared by: Tommaso Alacevich – Economist, FAO Investment Centre
NAS investments - rationale for prioritization

- **Feasibility**: What is feasible within 5 years timeframe (also under current budget constraints)
- **Impact**: investments with highest expected impact for the agrifood system (based on territorial comparative advantages)
- **Inclusiveness**: social targeting (women and youth)
- **Constraint removal**: addressing the most important conduit mechanisms (at farm level, and value chain level)
## Flagship Programmes – Prioritized

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flagship Programmes</th>
<th>Feasibility</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Inclusiveness</th>
<th>Constraint Removal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Inclusive access to inputs and financial services for ag. recovery</strong></td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAS programmes 1.1 and 1.2 <em>(access to inputs and access to credit)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Enhanced governance of the agrifood sector</strong></td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAS Programme 5.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Increased agrifood production and export</strong></td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAS Programmes 3.2 and 3.5 <em>(horizontal and vertical value chain networking/ value chain modernization / enhanced access to finance)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Digital access to agriculture knowledge and information</strong></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAS Programmes 5.1 and 5.2 <em>(MoA services, AKIS efficiency/effectiveness)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Evidence-based land use decision tool</strong></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FP1. Inclusive access to inputs / financial services for ag. recovery

Unlocking bottlenecks of key conduit mechanisms: a modular approach

➔ eliminating blocking factors at production level:
  • Access to inputs
  • Working capital provision
  • Water and energy (nexus)

➔ favoring import substitution and/or export, linking production and post-harvest segments
  • Market information/transparency
  • Wholesale mkt, post-harvest facilities/infrastructure

CN1. Inclusive access to inputs and financial services for ag. recovery

Objective: sustain agricultural production and improve agricultural producers’ resilience to the compound financial and COVID-19 crises

Target: S/M farmers (access to inputs), existing/new SMEs (access to credit / matching grants)

Budget: US$45.0m / 3 to 5 yrs

Selected relevant interventions:
• Enhancing resilient livelihoods and food security of host communities and Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon (FAO-WFP; EU MADAD Trust Fund: USD 12.8 m).
• Emergency livelihood support to the vulnerable small-scale farmers affected by the financial and economic crisis in Lebanon (FAO; SFERA Belgium: USD 0.25 m).
• Increase resilience of vulnerable smallholder farming families affected by the economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic (FAO; Japan: USD 0.44m).
• Support to Women’s Cooperatives and Associations in the Agrifood Sector in Lebanon (FAO; Canada: USD 4.9 m).
FP3. Increased agrifood production and export

Unlocking bottlenecks of key conduit mechanisms: a modular approach

➔ eliminating blocking factors at production level:
  • Access to inputs
  • Working capital provision
  • Water and energy (nexus)

➔ favoring import substitution and/or export, linking production and post-harvest segments
  • Market information/transparency
  • Wholesale mkt, post-harvest facilities/infrastructure

Component 1: Increased domestic production capacities
  De-constraining interventions (TA)
  Developing smart support schemes

Component 2. Improved export capacities
  Post-harvest and export infrastructure
  Digital platform, linking producers to traders/exporters
  Reviewing the subsidy export mechanism

Component 3. Strengthened food safety capacities
  Public food safety surveillance capacity
  Private sector capacities
  Creating a smart export financial mechanism

CN3. Increased agrifood production and export

Objective: increase domestic production and productivity of main agricultural products, and boost exports of potential value-chains

Target: farmers and their groups, exporters, public institutions (infrastructure)

Budget: ~US$21m / 3 to 5 yrs
FP2. Enhanced governance of the agrifood sector

Coordination mechanisms
Accountable for high level decisions, advocacy, resource mobilization, ...

Technical support functions
Technical analysis, M&E, KM, communication, policy dialogue.

Projects implementation, supervision, M&E, reporting, Knowledge sharing, policy dialogue...

NAS-suggested higher level governance

Higher Inter-Ministerial Committee (newly established)

MoA Policy Unit
Support and coordination role, trade policy analysis, international conventions / treaties..., technical guidance to planning, policy dialogue, unlocking policy and regulatory frameworks bottlenecks

Higher Council for Agriculture (reactivated)
Government and non-state actors

FP2: a timebound technical support accompanying the MoA Policy Unit in the NAS implementation: (a) streamlined institutional framework; (b) stronger stakeholders’ capacities (US$1.0m / 3yrs)

Government (local and central levels) NGOs Private sector Civil society (incl. academia) Devt. Partners...
## Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Priority ranking</th>
<th>Relevance to NAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish interim Policy Unit (including M&amp;E and Resource Mobilization functions) within the existing Office of Cabinet of Counsellors, eventually implementing Policy Unit under Minister’s office</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>Cross-cutting / Pillar 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish GIS and IT Service/Department within the Directorate of Coordination and Studies</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>Pillar 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing a Food safety, quality and accreditation coordination committee leveraging existing resources and functions in Directorate of Plant Resources and Directorate of Animal Resources, and Regional Offices</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>Pillar 2 and Pillar 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrading the current Agricultural Education and training service to Capacity Development and Training Department</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Cross-cutting / Pillar 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launching informed and inclusive diagnostic to streamline role and functions of the directorates</td>
<td>Other/secondary</td>
<td>Cross-cutting / Pillar 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing a Research and Development Unit, and in the short-term consider establishing an ad-hoc committee for coordination and knowledge exchange purposes</td>
<td>Other/secondary</td>
<td>Pillar 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Relevance to NAS**

- Cross-cutting / Pillar 5
- Pillar 5
- Pillar 2 and Pillar 3
Objective: modernize the agriculture knowledge dissemination system
Target: extension service of the MoA, including its regional officers and farmers
Components:
1. Improving the enabling environment for the digital transformation of the agricultural extension system
   • Establishing key digital “building blocks”
   • Improvement of the reg. framework
2. Improving technical knowledge dissemination and skills development in agriculture
   • Digital extension/advisory services
   • Promoting precision agriculture
3. Optional: a facility to ensure access to relevant digital technologies for agrifood sector actors
Budget: US$15m / 3yrs (NB: excluding optional facility)
Objective: strengthen the evidence-based decision making at policy and strategic level on agrifood sector and food system

Target: Government, national/international partners engaged in agrifood, food system actors and entrepreneurs

Components:

- Creation and update of **evidence** for agrifood sector development and investment
- Develop a user friendly web-based georeferenced data **platform**

Budget: US$0.7m / 2 yrs
Outstanding points

Opportunities consideration within MoA:

- **Strategic partnerships**: FPs to stimulate partnerships with MoA and interests in financing NAS priorities

- **Alignment opportunities**: dialogue opportunity with development partners on strategic plans on the make

- **National ownership**: engaging with external stakeholders, private sector, civil society, and others for stronger advocacy
Thanks for your attention!

MoA core team- Wafaa El Dikah - Amal Salibi- Lamia El Tawm
FAO Representation in Lebanon
FAO – investment centre division
tommaso.alacevich@fao.org