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Using an Inclusive Cluster Process to Restore Yemen Agriculture Value Chains Under Conflict – Challenges and Impacts Achieved

YEMEN ECONOMIC
STABILIZATION AND SUCCESS
PROGRAM (YESS)

2017-2020

KEY CHALLENGES

- Conventional agriculture lacks commercial approach
- Collapse of institutional support
- Low private investment
- High postharvest wastage
- Excessive extraction of groundwater – 30% agriculture water to grow *qat*
- Lack of access to market-based finance
- Diversified markets – quality standards, branding, certification



OVERVIEW - LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT

Rebuilding livelihoods and communities during the ongoing crisis

1) WHY AGRICULTURE?

- Ag is the single-most important contributor to Yemen's economy
- 20% of GDP
- Employs 58% of country's working population
- 40% of farmers are landless
- 44% of farmers own less than 1 ha

2) APPROACH

- Identify high-impact value chains
- Organize farmers into clusters by value chain and region
- Provide technical assistance and training in production technologies, post-harvest handling processes, and market linkage strategies
- Strengthen market linkages to boost farmers' sales, increase their access to finance, and raise their incomes

3) IMPACT

- Established 34 clusters across 11 governorates
- Trained 5,900+ farmers, including 1,400+ women
- Established 31 Farmer Field Schools and 26 Demonstration Sites
- Facilitated 102 sales agreements worth USD 2 million between farmers and key local and regional traders.

"The ability to sell our products in the market has broken down barriers and encouraged me and my neighbors to create our own small businesses. Now, we are providing for ourselves and our children—just like men."

– Roaida Abdo Ahmed



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