

# Soil-less Agriculture

Advantages And Main Challenges

# SmartFarm In Numbers

- SmartFarm started its business in 2014
- 20 Thousands sqm of greenhouses all in substrate except 500 sqm in NFT
- Growing a wide range of vegetables:  
Tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergine, kale, lettuces...





# Advantages

- Less water and fertilizers used
- No soil born / roots disease
- Avoid Herbicide use
- Better control on quality
- Higher yield

# Drawback

- Huge investment cost
- Requires fulltime electricity therefore a system failure is very likely in Lebanon
- Requires experiences and technical knowledge (PH, salinity control...)

# Is Soil-less enough to improve agriculture

Unfortunately No. More is required in order to improve the agricultural sector in Lebanon:

Soil-less, hydroponics or any new technology is one piece of the jigsaw puzzle

We may start improving what we have in order to enhance profitability and then competitiveness i.e. Cost of electricity, cost of raw material (Seeds, fertilizers, pesticides...), bureaucratic framework, access to affordable financing...