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## Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

### The Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)

Technical meeting on “Context-based Technologies to Enhance the Efficiency and Resilience of Agri-food Systems in Lebanon”

Beirut, Lebanon 26-27 August 2019

## Agenda

### Day 1: Monday 26 August 2019

09:00-9:30 **Registration**

09:30-10:00 **Opening session**

**Moderator: Ms. Reem Nejdawi – Chief of the Food and Environment Policies Section – ESCWA**

- **Welcoming statements**

- **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**  
Mr. Juraj Riecan – Director of Statistics Division
- **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO)**  
Mr. Maurice Saade – Country Director – Lebanon
- **Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**  
H.E. Mr. Jan Waltmans – Ambassador of the Netherlands in Lebanon
- **Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture**  
H.E. Dr. Hasan Lakkis – Minister of Agriculture – Lebanon

10:00-10:30

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**Coffee Break**

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10:30-12:00

**Session I: The role of the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture in developing agriculture technologies and promoting an enabling environment for adoption and scaling-up**

**Moderator: Ms. Wafaa Dikah Hamze – Former Minister – Ministry of Agriculture – Lebanon**

- **Programs and projects implemented in the framework of the Ministry of Agriculture strategy**  
Ms. Lamyia Al Tawm – Head of Programs and Development Projects Service – Ministry of Agriculture – Lebanon
- **Farm Business School (FBS): An innovative approach in agriculture extension**  
Mr. Maurice Saade – Country Director – FAO – Lebanon
- **Case study 1: Use of water and irrigation management models to promote productivity of major crops in Lebanon- MOA experience, results and challenges**  
Ms. Maya Mhanna – Head of Rural Engineering Services – Ministry of Agriculture – Lebanon
- **Q&A**

12:00-13:30

**Session 2: The role of applied research institutions in the transfer, adaptation and adoption of agricultural technologies in Lebanon**

**Moderator: Mr. Michel Afram – Director General – Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) – Lebanon**

- **An overview of the strategy and vision of the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) in the transfer, adaptation and adoption of agricultural technologies- challenges and opportunities**  
Mr. Talal Darwich – Project Manager – CNRS – Lebanon
- **An overview of the strategy and vision of LARI in the transfer, adaptation and adoption of agricultural technologies- challenges and opportunities**  
Mr. Michel Afram – Director General – LARI – Lebanon
- **A new strategic approach for delivering innovative science based-solutions for thriving and resilient dry lands**  
Mr. Hassan Machlab – Country Manager – International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) – Lebanon

- **Case Study 2: Application of water saving techniques- findings and recommendations for large and small farmers**  
Mr. Ihab Jomaa – Head of Irrigation and Agrometeorology Department – LARI – Lebanon
- **Case Study 3: Barley sprout production to reduce the cost of livestock feeding and pressure on rangelands**  
Mr. Joseph Kahwaji – Head of Feed and Rangeland Lab – LARI – Lebanon
- **Q&A**

13:30-14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30-15:30 **Session 3: The role of the agriculture faculties in directing their research and programs to promote technology development in the agriculture sector**

**Moderator: Mr. Elias Ghadban – Regional Advisor on Food Security – ESCWA**

- **Strategy of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences (FAFS) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and results achieved**  
Mr. Ammar Olabi – Associate Dean – FAFS – AUB – Lebanon
- **Strategy of the Faculty of Agriculture at the Lebanese University (LU) and results achieved**  
Mr. Samir Medawar – Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture – LU – Lebanon
- **Strategy of the Institute of Agricultural Engineering for Mediterranean Countries at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and results achieved**  
Ms. Yolla Ghora Chamoun – Associate Professor – ESIAM –USJ – Lebanon
- **Q&A**

15:30-16:30 **Session 4: General discussion to draw lessons learned from morning sessions and propose policy recommendations tailored to design the principles of agricultural technology development within the strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture for 2020-2025**

**Moderators: Ms. Wafa Dikah Hamze – Mr. Fouad Mrad –Mr. Elias Ghadban**

9:00-10:15 **Session 5: Adoption of agricultural technologies by small and large farmers – Challenges and adaptation mechanisms**

**Moderator: Mr. Hussein Nasrallah – Minister Consultant – Ministry of Agriculture – Lebanon**

- **Growing, washing and packaging carrots: energy and water management and proper soil use**  
Mr. Ahmad Osman Khodr – Agricultural Engineer from Beqaa – Lebanon
- **Growing soilless vegetables under greenhouses in Jounieh**  
Mr. Nagi Qamar – CEO – Smart Farm S.A.L – Lebanon
- **Endorsement of Technology in the Lebanese farming system**  
Mr. Bashar Berro – Agribusiness Expert – Lebanon
- **Growing vegetables under a hydroponic system in the Bekaa valley**  
Mr. Ahmad Zeiter – Agricultural Engineer from Beqaa – Lebanon
- **Q&A**

10:15-11:30 **Session 6: Private sector's transfer and adoption of agricultural technologies – success stories and challenges**

**Moderator: Mr. Ibrahim Hawi – Minister Consultant – Ministry of Agriculture – Lebanon**

- **Agricultural systems that conserve our natural resources- transfer and application challenges**  
Ms. Nadine El Khoury – Chief Operating Officer – Robinson Agri – Lebanon
- **Agricultural technologies to support grape production in Northeast Baalbeck**  
Mr. Ziad Ghanem – Central Technical and Development Manager – Debbane Agriculture Holding – Lebanon
- **Hydroponic systems – the ability to increase productivity and the challenges of transfer and adoption**  
Mr. Mazen Mneimneh – Executive Manager – Hydroponica – Lebanon
- **Q&A**

11:30-12:00 **Coffee break**

12:00-13:30 **Session 7: The role of stakeholders' clusters in agriculture and start-up companies in the creation and support of context-based agriculture technologies**

**Moderator: Ms. Hala Abdallah – Head of Economics and Marketing Department – Ministry of Agriculture – Lebanon**

- **Case study 4: Experience of a cluster initiation for start-ups of agriculture technologies**  
Mr. Ramy Bou Jawdeh – Deputy General Manager – Berytech – Lebanon
- **Lebanese agricultural food innovation- Initial impact on the sector and sustainability challenges**  
Ms. Jihane Chahla – Cluster Manager – Berytech – Lebanon
- **Start- up 1: Rigino: Trust, Transparency and Traceability**  
Ms. Sabah Corm – Co-Founder – Rigino
- **Start- up 2: IO Tree**  
Ms. Nisrine El Turkey – Founder; CEO – IO Tree
- **Start-up 3: IoT-Connected CEVA (Controlled-Environment Vertical Agriculture): Harnessing scalable cutting-edge technology to transition Lebanese agro-production into the 21<sup>st</sup> century**  
Mr. Ali Makhzoum – Founder; CEO – LifeLab
- **Q&A**

13:30-14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30-15:30 **Session 8: The role of non-governmental organizations and development agencies in agriculture technology's adoption and transfer**

**Moderator: Ms. Amal Salibi – Head of the Economic Studies and Statistics Department – Ministry of Agriculture – Lebanon**

- **Case study (5) of United Nations Development Programme – Lebanon: “Innovative Solutions in Rangelands Management: A Practical Experience from the Qaraoun Catchment”**  
Mr. Dominique Choueiter – Project Officer – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Lebanon
- **Case study (6): Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM)**  
Mr. Andre Abou Haidar – Programme Officer – PCPM – Lebanon

- **Case study (7) of Lebanon Reforestation Initiative – Lebanon :**  
**“Using GIS to guide decision making processes in reforestation”**  
Mr. Joseph Bechara – GIS Expert – Lebanon Reforestation Initiative – Lebanon
- **Case study (8) of the Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture in Zahle: “Agvisor to increase micro, small and medium agricultural enterprises’ productivity”**  
Mr. Said Gedoun – Deputy General Manager – Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture in Zahle

15:30-17:00

**Session 9: Closing Session**

**General discussion to draw lessons learned from morning sessions and propose policy recommendations tailored to design the principles of agricultural technology development within the strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture for 2020-2025**

**Moderators: Ms. Amal Salibi – Mr. Hussein Nasrallah – Mr. Fouad Mrad – Mr. Elias Ghadban**