"Putting the donkey before the cart": Participatory models for the rural MENA

Expert Group Meeting on: “Promoting Market-Driven Access to Sustainable Modern Energy Services in the Arab Rural Regions”
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MENA indicators

- 25% of population is poor – 70% of them are rural
- 90% dry lands – 100 Million people
- High population growth rate - 1.8% (world average 1.2%)
- Scarce land and water resources (except for Sudan) – arid and semi arid areas
- Irrigation water withdrawal reaching critical situations in many countries
- Energy consumption accounts for a significant share of production cost (irrigation pumps, heating and cooling in livestock, machinery...)

ESDU

Environment and Sustainable Development Unit
MENA indicators

- Illiteracy rates are high, especially for women: 50% of the women are illiterate.

- Education: 50% of school-age children in rural areas are in school, compared to 85% in urban areas.

- Ratio of the economically inactive to economically active population — is the highest in the world.

- Low level of female labor force participation.
Population active in Agriculture:

Note: youth migration from rural areas to urban cities is increasing in the Arab world
Future Trends - MENA

Urban population (% of total) 60% in 2014
Average rate of growth of the urban population is 3.3 % per year, compared with 2.6 % for national populations.

MENA indicators
Access to services

- **Connectivity/ rural – urban linkages**
  86% of the MENA region’s territory is more than 3 hours’ travel from a city of 0.5 million people. MENA’s lagging areas have a proximity advantage: 61% of their population lives within three hours of a major city.

- **Access to an all-season road**
  60% of rural population have access to an all-season road (in 2004),

- **Access to safe water and sanitation**
  Low for rural population in many MENA countries

- **Access to telephone and Internet services**
  Poor: 31% of rural population and 21% of urban citizens live in areas without mobile phone coverage.
MENA indicators
Access to services

- **Education**
  “Traditional” farmers least educated and oldest segments of the population,
  Low investment in rural education

- **Access to credit**
  Inefficiencies in the banking sector,
  Lack of collateral,
  Lack of funding for agriculture

- **Lack of Institution**
  No institutional home for rural economic development

- **Subsidies**
  Rural poor, not effectively reached by the region’s farm subsidies
Social alienation, lack of democracy, corruption

Arab Spring / Foreign conspiracy
Need for Participatory Development and Research

Efforts to transfer knowledge and technologies often failed

- Deficit in communication between decision-makers and the beneficiary community,
- Local communities resisted external interventions which have “rained down” on them

Participation and communication with all stakeholders is essential in development processes and strategic planning
Participatory Development and Research

Advantages:

- driven by participants,
- offers a democratic model,
- results in change or improvement

Many names used: e.g. Participatory Appraisal, Participatory Learning and Action, Community-Based Participatory Research.
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Exploring Solutions, Defying Uncertainties

www.aub.edu.lb/fafs/esdu
Established in 2001 as an inter-disciplinary research and development unit

To become

Regional Leader in sustainable rural livelihoods

Over 8 million $ in 12 years
Putting People in The Center

A Participatory Approach:

To Listen

I need a translator
Putting People in The Center
Emphasis on rural women

Capacity Building
to Improve skills, Empower marginal groups and Give sustainability a CHANCE
NATIONAL FAME
1995 - 2001

All over Lebanon

Community based projects:
- Innovative R&D solutions
- Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
REGIONAL FAME

2002 - present

Urban agriculture: 7th center for the MENA region (RUAF); [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org)

Communication for development for the Near-East region (FAO);

Outcome Mapping for monitoring and evaluating projects (an IDRC initiative: International Development Research Center in Canada); [www.evalmena.org](http://www.evalmena.org)

KariaNet: ESDU has been selected as the regional host for KariaNet: Knowledge Access for Rural Inter-connected Areas Network (IDRC/IFAD) [www.karianet.org](http://www.karianet.org)
The RCODE: Master of Sciences Program in Rural Community Development meets the university's objective by supporting community service and civic engagement for the MENA by translating experiences in community-based services into structured academic knowledge.
SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENT OF MARGINAL LANDS IN LEBANON: ARSAL, A CASE STUDY 1995 - 2005

1. Pilot community based research
2. Linking research to development
3. International fame

The Local Users Network

A dynamic research and development model where farmers, local leaders, women, NGOs, scientists, Government and the international community interact for:

• Information exchange
• Feedback
• Conflict resolution
Outcomes:
- Improved participatory research processes
- Rain Water Harvesting
- Land Use Planning
- Desertification Hazard Assessment
- Self Sustained Reforestation
- Sustainability of Farming Systems
- Income Generating Activities

Resources:
- Land and Water
- Soil
- Technical Training
- Field Survey
- Animals
- GIS Analysis
- Plants
- Awareness: environmental, gender

Tools:
- Computer Modeling
- Ethno-archaeology
- Socio-economic Analysis
- Biodiversity
- Participatory Approach

Capacity Building:
- AUB researchers to real life situations

Actors:
- Fruit Growers
- School Teachers
- Women
- Sheep Herders
- Greenline
- ARDA
- ICARDA
- ARI
- ESDU
- Oxfam
The Local Users Network

The network facilitated the establishment of 2 cooperatives:
1. Artisanal activities: Food processing and carpet weaving.
2. Livestock herders.

The local users network was adopted as a regional focal point for community participation.
The platform agreed to join efforts to work in Aarsal as a pilot site to promote sustainable village-based development.
Mainstreaming Urban Agriculture in MENA 2005-2013

Capacity building
Dissemination and communication
  • Arabic version of the urban agriculture magazine
  • Website on UA in the MENA (English and Arabic)
Multi-Stakeholder Participatory Policy Formulation and Action Planning (MPAP) on Urban Agriculture: The Case of Amman-Jordan, MENA Region

MPAP is a practice that brings together all major stakeholders in a process of joint situation analysis and action planning.

- Important element of processes of policy design, action planning and implementation.
- Collaboration among people and organisations from a diversity of backgrounds (producers, NGOs, research institutes, local and national governments etc).
**MPAP Process**

1. **Defining workplan & procedures**
   - Local MPAP facilitating team formed and trained

2. **Exploratory Study**
   - Exploratory study
     - Policy narrative

3. **Multi-Stakeholder Forum**
   - Multi-stakeholder Forum on urban agriculture set up
   - City Strategic Agenda on UA formulated

4. **Operationalization**
   - Operational action plans elaborated for:
     - specific projects
     - (re)formulation of norms, bye-laws and regulations

5. **Implementation, monitoring and innovation**
MPAP TEAM - Amman
Multi-Stakeholder FORUM

Forum includes more than 28 participants:

- Ministries of Agriculture…;
- Municipality;
- University of Jordan-Amman;
- Civil Society Organizations;
- Private enterprises.
- …
## Main outcomes of the multi-stakeholder process to mainstream UA in Amman

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Municipal unit or program established</strong></td>
<td>Municipality of Greater Amman (GAM) established a <strong>specialized UA bureau</strong>&lt;br&gt;GAM implements a <strong>city-wide UA project</strong> to promote home gardening for food security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding and support</strong></td>
<td>The multi-stakeholder forum on urban agriculture as interlocutor for <strong>funding</strong> with major donors.&lt;br&gt;GAM provides farmers with <strong>in-kind support</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Micro-credit</strong> institutions recognize urban farming and are securing micro-credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By-laws and regulations adapted</strong></td>
<td>Incorporation of UA in the new <strong>master plan</strong> in Amman</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Gender mainstreaming</strong></td>
<td>A <strong>female member</strong> was appointed as the coordinator of the urban agriculture bureau at the municipality</td>
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<td><strong>Institutional capacity building</strong></td>
<td><strong>MSF</strong> members such as associations, NGO’s and cooperatives have incorporated <strong>UA in their institutional programs</strong></td>
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Knowledge Access for Rural Interconnected Areas Network

KariaNet  www.karianet.org

KariaNet is a regional network for the management and sharing of knowledge in agriculture and rural development in the Middle East and North Africa region.
Established by IFAD and IDRC
Currently managed regionally by ESDU
Network covers now **10 countries** in the MENA
Focuses on thematic priorities in agriculture and rural development
Facilitates and supports demand driven capacity building activities, action research

10 countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen
KariaNet…

a regional KM-KS network

• Working with a **multitude of stakeholders**: research organizations, NGOs, governmental bodies, private sector…

• **Linking knowledge providers with knowledge seekers**

• Supporting **action and research on KM-KS** in agriculture and rural development in the MENA

• Working towards establishing a **critical mass of professionals**
On-going activities for Renewable Energy in MENA

- Pumping potable and tap water for 30,000 persons
- Partnership with Municipality Kab Elias, Wadi el Delb and Bekaa Water Corporation

USAID Solar Energy project
Bekaa Kab Elias, Lebanon
Abu-Dhabi-based Masdar has installed

- Installation of 9,000 out of 17,670 systems across 940 villages
- 290-watt solar home systems are designed
- Partnership agreement: Masdar and Morocco’s Office National de l'Electricité et de l'Eau Potable (ONEE)

**Target:** 99% of rural Morocco to have energy access by end of 2017.
Model Proposed by ESDU:

EcoMENA Model

Concept:
Establishing a network of self-generative eco-communities based on indigenous knowledge and appropriate green technologies through a multi-faceted approach that integrates:
Agriculture, Resource Conservation and Social Empowerment
…bridging the urban rural divide for a revitalized living environment

Roadmap
- Conceptual framework
- The model
- Case studies
- Assessment

Community Partners
- NGOs
- Municipalities
- Wakf (Religious endowment)
- Private Sector
## EcoMENA R&D PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>International Partner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resilience of agropastoral systems in MENA</td>
<td>CIRAD Agricultural Research for Development – Montpellier – France [<a href="http://www.cirad.fr%5C">www.cirad.fr\</a>]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative food systems</td>
<td>University of Córdoba, Instituto de Sociología y Estudios Campesinos (ISEC) ; Departamento de Urbanística y Ordenación del Territorio, Universidad de Granada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic agriculture</td>
<td>Knowledge Center for Agriculture – Danish Agricultural Advisory Service DAAS - Denmark [<a href="http://www.vfl.dk%5C">www.vfl.dk\</a>]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable land use and eco-initiatives</td>
<td>Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research [<a href="http://www.zalf.de/en/portal/Pages/default.aspx%5C">http://www.zalf.de/en/portal/Pages/default.aspx\</a>]</td>
</tr>
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Potential Partnership: ESCWA- KariaNet

Special Section on Energy Management:
Which could be used for:

➢ Sharing documents on alternative Energy
➢ E-learning modules
Establishment of a Fund for Rural Development and entrepreneurship

- Public Private Partnership
- Social investors
- CSR initiatives (Corporate Social Responsibility)
- …to be continued by Ms. Bettina Bastian
Wa shukran
Thank you