GAP IN LEBANON

Maya Mhanna
Head of Rural Projects and Irrigation Department
Ministry of Agriculture- Lebanon

FAO- Cairo 31 May – 1 June
Overview of Lebanese Agriculture

- Total Cultivated Agricultural Area: 2.3 Million Du
- Total irrigated Area: 1.1 Million Du (50%)
- More than 70% of farmers have < 10 du area
- 4% have areas between 40 and 100 dun.
The highest Cultivated Agricultural Area (CAA) is in Baalbek-Hermel (25%)
Major Crops

**Major seasonal crops**
- Tomatoes
- Cucumber
- Potatoes
- Wheat
- Lettuce

**Major Perennial Crops**
- Citrus fruits → (8% of Perennial Crops)
- Apple → (9%)
- Olive tree → (43%)
- Grapes → (table grape and for wine) (8%)
- Banana → (2.5%)
Most Agricultural Production is locally consumed.

However there are some important exported products.

Agricultural exports count for: 730 Million USD (19% of the total export)

Most important exported crops:
- Citrus fruits
- Apple
- Cucumber
- Tomatoes
- Potatoes
- Iceberg
GAP-Introduction

- Lebanon does not have a specific policy on the implementation of GAPs.

- However since 2010 the concept was addressed in several policy papers, some measures have been implemented and projects were developed locally.

- Especially with the introduction of the IPM and IWM in the MoA policy.
A- Improvement of GAPs targeted 3 main crops and followed 3 steps implementation plan:

Apple
Table Grapes
Citrus

* TOT of MoA Staff
* Trainings of farmers by expert
* Outreach sessions by MoA staff with farmers & support from expert
6 ToT sessions

212 trainees

151 Trainings

6 339 farmers
Subjects

- GAP quality management systems (TOT)
- fruit tree husbandry and cultural practices related to tree training
- IPM (Farmers)
- Pheromone traps use, irrigation, fertilization
- pruning and grafting; fruit tree summer pruning
- Good production practices (GPPs)
B-Field Guides

Apple

Citrus

Grapes
C- GAP Guidelines

- In order to have every concerned people able to adopt GAP:

  Agriculture sector in Lebanon shall standardize agricultural techniques

  Helping Lebanese fruits and vegetables enhancing local and foreign market access.
C- Gap Guidelines

“Guidelines for GAP for Fruits & Vegetables in Lebanon”

1- Soil and Soil Management, Soil Risk Assessment

2- Water and Water Management

3- Crop and Fodder Production
   a. Field and crop selection
   b. Nutrient management
   c. Field and Crop Management
C- GAP guidelines (Con’t)

4- Crop Protection
   a. Pest Management and spray techniques
   b. Mixing and Loading Pesticides
   c. Disposal of Pesticide Containers
   d. Pesticides Storage

5- HARVESTING & ON FARM PROCESSING & STORAGE

6- Energy and Waste Management

7- HUMAN WELFARE, HEALTH, HYGIENE & SAFETY
D- Field Visits

The project included field visits to Farmers, cooperatives and wholesale markets

- Some big farmers and cooperatives already have Global Gap in Lebanon.

- Some others are willing to get Global GAP however they are facing some difficulties:
  - Investment
  - short delays of land renting time
  - discrepancies in the yields from year to year
E- National Technical working group (NTWG) on GAP

- Drafting the ToR for a:
  National Technical working group on GAP

The Committee still not created
The purpose of the NTWG is:

To shape national policy & strategies

1- facilitate the adoption of international and/or national standards and regulations

2- guarantee systems for quality, food safety and environmental management by fruit and vegetable producers and other supply chain actors in Lebanon.
In pursuing the overall goal of **improving market access** (export and domestic) the WG will aim to integrate:

- GAP,
- QM
- Geographic Indication standards

with other factors influencing market access

- quarantine and pest risk surveillance,
- pesticide regulation and life cycle management
- plant variety and seed registration.
The NTWG should have the support of local multi-stakeholder actors

Table 1. Illustrative examples of actors associated with the supply, support-connecting and demand dimensions associated with a GAP approach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supply Dimension</th>
<th>Support-Connecting Dimension</th>
<th>Demand Dimension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Labourers</td>
<td>• International and</td>
<td>• Consumers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Small-scale and</td>
<td>government research,</td>
<td>• Retailers,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Producer</td>
<td>universities, agricultural</td>
<td>• Processors,</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Exporters</td>
<td>extensionists</td>
<td>• Governments,</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Transporters</td>
<td>• Local advisors and</td>
<td>• Private</td>
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<td></td>
<td>consultants International</td>
<td>consultants and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and national regulatory</td>
<td>advisors,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>authorities (CODEX),</td>
<td>• Public</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Certifiers</td>
<td>authorities,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Credit organizations,</td>
<td>• Procurers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Certifiers</td>
<td>• Importers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• NGOs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• IGOs (FAO, WHO, WTO),</td>
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</table>

The group once established will work in close cooperation and under the directives of:

**The Minister of Agriculture** and support the GAP implementation and continuous improvement based on specific area needs.
Internal Program of Plant Protection Dep.

After the project, MoA issued guides for GAP on:

- Peaches and Nectarines
- Cherries

- Extension work on GAP are continuous
MoA Strategy 2015-2019

*Increase productivity and competitiveness of Lebanese Ag. Products*

**Proposed actions:**
- improve value chains and increase the value-added for products
- strengthen sanitary and phytosanitary measures
- increasing agricultural exports
- improve legal status of farmers
- Encourage youth and women to engage in agriculture-related investments.
MoA Strategy 2015-2019

Promoting Good Agricultural Practices through the support of organic farming and obtaining quality certificates:

- Identification of quality certificate requirements and conditions (Expert for 3 months)
- Training of inspectors and extension agents (50 person for 5 days)
- Training of farmers (6 sessions per year in each Regional Service)
- Incentives for organic and farmers lined in the quality programme (100 FARMERS)
Conclusions

The implementation of GAP concepts and principles in Lebanon had a good start; the success depends on the further work to be done:

**Institutions**
- Further efforts in the creation of the NTWG
- Increase vulgarization of GAP concepts and principles through trainings and distribution of guides.

**Breeders**
- breeding materials must be certified
- Availability of varieties complying with production requirements
Nursery
For certified productions, transplants or rootstocks must be certified

Educators/Extension Agents/Controllers
Continuous and scheduled trainings

Law
GAPs must be enforced complying with sometimes different local, regional and national guidelines.

Retailer
Price oriented not always willing to afford extra costs for better productions

Certification bodies
Uniform the rules among different certification bodies

Consumers
Final product must meet consumer expectations
Vision and Strategy of MoA

At 2 levels

- Enhancing the general GAP in the Lebanese agri-food sector, and the strategy is to go towards national GAP approach implementation for the benefit of the domestic consumers (with priorities, i.e. to tackle the most critical points).

- Another goal is to enhance the produce export to specific countries (including Arab countries), and the strategy is to go towards adopting and implementing GAPs according to a certification process.
Thank you for your attention