



Executive summary “Field visit 1” (Activity 3.4.1)

The first field visit in Lebanon within the LIVINGAGRO project was organized in the south of Lebanon on 27th of July 2021.

The number of participants in this visit was , among them researchers and engineers from the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the Lebanese University (LU); in addition to, farmers from Chouf, Iklim and Saida districts.

The LIVINGAGRO team at LARI presented to all participants the objectives of the project and the main planned activities. This was followed by an active discussion on the problems faced by the farmers in their orchards and their needs for innovations to improve their productivity and increase their incomes. Then, all the participants visited the national olive germplasm collection of local varieties and the olive nursery at LARI station in Tyre. Afterwards, the participants moved to one of the best olive groves in Lebanon “Bustan El Zeitoun”, owned by Engineer Walid Mshantaf and planted with different local and Italian varieties. In this orchard, they visited the field trial established within the activities of the LIVINGAGRO project to study the effect of green cover and green manure on soil characteristics and olive yield.

The technical part of the day ended by visiting a typical modern olive mill at Abra owned by Engineer Elias Fares who explained the steps to obtain the best quality olive oil and how to take advantage from the olive mill by-products in a sustainable way. Finally, after this long day they all gathered to have an amazing lunch together , during which, participants met new researchers and engineers and discussed several possibilities for future collaboration within the LIVINGAGRO project.

At the end of the visit, all participants showed high interest in the LIVINGAGRO project and enthusiasm for being members of the living labs.

