Executive summary "Field visit n. 3" (Activity 3.4.1)

The third field visit within the LIVINGAGRO project was conducted to the South of Lebanon on the 19th of May 2022.

Twenty researchers and agricultural engineers' students from Saint Joseph University-Higher school of Mediterranean Agricultural Engineers (USJ-ESIA-M), in addition to some potential farmers participated in this visit. The team introduced to the participants the LIVINGAGRO project, discussed the problems that the participants are facing in their orchards such as soil erosion, poor soil fertility, high chemical costs, high production cost mainly due to the high use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, manual harvesting, etc., and their needs for innovations for improving soil fertility, reducing soil erosion, obtaining good quality of olive and olive oil, and marketing of the final products.

The LIVINGAGRO team satisfied their needs for innovation through visiting at first a field trial planted with innovative legume-based seed mixtures in an olive orchard in collaboration with CNR-Italy within the LIVINGAGRO project activities; then, another field trial of the LIVINGAGRO project aiming for assessing the effects of green manure and cover crop on soil characteristics and olive orchard productivity; finally, a modern olive mill owned by Engineer Elias Fares who explained for the participants the steps to obtain the best quality of olive oil and the ways to market this luxury product. The day ended by gathering on an amazing lunch to strengthen the connection between the researchers and the stakeholders and discuss possibilities for future collaboration.

All the participants expressed their interest and happiness in this event as it helped them to establish connections with new researchers and engineers in the olive and olive oil sector, develop their knowledge regarding the agroforestry and the living labs concepts, find solutions for some of their problems and satisfy their needs for innovations.