



## Cooperation agreement with enterprises between the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute, the Lebanese International University and Al Manara Dairy in the framework of the project LIVINGAGRO (Activity 3.5.1)



### **ACTIVITY COORDINATED BY THE LEBANESE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (LARI)**

Within the framework of the Cross Border Living Laboratories for Agroforestry (LIVINGAGRO) Project, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), the Lebanese International University (LIU) and Manara Dairy on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Spetember 2022. The agreement was signed by the President General Director of LARI Dr. Michel Afram, the assistant Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at LIU Dr. Sami El Khatib and the CEO of Manara Dairy Mr. Said Abou Ghneim.



The subject of this collaboration is the implementation and conduction of experimental trials in order to develop innovations and supply services that can support the dairy sector in Lebanon in general and Manara Dairy in particular.

The first experiment will be based on the use of Syrian sumac (*Rhus coriaria*) as a natural preservative in olives curing for the preparation of high quality, healthy table olives. The second experiment will focus on the development and characterization of Ayran drink supplemented with thymol, the essential oil from Thyme plant (*Thymus vulgaris*). In fact, Syrian sumac is a flowering plant with reddish berries that has a pleasant mix of sour, sweet, salty and bitter flavors and that are ground into a coarse powder that bursts with color and flavor. Sumac is one of the most powerful anti-inflammatory spices out there. It's packed with antioxidants and has the ability to neutralize free radicals that can cause cancer, heart disease, and signs of aging. Studies have shown that daily intake of sumac for three months will lower the risk of cardiovascular disease among people with type 2 diabetes. As per the thyme plant which is an aromatic herb commonly used to flavor foods and as medicine. Thyme contains chemicals that might help bacterial and fungal infections. It also might help relieve coughing and have antioxidant effects. Sumac and thyme plants are widely present in Lebanese grazed woodlands.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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