



Final Ceremony LARI, Tal Amara, Lebanon, 8-9 August 2023 (ACTIVITY 2.7.2)



ACTIVITY COORDINATED BY THE LEBANESE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (LARI)

After four years of implementation of the LIVINGAGRO project activities, the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) hosted the final ceremony that took place at LARI Headquarters, Tal Amara, Lebanon on 8th and 9th of August 2023.

The event aimed at presenting the main results achieved by all partners during the life span of the project and highlighting the impacts on agroforestry in both multifunctional olive systems and grazed woodlands.

At the beginning of the event, Dr. Michel Afram, General Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors at LARI, welcomed all the participants and focused on the importance of Agroforestry to face the strong climatic changes specially during high-risk fire season. In his turn, Dr. Antonio Casula, General Director of FORESTAS and on behalf of the Legal representative of FORESTAS, Mr. Caria, showed his honour to be at LARI and brought the greetings of the regional Ministry of Environment in Sardinia who should have attended the meeting and was present in



Lebanon, but returned back due to the outbreak of forest wildfires in Sardinia. During his speech, he emphasized that the island of Sardinia suffers from forest fires in the summer and explained the role of FORESTAS in carrying out sustainable forest management practices and connected activities, such as wildlife and biodiversity management, tourism, reforestation activities, etc. Dr. Casula underlined that FORESTAS is participating with other forest managers to several European funded projects aiming at transferring technologies and innovations. Dr. Maurizio Malloci, the Coordinator of the LIVINGAGRO project, was thankful to LARI's team for all the efforts done during the project lifespan and presented the project role in building a cross border community through creation of two Living Laboratories. In her turn, Prof. Lamis Chalak from the Lebanese University, an associated partner of the project, described the contribution of her institution in the activities mainly related to field trials and cross cutting issues.

After the welcoming session, researchers from all partners' institutions presented the main accomplished activities. Dr. Sara Maltoni, the Project Manager, started the presentations by expressing her condolences for the loss of the colleague and collaborator in the LIVINGAGRO project, Dr. Andrea Pisanelli. Then, Dr. Maltoni underlined the fruitful cooperation among partners that led to the creation of two Living Laboratories for Agroforestry Systems, namely Multifunctional Olive Systems and Grazed Woodlands. In addition, she focused on the role of the Living Laboratory and invited all participants to join the project ICT Platform at the link <https://livingagrolab.eu/>; and to sign the 4P (public-private-people-partnership) agreements to be part of the cross-border Living Labs. In his turn, Dr. Milad El Riachy, the national coordinator of the project in Lebanon, reported the main activities performed in the Living Lab 1 (multifunctional olive systems) and described the steps used to involve the stakeholders in these Living Labs such as B2B events, workshops, field visits, etc. He also invited farmers to reach out the experts from involved countries through the forum created on the ICT platform; and, to develop their knowledge through the free e-learning modules. Finally, he also invited interested participants to contact him for signing the 4P agreements. After that, Dr. Claudio Porqueddu from CNR joined online to present the main innovations related to Living Lab 2 (grazed woodlands). In his turn, Dr. Panagiotis Kalaitzis from CIHEAM-MAICH initiated the ways used during the implementation of the LIVINGAGRO project in Greece to involve the biggest number of stakeholders such as the field visits, the experience of B2Bs, the business courses and the technology transfer workshops. Then, Dr. Salam Ayoub from NARC talked about the results of several field trials based on cover crops and intercropping of legumes such as chickpeas, peas, vetch, etc., in olive orchards that were implemented in several locations in Jordan. Finally, two testimonies spoke about their collaboration with the LIVINGAGRO team at LARI in the implementation of field trials in Lebanon. Dr. Wadih Skaff from Saint Joseph University-ESIA-M highlighted the importance of the study on the introduction of new olive varieties in Lebanon which resulted a new co-publication published in collaboration between LARI, USJ-ESIAM and Bustan Al Zeitoun. Dr. Sami Al Khatib from the Lebanese International University (LIU) stressed on the importance of the agreements signed within the project activities between LARI and LIU and between LARI, LIU and Manara Dairy.

With a strong participation exceeding 90 attendees (82 onsite+10 online), the event was concluded with a social lunch joining all the participants who expressed their gratitude and interest in the project and their readiness to continue this collaboration within the Living Laboratories.

On the 9th of August 2023, a field visit was organized for the participants from the LIVINGAGRO partners to the cedar forest in Bcharre and to the monumental olive trees in Bchaaleh where a meeting was organized with the Mayor and members of the cooperative for the conservation and protection of the olive trees and discussed how to apply relevant innovations based on the nature of the soils and the design of the traditional plantations in the region.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Photos by Mohammad Zein Eddine