

Conservation & Sustainable Use of Dryland Agrobiodiversity in Lebanon

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Training of teachers from local schools

During the month of July, the Agrobiodiversity Project conducted several training sessions for teachers



During the training of teachers

from the Project Sites, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment. An average of 27 teachers attended the training sessions on the following topics: Main global and national environmental problems, ecosystems, biodiversity richness of Lebanon, agrobiodiversity, establishment of school environmental clubs and conducting extracurricular activities, environmental education and teaching methodologies.

Guide that integrates biodiversity concepts in the curriculum

The Project developed a curriculum guide, which proposes the integration of the biodiversity concepts into the education curricula (Arabic version available at the project website). The guide includes the matrix of biodiversity concepts and the incorporation of these concepts through the different courses and classes of the Lebanese education curricula.

Factors of agrobiodiversity degradation

The Project conducted several eco-botanical surveys to identify factors of agrobiodiversity degradation in the project sites of Nabha, Aarsal, and Ham/Maaraboun. Five annual surveys for the targeted herbaceous species and two for the targeted wild fruit trees species were conducted. Data from these surveys will be analyzed to have a comprehensive picture of the status of the targeted wild species within the project sites.

National reports on website

All Project national reports till present are now available for downloading (PDF format) from the project website: www.lari.gov.lb/agrobio/documentation.asp



Organic farming traveling workshop

A traveling workshop on organic farming was organized, in collaboration with AUB and Ministry of Agriculture, for farmers from the three Project Sites (Aarsal, Ham/Maaraboun and Nabha). Seventeen interested farmers visited two certified organic farms in “Chleefa” and “Mazraat El-Sayed” and learned about the methods of production and process for obtaining internationally accredited certificates.



One of the methods used for pest management in organic farming



During the organic farming workshop

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“Remaining silent about the destruction of nature is an endorsement of that destruction”.

Edward Abbey
1927-1989

International conference on agrobiodiversity

The Regional Project on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Dryland Agrobiodiversity in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestinian Authority (Agrobiodiversity Project) will organize an international conference on “Promoting Community-Driven Conservation and Sustainable Use of Dryland Agrobiodiversity” at ICARDA-headquarters (Aleppo, Syria) on 18-21 April 2005. The conference announcement, which includes information on the different themes, registration (etc.) can be found in the link below:

www.icarda.cgiar.org/Announcement/Agrobiodiversity_18-21April05.htm

World Food Day

“Biodiversity for Food Security” is the theme for the World Food Day this year (16 October). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) announced this theme for 2004 to “highlight the importance of biodiversity in ensuring the access of people to high-quality food for healthy lives” (www.fao.org/wfd/index_en.asp). Activities to be organized at the national level to celebrate this occasion are listed at the web page: www.lari.gov.lb/agrobio/news&events.asp