



“Supporting the livelihoods of farmers and women’s groups in the Syrian Arab Republic”

**Project code:** OSRO/SYR/801/ITA

**Resource partner:** Italy

**Contribution:** USD 1 169 591

**Implementation:** 03/08/2018 – 31/07/2020

**Target areas:** Dar’a and Quneitra governorates



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- Objective:** To improve the food security and nutrition of targeted crisis-affected populations while restoring the resilience of their livelihoods, with a particular focus on female-headed households.
- Key partners:** Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR), local government counterparts, non-governmental organizations and private contractors.
- Beneficiaries reached:** 1 000 households (6 000 people).
- Activities implemented:**
- Provided 1 000 farming households (600 in Dar’a and 400 in Quneitra) with vegetable seeds, farming tools and drip irrigation equipment.
  - Supported 300 of the total beneficiary households through the installation of modern irrigation systems (200 households with rooftop rainwater harvesting systems in Dar’a and 100 households with solar-powered irrigation systems in Quneitra).
  - Established 11 women’s water user groups (ten members each).
  - Established 35 women’s producer groups (ten members each).
  - Established three processing units for female beneficiaries, each equipped with tools to process fresh items into a variety of products (jam, juice, dairy products, vinegar, dried food, etc.).
  - Conducted a study tour (together with Slow Food International) for 13 women (seven small-scale farmers and six MAAR representatives) to Italy.
  - Established two vegetable nurseries (with a greenhouse, insect-proof netting, heat generator, sprinkler irrigation system, climate control system, LED lamps).
  - Implemented an extensive capacity building programme to enhance beneficiaries’ knowledge of good agricultural practices; modern irrigation techniques; water resources management; sustainable and climate-sensitive agriculture; small business development; and marketing.
- Results:**
- Improved beneficiaries’ access to fresh food from their own production, increased incomes, and contributed towards diversifying diets by enabling households to produce 860 tonnes of tomato, 760 tonnes of eggplant, 772 tonnes of peppers, 270 tonnes of okra and 308 tonnes of beans.
  - Contributed towards high food consumption scores among beneficiaries (98 percent of households surveyed).
  - Helped to diminish the impact of water shortages and high input costs on beneficiary households.
  - Empowered beneficiaries with the means and knowledge to implement sound agricultural practices that are sustainable and respectful of the available natural resources.
  - Improved the resilience of female beneficiaries by providing the in-kind, organizational and capacity tools necessary to sustain their agriculture-based livelihoods despite unstable security conditions.