



**LEBANON**

NATIONAL STUDY

# ECO KHALLEH: EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING CENTER ON AGROECOLOGY/ORGANIC FARMING

Agronomic practices and management decisions can have a significant impact on the type and number of weeds on a farm. Understanding this relationship can help organic producers manage weeds through avoidance, and various cultural management practices.

The most important steps of non-chemical weed management are prevention, diagnosis, and a number of control methods. Effective weed management depends also on the thorough understanding of the biology and growth habit of weed species.

## SUMMARY OF THE EXPERIENCE

Eco Khalleh is an agroecology/ organic agriculture training/ educational center in Lebanon. The center is a multifunctional showcase consisting of an eco-farm including integrated animal and crop units, animal welfare unit, composting/vermiculture

unit, alternative energy unit, eco-processing unit, eco-cultural unit, and rural tourism unit. The center, while economically feasible, displays best practices and appropriate technologies that are optimal for agriculture in Mediterranean mountain

ecosystems. Training activities target technical students, farmers and casual Syrian labourers. The center also receives school visits and is open to the public for general awareness.

## ACHIEVING THE SDGS

This initiative corresponds to sustainability in its economic, social and environmental facets. By encouraging agroecology/ organic agriculture and green energy use, it promotes food security and good health and decreases environmental and climate threats hence responding to SDG2 (zero hunger), SDG3 (good health and well-being), SDG7 (affordable and clean energy), and SDG13 (climate action). In addition, it promotes development of rural communities, including farmers, women, youth, and Syrian refugees, hence responding to SDG5 (gender equality) and SDG10 (reduced inequalities).

This initiative would promote poverty alleviation (SDG1, no poverty) by offering rural communities alternative sustainable solutions and best practices.

## SCALING-OUT THE EXPERIENCE

The center develops participatory training programmes involving farmer-to-farmer transmission of knowledge, hence reaching more farmers and scaling out sustainable practices. Trainees at the center are provided with ToTs opportunities in cooperation with the governmental extension units.

## SCALING-UP THE EXPERIENCE

Eco Khalleh is under the umbrella of a network of sustainable resilient communities, the EcoMENA initiative which is a network of self-generative eco-communities based on indigenous knowledge and appropriate green technologies established through a multi-faceted/multi-sectorial approach. Eco Khalleh will also be exposed at the regional level through the Karianet network (<http://www.karianet.org>), an online regional platform managed by ESDU for knowledge management and knowledge sharing in the MENA region. The center is affiliated with the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit at the American University of Beirut.

