



FONDATION  
**IMPACT HOPE**

## **Resilient and inclusive agricultural production for local economic recovery in Lebanon**

### **Context**

Lebanon's agriculture lacks a vision to revive the sector at a time when the country is experiencing its most severe economic crisis in decades. Many young people are leaving the country in search of a more dignified life abroad or simply to feed their families.

We are proposing a project that will provide a resilient and inclusive response to current problems and future climate hazards.

### **Brief summary of the project**

The project proposes an innovative model of agricultural production that strengthens the local and export sectors. It is articulated around 3 complementary axes:

- An agricultural atlas allowing the implementation of a geographic information system to optimize production according to the specific context of each region
- The development and management of abandoned land in rural areas in order to optimize abandoned land and increase usufruct while offering new work opportunities
- An agricultural platform to provide advice to farmers and improve productivity.

### **Specific objective**

The objective of the project is to promote and revitalize the rural economy, create new jobs mainly for young people and thus allow them to stay on their land and live there with dignity.

## Activities

### 1. Agricultural Atlas

Development of an atlas of the regional territory for traditional, sustainable, organic and alternative agriculture (aquaponics, permaculture...)

The project will set up a geographic information system capable of including medium and long term climate hazards. The Atlas will gather maps presenting the physical and climatic frameworks that are directly or indirectly related to agriculture. This will allow to determine the seasonal performance of the agricultural sector. The following factors will be analyzed in a systemic way: topography, agro-pedology, hydrogeology, microclimates, climatic hazards, land use, irrigation and water storage means and potential. At the same time, a study will be conducted on the distribution of the population and its know-how. Paid access to this atlas will allow it to be updated, to increase its scope and to maintain its durability.

### 2. Management of abandoned rural heritage

In order to optimize abandoned land and avoid its liquidation, the project will develop a management model that will allow for a targeted voluntary consolidation of abandoned land in order to increase usufruct, provide work opportunities for local people and thus preserve the social fabric in rural communities. Contracts will be negotiated with the owners and profits will be distributed equitably among all stakeholders.

Products will be sold locally, nationally and internationally, with the project providing (eco)certification, packaging, cold chain and transportation.

Diversification of products and labels will allow targeting niche markets based on the recommendations of the agricultural atlas and resulting in increased value.

### 3. Agricultural platform

In order to market agricultural and agri-food production, an agricultural platform will be established.

Its purpose will be to federate:

- On the one hand, the agricultural and agri-food production by providing advice to farmers, cooperatives and SMEs established and potential for the selection and seasonality of products to be planted, improving productivity and certification of products

- On the other hand, access to local, regional and international markets to ensure that the supply is fully sold. This will allow the increase of margins by developing niche products with high added value, especially for export.

## **Contribution of the project to real change**

This project can only contribute to changing the deleterious economic and social climate caused by the economic crisis. It should open the way in the short term for young people who wish to stay in the country and contribute to its economic recovery from the bottom up.

## **Location of the project**

The project will be extended to the whole Lebanese territory and intends to list all the micro climates and agricultural contexts of the country.

## **Local partner**

Clevercap is a Lebanese company with a social purpose. It gathers experts in various disciplines. It has already successfully conducted several studies for the State or private entities. It will carry out this preparatory study and ensure its impact on the implementation of agricultural projects at the national level.

Clevercap offers its knowledge of Lebanon, its national and international network and its entrepreneurial management capacity.

## **Direct beneficiaries**

The direct beneficiaries are mainly youth throughout Lebanon. The number can be defined during the study.

## **Sustainability of the project**

The project should induce quite quickly a good viability. Its main objective is to boost the economy by enhancing the value of productions both in Lebanon and internationally. It will benefit from Clevercap's technical and commercial experience and its network in Europe.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

Follow-up of the study will be conducted by Clevercap and Impact Hope and evaluated at the end of the 6-month period.