



FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL



## Steering committee meeting

### Project SupMed

<https://www.supmed-project.com>



**Nahleh-Bodai – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Beyrouth – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

08:00- 10:00. Departure from Beirut to Nahleh and Bodai (see annex 1: Trip map)

**Session 1. Introductory session at the lake of Bodai**

10:00 – 10:30. Two brief interventions by:

**Mr. Hassan Nasrallah:** Director of HASAD project – Green Plan: Description of the principal characteristics of the 3 lakes and expected synergy with SupMed project.

**Mr. Mohamad Chamas:** President of the Bodai municipality, and **Mr. Sleiman Chamas,** Mukhtar of Bodai: What the lake represents, the beneficiaries and the main problems encountered (particularly in relation to the establishment of an irrigation and water association).

**Session 2. Visit of a farmer**

10:45 –11:05. Farmer 1 [**M. Allam Sleiman Ali**] (see annex 2: Main characteristics and constraints).

**Session 3. Visit to the Nahleh lake**

11:20 – 11:35. Meeting with **Dr. Jamal Yahfoufi:** President of the Nahlé municipality. What the lake represents, the beneficiaries and the importance of SupMed and its activities.

11:45 am -12:00. Meeting with **Mr. Shamas Husein Mahdi Hassan, a farmer** (see annex 3: Main characteristics and constraints).

**Session 4. Visit to a women cooperative**

12:00–12:20. Cooperative of **Younine:** activities and future interventions under the SupMed project (**Annex 4**)

**13:00-14:30. Lunch at the Palace Baalbek** [Link](#)

**Session 5. Steering committee meeting**

Location: Palace Baalbeck

14:30-14:45 A round table presentation.

14:45-15:00 SupMed project objectives and activities (*H. Belhouchette, CIHEAM-IAMM*)

15:00-15:20 Main expected vs. Achieved activities/results of the first year of the project (*H.Belhouchette / A. Cobacho, CIHEAM-IAMM*).

**15:20 – 15:30 Discussion.**

15:30-16:00 Global context and choice of typical farms for field interventions in Lebanon (Salem Darwich, SupMed focal Point Lebanon), including Q's and A's for any needed clarifications.

16:00-16:30 Global context and choice of typical farms for field interventions in Egypt (Othman El Shaik, SupMed focal Point Egypt), including Q's and A's for any needed clarifications.

16:30-18:30 Return to Beirut

## SupMed planning of activities for 2022.

### Session 1. Introduction

9:00-9:30 SupMed project: main activities planned for year 2 (H. Belhouchette/A. Cobacho).

### Session 2. Presentation of the investments/equipment to set up

9:30-9:50 Setup of the nursery in Lebanon: objective, services to be provided, beneficiaries and installation schedule (A. El Fakih SupMed agricultural engineer and Khoder Jaffar, President of the Union of Cooperatives of Hermel) - This includes 5 minutes of questions.

9:50-10:10 Setup of the composting unit in Egypt: objective, services to be provided, beneficiaries and installation schedule (Othman El Shaik, SupMed focal point, Egypt and Emad Abdellah, Agricultural Engineer, SupMed) - This includes 5 minutes of questions.

### Session 3. Presentation of the main farmer's interventions

10:10-10:30 Introductory presentation: objectives and timeline of implementation (H. Belhouchette, CIHEAM-IAMM)

#### 10:30-10:45. Discussion

#### 10:45-11:00. Coffee break

11:00-11:45 main interventions for farmer's support in Lebanon (*Salem Drawich, Ahmad EL Fakih*) – this includes a 15-minute discussion.

11:45-12:30 main interventions for farmer's support in Egypt (*Othman EL Shaik, Emad Abdellah*) - this includes a 15-minute discussion.

### Session 4. Presentation of the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Charter (agreement)

12:30-12:45 Introductory presentation: Objectives and general timeline (*H. Belhouchette, CIHEAM-IAMM*)

12:45-13:15: Presentation of farmer GAP-based agreement in Lebanon (*Ahmad El Fakih et Khedr Jaafar*).

13:15-13:45 Presentation of farmer GAP-based agreement in Egypt (*Othman EL Shaik, Emad Abdellah*)

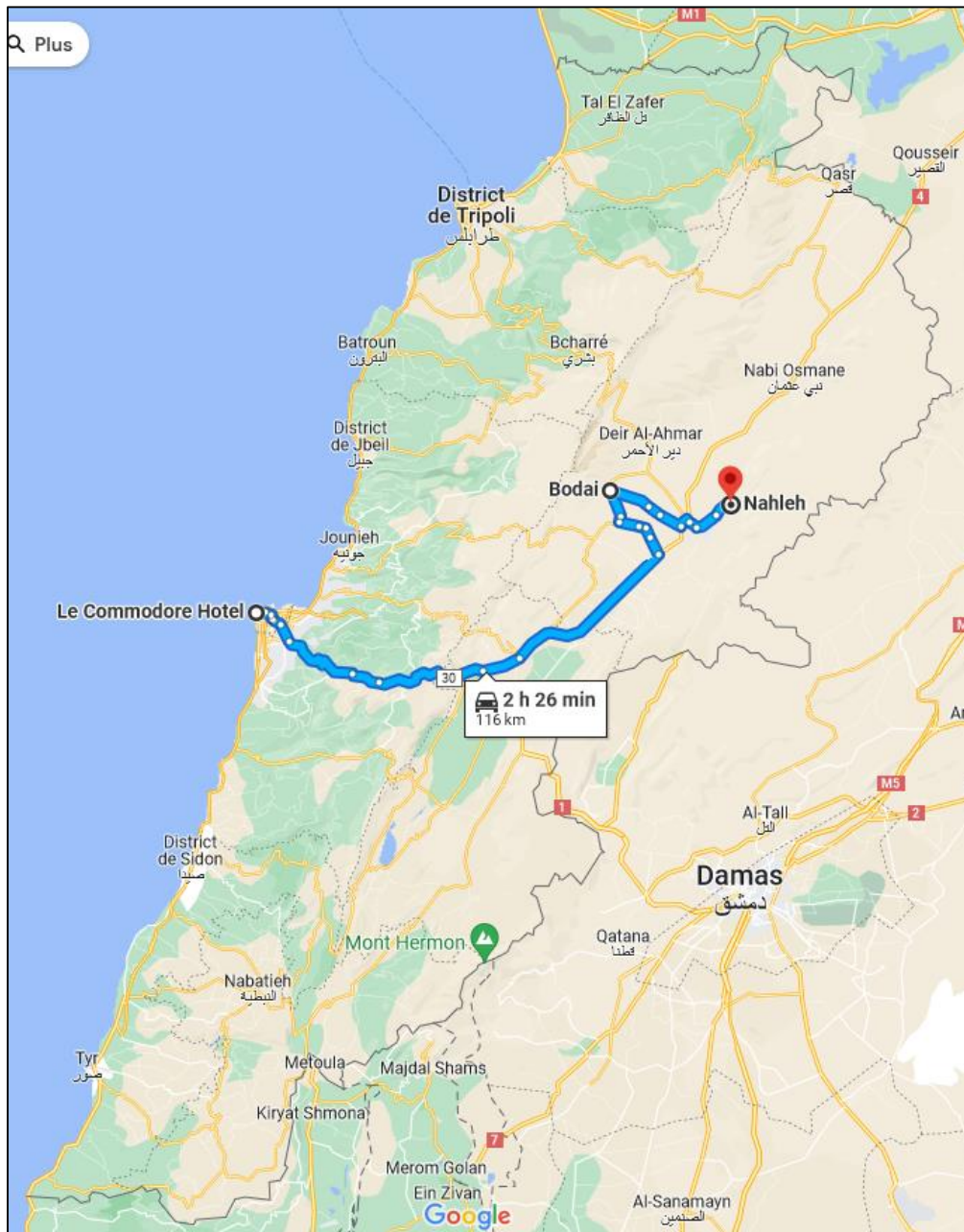
13:45-14:00 General discussion

#### 14 :00-15 :00. Lunch at Commodore –Al Hamra

15:00-16:00 Bilateral meetings as needed to discuss the aspects of the project implementation.

16:00 End of the steering committee

Annex 1: From Beirut to Nahlé and Bodai



**Annex 2 (Bodai): Main production characteristics, constraints and challenges for the Tobacco oriented farm type.**

**The farmer, Mr. Allam Sleiman Ali at Bodai village:**

This farmer owns a medium-sized farm in Lebanon; i.e. a total of 4.3 ha. He mainly cultivates 3 crops: irrigated tobacco and rainfed cucumber and olives. The cultivation of tobacco provides this farmer with a stable income that is subsidized by the state-run RLTT (Régie Libanaise de Tabacs et Tombacs) that manages the tobacco value chain in Lebanon from cultivation, to manufacturing, distribution and sales. This public body buys the production at a subsidized price that is often higher than the international market price. Cucumber is a cash crop despite the small area required for its cultivation. It is often sold on the local market at a price that could certainly be attractive but is often unstable depending on supply and demand. Olive cultivation is usually performed for the domestic and personal household consumption of the farm in olive oil. The olive trees receive almost no treatment or fertilizers and are characterized by very low yields with respect to the potential of the area (i.e. on average 10 t/ha). It is also important to point out that Tobacco consumes large volumes of irrigation water (i.e. on average 1500 m<sup>3</sup>/ha). This water is sourced from Yammouna and is utilized in irrigation methods that are low in efficiency; performed as flood irrigation which yields very significant losses due to evaporation.

This farmer has to face 4 major challenges: 1) finding ways to increase his income and improve his livelihood, 2) finding an alternative cultivation to tobacco since the subsidized price guaranteed by the Regie is at risk of dropping progressively even if in a contained drop, 3) securing a more stable market for vegetable crops, and finally 4) increasing his olive oil production without necessarily increasing his working hours.

**Annex 3 (Bodai): Main production characteristics, constraints and challenges for the vegetable oriented farm type.**

**The farmer, Mr. Shamas Husein Mahdi Hassan at Bodai village:**

This farmer has a significantly large farm than those usually found in Lebanon; i.e. a total of 26ha. It is a farm that consumes high volumes of irrigation water with an average of 1500 m<sup>3</sup>/ha for the cultivation of tobacco, but above all 6000 m<sup>3</sup>/ha for potatoes. The tobacco is produced for the same reasons as the previous farmer; i.e. benefit from subsidized prices by the state-run RLTT (Régie Libanaise de Tabacs et Tombacs). Potato is produced in particular for the Beirut market. Nevertheless, this farmer has to deal with several recurring problems: i) a gradual drop in the subsidized price of tobacco, low irrigation efficiency due in part to the absence of measures to estimate the real water needs of the crop, the inter-annual variability of potato production (disease, climate); therefore, a low resilience. This poses the challenge in terms of the diversification of the cultivated crops to increase the farm resilience. Moreover, another challenge for this farmer also related to the diversify of markets which are today exclusively at Beirut as well as shifting from conventional productions that do not hold any particular added value. In addition, this farmer has to face a major environmental challenge with the excessive use of pesticides, phytosanitary treatments (including those against nematodes) and mineral fertilization. In addition to all these challenges is the added problem of high labor costs due to the absence of mechanization (or very little).

**Annex 4**

*“Al Jameyia al Taawouniya al Intajiya - Fatat al Rif”* [The processing cooperative of rural women – Fatat Al Rif] is a cooperative that was established in 2005 and currently consists of 17 members, including 15 women and 2 men. This cooperative has been greatly beneficial for agricultural households in terms of its provision of additional income in an environment marked by an unstable socio-economic and political context. Beyond its socio-economic role, this cooperative has also been beneficial to farmers in the region who are characterized by limited access to the market for the selling of their produce. This cooperative is specialized in the processing and production of preserves based on agricultural produce as well as cheeses. Its productions are natural and do not include any synthetic additives or preservatives. On average, this cooperative annually produces the equivalent of 100t of preserved eggplant. This cooperative will take part in the SupMed project with regards to i) raising awareness and promoting its activities to consumers in its surrounding area and beyond, ii) enhancing the understanding of farmers on the importance of joining this cooperative for the sales of their production, even if partially. This approach is important to promote since the farmers involved in SupMed are also committed to the implementation of good agricultural practices. This is entirely consistent with the policy of the cooperative which prefers the supply of products from organic or integrated sustainable agriculture.

List of participants

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