

For Immediate Release



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ESDU at AUB honors women trained on sustainable agricultural and climate-smart practices

To mark the end of a year-long project dedicated to empowering women in rural communities through sustainable livelihood strategies, the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) organized a closing workshop. The outcomes of the project, entitled Climate-Smart Livelihoods Initiatives and Market Access Tailoring (CLIMAT), were presented to various attendees by honoring the women participants.

Throughout the workshop, attendees were introduced to the main achievements of the CLIMAT project and to plans of sustaining and scaling-up its results. The objective was to provide further support to rural communities in promoting climate-smart practices. A farmers' market was also held at AUB's Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS) courtyard where the women who had taken part in the project displayed their products.

The event was held at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS), in the presence of the Minister of State for Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth Violette Safadi; World Food Programme country director and representative, Abdallah Alwardat; representatives of North-East Baalbek and West Bekaa municipalities; Dean of FAFS, Dr. Rabih Mohtar; director general of cooperatives at the Ministry of Agriculture, Gloria Abou Zeid; president of Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB), Asmahan Zein; as well as ESDU's CLIMAT partner, Cooperation without Borders.

About the CLIMAT project

CLIMAT is a one-year project implemented by AUB ESDU in partnership with Cooperation without Borders and funded by the German Cooperation under the World Food Programme's "Enhancing the livelihoods of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese host communities

through Food for Training” program. CLIMAT built the capacities of more than 800 women, youth, and farmers – individual or agricultural cooperative – on sustainable agricultural practices and climate-smart food processing. Beneficiaries also received material support and market linkages were created. CLIMAT tackled three value chains: small ruminant production (wool and carpet production, dairy processing, and herd/pasture management); alternative and climate-smart agricultural crop production; and agro-food processing.

ENDS

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 900 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 9,100 students. AUB currently offers more than 120 programs leading to bachelor’s, master’s, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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