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Final activities report Jordan: from july 2015 to june 2018

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ENPARD SOUTH SUPPORT PROJECT II

FINAL NATIONAL REPORT JORDAN

FROM JULY 2015 TO JUNE 2018

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This national report is an integral part of the of the second Phase final report of the ENPARD South Support Project which was implemented from July 2015 to June 2018 in eight Mediterranean countries.

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IMPLEMENTATION CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

Despite the interest of the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture in **the ENPARD South Support Project (ESSPII)**, the project implementation was slowed by a lack of understanding of the project as well as a late response from the Jordanian authorities due to the procedures between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of International Cooperation.

The activities implementation started in 2017 and a national workshop was organized in July of the same year.

ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

A first meeting was organized in Amman on February 5th 2017, with the ESSP II focal point Mr. Hazim SMADI, Director of International Cooperation and Trade Agreements at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Radi TRAWNAH, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and representatives of the Jordan Cooperative Corporation, as well as the Department of European

Relations of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, to identify thematic priorities and an action plan.

This meeting allowed the ESSP II team to present the project approach and topics addressed in the different partner countries.

Following discussions, two priority themes have been identified:

- Agricultural cooperatives and their contribution to agricultural development,
- An analysis of the use of the opportunities offered by the preferential access granted by the EU to its market (which could not be achieved during the ESSP second phase).
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AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

A first national workshop under the umbrella of the **ESSP II** was held on July 11th and 12th 2017. It was co-organized by the Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC) which coordinates all sectors cooperatives and ESSP II Team. The workshop brought together around 35 participants from the different stakeholder groups involved in the Jordanian agricultural cooperative system (Ministry of Agriculture, JCC, National Center for Agricultural Research, agricultural union, agricultural cooperatives and private sector including exporters). A representative of the EU Delegation and a representative of FAO also participated in the workshop.

The first session of the workshop was dedicated to presentations and general discussions on Jordanian agriculture, the cooperative system, obstacles and difficulties and the solutions and leverages.

This session was introduced by Dr. Radi TARAWNAH, Director General of the Jordanian Cooperatives Corporation, and a presentation by Dr. Tahani ABDELHAKIM, ESSP II Coordinator for Jordan, who outlined the objectives of the ENPARD Mediterranean Initiative, as well as the working methodology as well as the workshop program, its objectives and the expected results.

Mr. Olivier RIVES, European expert on cooperatives, prepared a guidance note and a presentation on the European experience showing the evolution of agricultural cooperatives, their functions and their strategic role in the agricultural sector, as well as their principles and management methods. This presentation has served as a basis for debate.

Finally, the Deputy Director of the JCC, Dr. Khaled TAWALBAH, gave a comprehensive presentation of the cooperative system in Jordan, emphasizing its crucial role for the agricultural sector (number of cooperatives, functions, geographical distribution, Main projects implemented by cooperatives ...).

The second session of the workshop was reserved for debate among the participants who was divided into working groups on the basis of an analysis grid, in order to put in situation the stakeholders and to better frame the questions and debates.

The workshop allowed providing a diagnosis of Jordanian agriculture, to discuss the current situation of agricultural cooperatives in Jordan and their strategic role in the development of the agricultural sector and to discuss their technical and organizational aspects in order to formulate a series of the cooperative system reform recommendations.

At the end of the workshop, it was recommended that the Director General of the JCC set up a Working Committee to deepen the workshop results, carry out complementary studies case and develop a strategy draft that aims to strengthen the role of cooperatives in agricultural development and improve their performance.

An expert from CIHEAM participated in the symposium organized on April 25th and 26th 2018 as the first international agricultural exhibition in Jordan. The presentation on the French experience "*Agricultural cooperatives in France: possible lessons for Jordan?*" Served as an introduction to the debate on the future of agricultural cooperatives in Jordan and on the measures to be taken to consolidate and modernize the sector.

This debate gave a good visibility to the topic of agricultural cooperatives, both internally with Jordanian actors and externally with international scientific visitors and decision-makers, most of them from the Arab world.

KEY RESULT

The ESSP II has been part of the agricultural policy defined in the *economic growth plan 2018/2022* which identifies among its priority axes: "*to revise the law of cooperatives and its mechanisms*".

ESSPII work provided the basis for a first draft of a national strategy on agriculture cooperatives to be taking charge by the Jordan Union of Cooperatives.

The ESSP II allowed the Jordanian partners to experiment, during the workshop, a working method that fosters an inclusive national dialogue involving the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Center for Agricultural Research, the private sector and the producer organizations, in particular the Jordan Union of Cooperatives.

The ESSP II in Jordan led to:

- Co-organization with the Jordanian Cooperative Corporation (JCC) of a workshop bringing together **35** participants representing main public and private actors in the agricultural sector;
- Production of a mission report, a guidance note for the workshop on cooperatives and a workshop report and the dissemination of a presentation on the experience of cooperatives in Europe;
- Intervention of a European external expert during the workshop and the symposium.