



Importance, Needs and Capacities of Family Farming and Small-Scale Farming Systems: Three Case Studies from South Lebanon

Najla Fahd

Lebanese Central Inspection Board, Lebanon

nfahed@greenline.org.lb

More than 60 % of agricultural holdings in South Lebanon are small holder individual farms generally operating as family farms as either full time or part-time work. A high proportion of these is managed by women, which is culturally, a very satisfying income-generating-at home activity. In addition, disabled people, a very vulnerable group, are easily integrated into these activities. The major constraints encountered are lack of target-oriented policies, lack of ICT and weakness, if not absence, of an appropriate marketing infrastructure mainly credit, storage facilities and farmers' markets. Three family farmers profiles are analyzed to reach the conclusion that family farms, with what they represent socially and economically, are entitled and should be playing a major role in the global food security and the preservation of the environment as well as the diversity of the species in the rural areas especially under the prevailing climate change and severe land degradation. Many recommendations are presented mainly policy support, introduction of ICT and creation of farmers' markets.