Municipality of Menjez

Assisting Reforestation and forest Development Activities in partnership with local Communities



This project is financed by the **European Union** And managed by the Ministry of Agriculture Implementing lead partner: Land and Natural Resources Program Institute of the Environment University of Balamand In partnership with: Municipality of Menjez



Starting Point

- To prepare a solid ground for establishing a joint participation of the Non-State Actor and the Local Authority in sustainable forestation and reforestation actions.
- To implement and promote pilot reforestation / afforestation activities in line with the 40 million trees program.
- To promote rural development, create opportunities for improved socio-economic livelihoods and poverty reduction, and increase the resilience of the local community, especially the most vulnerable villagers, and women in particular, through sustainable forestry management.

Institutional Setting

- Produce the Local Inventory Report (LIR) of LULUCF Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions/removals for the years 2014 up to 2018.
- Conduct reforestation/afforestation activities and demonstrate best approaches/methods of forest landscape restoration.



Approach

Selected Activities:

- Develop a resource management plan for the existing laurel forest, and prepare a feasibility study and business plan for the community-based enterprise.
- Conduct a training workshop to train local participants on collecting laurel seeds, and producing, planting and maintaining their seedlings.
- Conduct a training workshop to train women on processing laurel leaves and laurel oil.



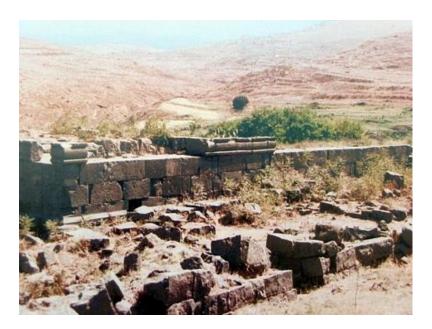
Outputs:

- The training comprised theoretical and practical sessions on extraction of essential oil from laurel leaves using a distiller.
- Trainees acquired handson experience for future sustainable extraction of essential oil taking advantage of the existing laurel forest in Menjez.



Lessons

- Preserving the environment
- Benefiting economically from the natural assets rather than being burdened by it.
- A promising potential income source for the municipality and local workers.



Transfer

- Study in advance and planning of this practice, study the needs of the municipality by taking into account the conditions of its inhabitants and surroundings.
- Conduct economic census, gender assessment, and youth needs audit.