

# “Al Safir” Farm Orchards in transition!

Lebanon, South Lebanon, Ghazieh | 7.3 Ha | Arboriculture

Data: 2022

## Timeline

1997

Purchase of land with 2-3 species of citrus and olive trees, hiring of 2 workers, manual work / small tools, selling to wholesale market

2012

Increase in investments and income, addition of new species of exotic fruit trees, export of fruits (loquat to Iraq)

2022

Dozen tree species added, including exotic fruits, citrus, walnut, and olive trees. 3 worker families live on-site. Mechanized operations, new markets, online sales launched. Composting unit set up. Training sessions hosted with SOILS Association.



## Goals

- Transition to agroecology in the next 4 years
- The farm becomes economically viable, and autonomous in terms of inputs (compost) and energy

## General Information










**Legal status:**  
No status



**Owner:**  
Ahmad-Najib Nahouli



**Team:**

- 1 Farm manager:  
Nour Nahouli (daughter of the owner) 
- 1 Supervisor of workers (living on the farm) 
- 3 Full-time workers (living on the farm)   
- 2 Seasonal workers  



**Link with SOILS:**

Support in setting up the composting unit, support with the transition to agroecology, organization of training on thermal composting on the farm

### Decision Making



Owner



Farm Manager

Occasional contribution from the workers supervisor

## Strengths



- ✓ Diversity of species
- ✓ Climate suitable for crops
- ✓ Location close to the main road and wholesale market in Saida town
- ✓ The presence of groundwater and an irrigation system

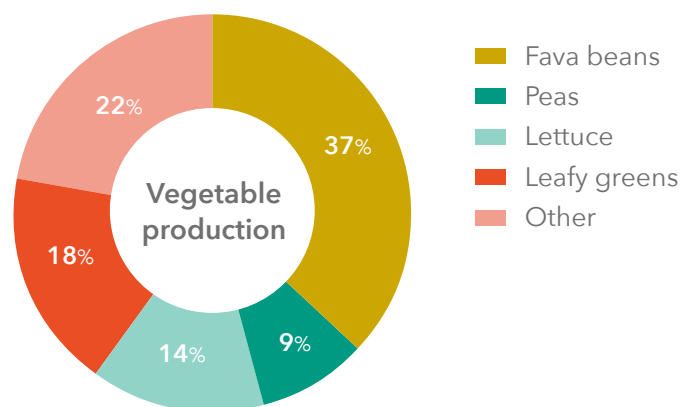
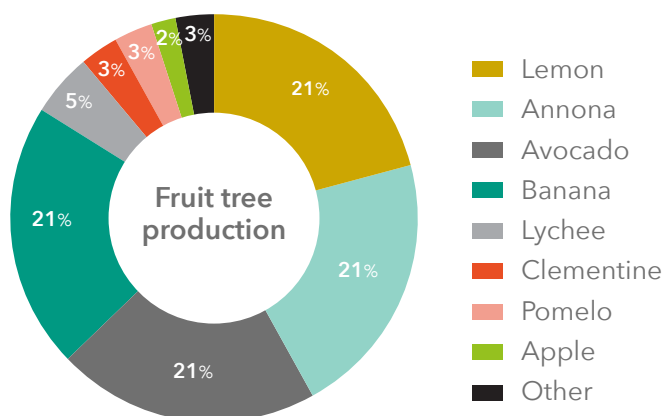
## Constraints



- ✗ Climate change
- ✗ The economic crisis in Lebanon
- ✗ Lack of proper management
- ✗ Workers lack appropriate skills
- ✗ Unprotected site (no fence)
- ✗ Limestone soil requiring amendment

## Production and Marketing

### Plant production in 2022



**Total production**  
35 tons of fruits  
800 kg of vegetables

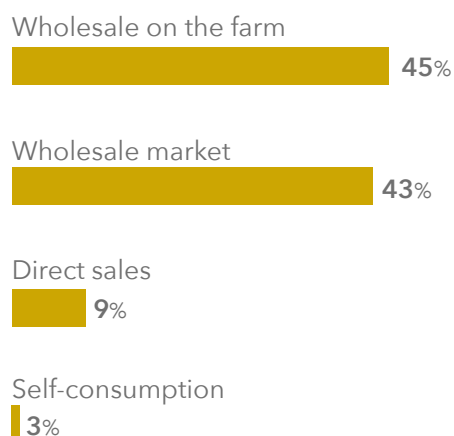


**Quantity sold**  
33.7 tons of fruits  
800 kg of vegetables

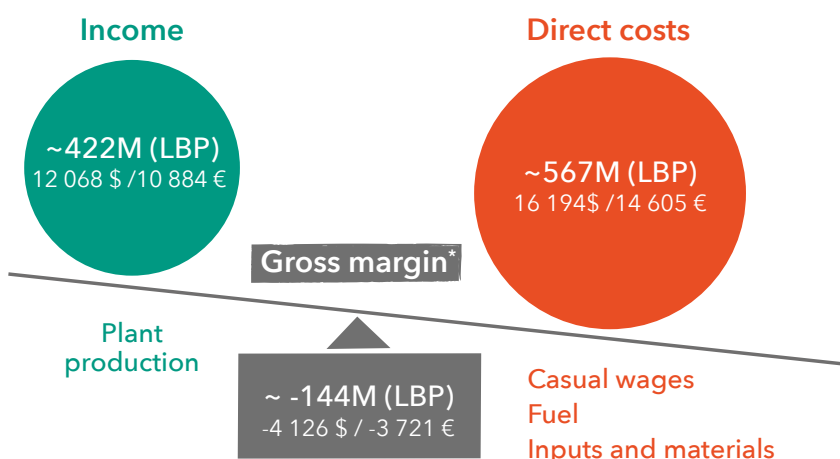


**1\$=35 000 LBP**  
2022 on average

### Marketing of plant production in 2022



### Profit and loss account



\*Large deficit due to inflation and high price of fuel used to pump water

# Agricultural Practices



## Conventional

- Fertilization with chemical fertilizers
- Spraying pesticides



## Ecological

- Gradual replacement of herbicides by a mechanical weeding
- Fertilization with compost and manure, burying of green waste
- Lime spraying
- Shallow plowing
- Drip irrigation
- Growing chemical-free vegetables on 1000m<sup>2</sup>

# Organization of Work



Working hours from 6 a.m. to noon  
1 day off/week

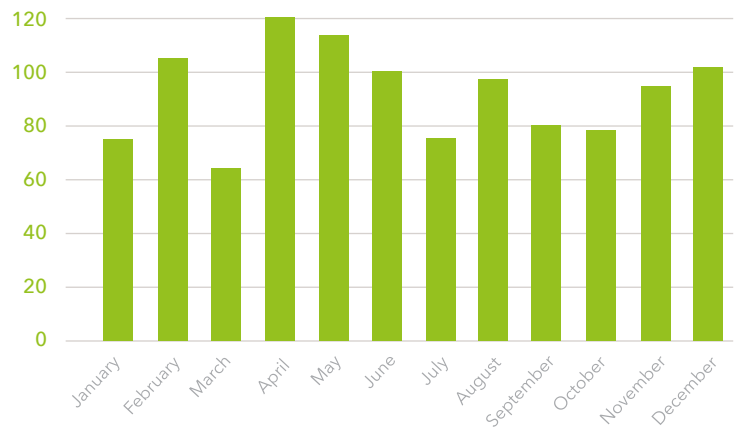


No workers under 18



Men and women are paid equally

Average number of hours accumulated per week



# Relationships and Networks



## Territorial anchoring

Occasional reception of children from a nearby nursery and school, some direct sales to locals



## Commercial relations

Diversification of outlets for fruits, diversification of income streams with the introduction of a composting unit



## Collaborative work

Collaboration with SOILS, sharing of composting knowledge with students and farmers (guided tours, training, hosting interns)

# Future Plans



- Agroecological transition
- Finding new direct sales outlets
- Installing a solar system to power the water pump for irrigation
- Development of the production and sales of compost
- Development of the educational activities (training and awareness on thermal composting)
- Collaboration with universities on action research