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Company / Agency / Organization

Lebanon Reforestation Initiative

Presentation type

Oral presentation

Presentation title

Addressing Seed Challenges in Lebanon and Jordan

Authorship

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Abstract (max 250 words)

For the past few decades, Lebanon and Jordan have been facing an ongoing, and rapid, decrease in their natural spaces, with only 13% and 1% of forest cover remaining respectively. Several factors contribute to this rapid loss, including urbanization, grazing, climate change and unmanaged natural resources. One of the major challenges facing successful landscape restoration is the proper use of native genetic resources successfully and sustainably. The U.S. Forest Service International Programs' has developed two major projects, the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative and Sustainable Economic and Environmental Development – Jordan to work at the national and regional levels to develop and expand the sharing of best practices to promote sustainable landscape restoration approaches.

In Lebanon, efforts are focusing on managing native genetic resources and improving propagation and field protocols to sustain restoration efforts. With regional collaboration increasing, practices are being disseminated both within-Lebanon and to Jordan, where there is a prioritized the use of native genetic material for native seedling propagation and landscape restoration. Both countries face some limitations, in large part due to a previously non-existing central/national management of native seed sources and seed collection, lack of developed practices, and the inability to share best practices in a timely manner.

Through implemented research and collaborative partnerships on local and regional levels, between public and private sectors, a data platform is being developed that integrates all related efforts with resources made public for all involved stakeholders.

This presentation outlines the approaches taken in Lebanon and Jordan in order to address seed challenges in landscape restoration, highlighting the major limitations faced and how collaborative partnerships on the local levels and between the two countries have helped in establishing a baseline for a more sustainable native genetic resource management in landscape restoration.

Category

Objective 4.2: Partnerships: Working together

Presenter Bio

Karma Bouazza is a Nursery Component Manager at the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative, a project implemented by U.S. Forest Service and funded by USAID. She is also contributing to the Sustainable Environment and Economic Development project in Jordan, currently implemented by the U.S. Forest Service, as a nursery specialist.

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