

Amman, Jordan
Radio: Ammannet

Lima Naim runs a family farm with four members of her family working the land. Family members work in all sectors including the plastic homes and uncovered land plots. Some members work the land, others the accounts and others transport the produce. The farmer Lima talked to us about the role of the family in agriculture saying that the mother who is most experienced in the area provides the necessary guidance. (voice)

The 60 dunums of farming land allows the family to be self sufficient food wise and the family is able to save money by working the land instead of paying laborers.

Family farms abound in Jordan but the government has no statistics about their numbers or the size of the produce that they grow annually. This lack of information was told to us by the assistant to the secretary general of the ministry of agriculture.

In addition to family farms, many Jordanian families are able to be self sufficient in food terms by home grown produce. Amneh Ahmed grows various kinds of agricultural products and medical herbs. This provides both the needs of her home and she also has surplus that she sells in local markets to support her family (who help her with the home gardens) financially. (voice)

Lima the farmer says that they have learned a lot from the dialogue sessions about how to use new discoveries that allow for good products that are void of chemical additions and therefore save money as well. (voice)

This project provided family farmers with organic good instead of the chemically induced tomatoes with the help of bees. (voice)

After she successfully applied the new experiment in her farm she was instrumental in teaching other farmers during the dialogue sessions of her success story. (voice)

The Jordanian National Research and Consultation center in the Ministry of Agriculture is sure that the amount of agriculture products that family farms are producing equals that of big investment farms.

Engineer Ashraf Hawamdeh the coordinator of the fight against agricultural disease said that the family farms are covering the gap that would have been filled by foreign laborers. Family farms are a big success in the Jordan valley especially in the southern Ghore area, he said. The majority of families depend on the planting of tomatoes for their own families.

Hawmdeh says that three thousands farmers have been trained in the southern Jordan valley area to apply a holistic approach that fights diseases as taught by the National Center in cooperation with FAO in Jordan and with financial support from the Italian government. This project to fight diseases in farms is part of a strategy that depends on cooperation and learning from each other, says Hawamdeh. (voice)

Teaching farmers aims to replace chemical pesticides with products that are good for the environment and to train farmers on how to do it. Hawmdeh says that this process has produced a cut back up to 65% of chemical pesticides and at the same time educated young farmers to depend on their own families instead of paying for foreign laborers.

In farms in Southern Ghore area this project was implemented and has produced good results according to farmer Hassan Abu Jamil who said that most farming families cooperate in the farms now. (voice)

Hass himself is an agriculture adviser who is able to help other farmers and he is good at identifying diseases and giving the appropriate way to deal with them. (voice)

Farmer Amneh insists that the Ministry of Agriculture is not even aware of family farmers who work hard at improving their own income. (voice)

Engineer Foad Muhesin the assistant to the Secretary General of the Ministry of agriculture says he has no idea about how many family farms exists. All he knows is the number of farmers that the government supports on a monthly basis. He says that family farmers often receive advice and support from non governmental agencies. He said that families are helped when they ask for help.

Acting director of the Food and Agriculture Organization Engineer Talal Fayeze says that the report of FAO for 2014 talks in detail about family farming and he

called on the public sector as well as civil society and the private sector to work in improving the lot of these farmers. (voice)

The FAO report says that research by private companies is continuing and he calls for more research in the agricultural sector, according to Fayez (voice). Family farming faces challenges of sustainability and raising the level of production as stated by Fayez. (voice)

Family farms are producing 80% of the world's food and protects 75% of farming resources. According to the report nine out of ten (out of 570 million farms in the world) are run by farming families which makes this the largest sector of farming in the world.