

Issue #54: A Year Of Momentum. A Future In Motion.

Dean's Updates

Message from the FAFS Dean

As we enter 2026, FAFS does so with purpose, confidence, and a renewed sense of responsibility. What defines last year is not a single achievement, but a sustained, meaningful progress across everything we do. From advancing research and securing international accreditation, to expanding our programs, strengthening partnerships, and deepening our engagement with communities, FAFS continued to move forward in ways that matter.

These accomplishments reflect more than growth; they reflect a culture of quality, collaboration, and commitment to excellence. What this past year has shown, above all, is the strength of our people. Our faculty, staff, alumni and students. Their work is shaping not only academic conversations, but real-world outcomes across Lebanon and the region.

Looking ahead, 2026 is not simply about doing more, it is about doing what matters most. We will continue to invest in high-impact research, innovative teaching, and partnerships that extend FAFS' reach beyond campus. We will continue to ensure our students are equipped with the expertise, adaptability, and ethical grounding needed to lead in complex, evolving systems.

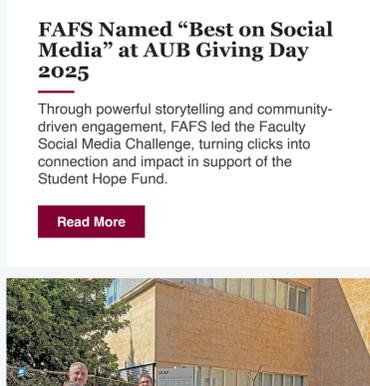
FAFS is entering this new year with momentum, but also with clarity of purpose: to generate knowledge that serves the environment, to educate professionals who drive change, and to remain a trusted voice in the future of food, health, and the society.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we will build on what we have achieved, and we will be shaping what comes next.

Sincerely,

Ammar Olabi
Professor and Dean, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences

News Highlights



FAFS Alumni on Forbes Middle East 30 Under 30

Two FAFS graduates are redefining what innovation looks like across the MENA region. From desert-ready agriculture to science-backed wellness brands, Christina Khalife and Nour Antabli are turning knowledge into impact, and earning global recognition along the way.

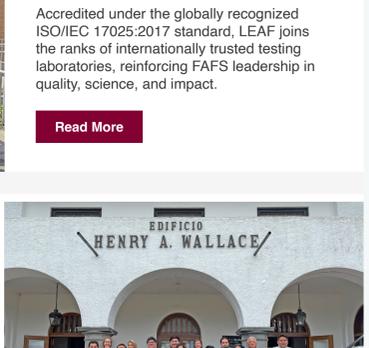
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FAFS Named "Best on Social Media" at AUB Giving Day 2025

Through powerful storytelling and community-driven engagement, FAFS led the Faculty Social Media Challenge, turning clicks into connection and impact in support of the Student Hope Fund.

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LEAF-FAFS Earns International ISO 17025 Accreditation

Accredited under the globally recognized ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard, LEAF joins the ranks of internationally trusted testing laboratories, reinforcing FAFS leadership in quality, science, and impact.

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FAFS at the Forefront of Global Educational Transformation

Through international collaboration, experiential learning, and hands-on innovation, FAFS is at the forefront of transforming agricultural education, setting new standards in sustainability, ethics, and entrepreneurship.

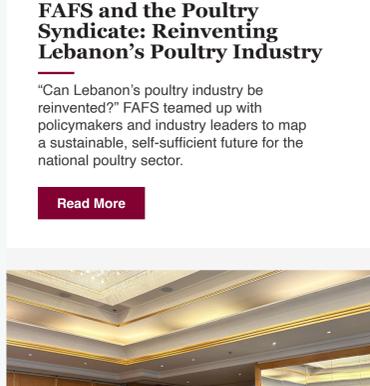
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FAFS Launches Alumni Talk Series and Industry Networking Events

New initiatives are connecting students with alumni and industry leaders, offering real-world insights, mentorship, and career inspiration beyond the classroom.

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FAFS and the Poultry Syndicate: Reinventing Lebanon's Poultry Industry

"Can Lebanon's poultry industry be reinvented?" FAFS teamed up with policymakers and industry leaders to map a sustainable, self-sufficient future for the national poultry sector.

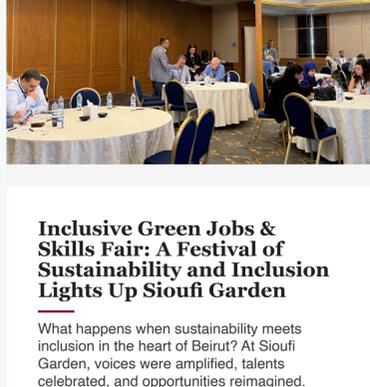
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FAFS Uses "Serious Games" to Tackle Climate and Water Challenges

Can a game shape policy? FAFS brought stakeholders together to explore climate risks and water governance, showing how experiential learning drives sustainable solutions.

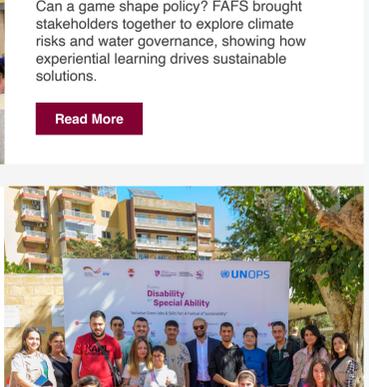
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Inclusive Green Jobs & Skills Fair: A Festival of Sustainability and Inclusion Lights Up Sioufi Garden

What happens when sustainability meets inclusion in the heart of Beirut? At Sioufi Garden, voices were amplified, talents celebrated, and opportunities reimaged. Discover how ESDU and its partners brought a vision of a greener, more inclusive Lebanon to life.

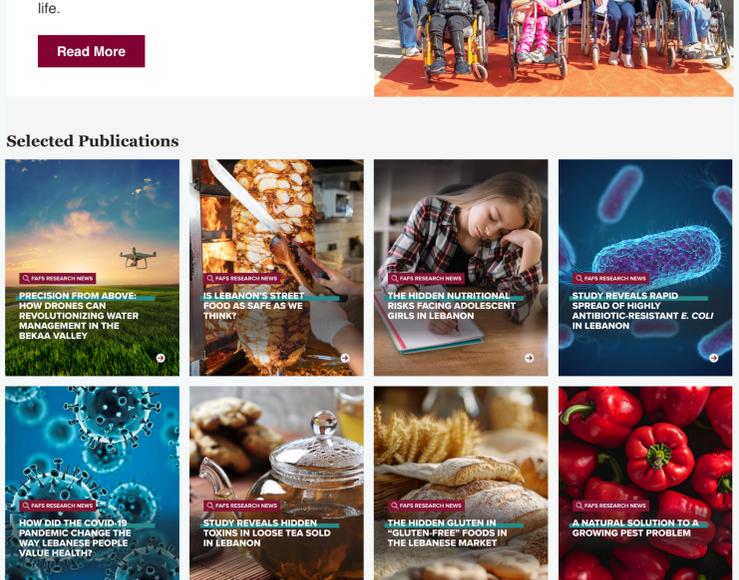
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Disability Special Ability

UNODP

Selected Publications



- PRECISION FROM ABOVE: HOW DRONES CAN REVOLUTIONIZE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE BEKAA VALLEY
- IS LEBANON'S STREET FOOD AS SAFE AS WE THINK?
- THE HIDDEN NUTRITIONAL RISKS IN FACING ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN LEBANON
- STUDY REVEALS RAPID SPREAD OF HIGHLY ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT E. COLI IN LEBANON
- HOW DID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHANGE THE WAY LEBANESE PEOPLE VALUE HEALTH?
- STUDY REVEALS HIDDEN TOXINS IN LOOSE TEA SOLD IN LEBANON
- THE HIDDEN GLUTEN IN "GLUTEN-FREE" FOODS IN THE LEBANESE MARKET
- A NATURAL SOLUTION TO A GROWING PEST PROBLEM

[Full List of Publications](#)

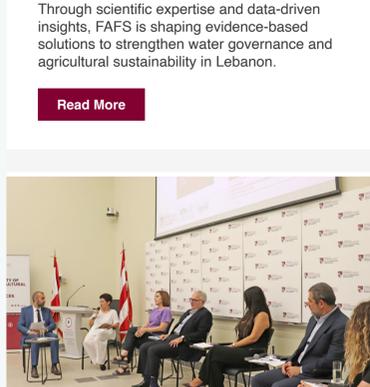
More in News



From Micronutrients to Youth Diets: FAFS at the International Seminar on Health Behaviours

"Is Lebanon's youth eating the right way?" FAFS faculty and students revealed surprising insights on nutrition, dietary shifts, and innovative tools shaping child and adolescent health across the MENA region.

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FAFS Leads National Dialogue on Agricultural Water Management

Through scientific expertise and data-driven insights, FAFS is shaping evidence-based solutions to strengthen water governance and agricultural sustainability in Lebanon.

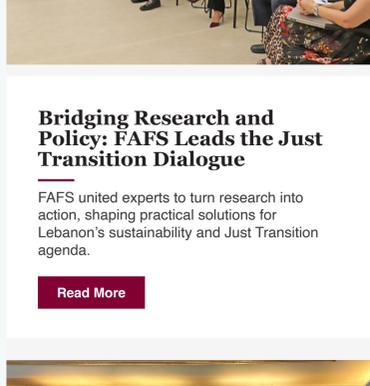
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From Seed to Spoon: FAFS Puts Tahini Under the Microscope

Can science protect a natural treasure? FAFS brought together experts to tackle Salmonella risks, turning research into actionable strategies that safeguard Lebanon's iconic tahini from farm to table.

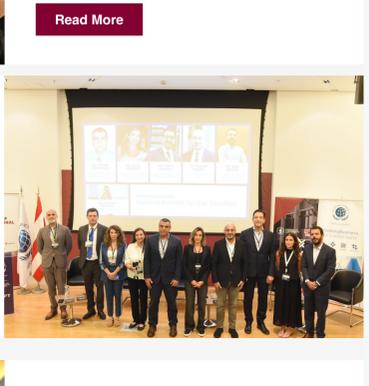
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Bridging Research and Policy: FAFS Leads the Just Transition Dialogue

FAFS united experts to turn research into action, shaping practical solutions for Lebanon's sustainability and Just Transition agenda.

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Rebuilding from the Ground Up: FAFS Shapes Lebanon's Agri-Food Recovery

How can policy drive national resilience? At a major policy forum, FAFS experts brought data, innovation, and strategy together to help turn Lebanon's agri-food sector into a pillar of economic recovery.

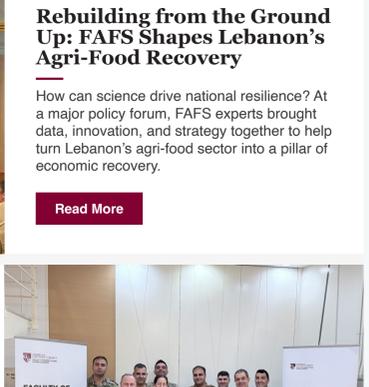
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On the Frontline of Safety: LEAF Boosts Lebanon's Chemical Defense Readiness

Through advanced EU-funded training and hands-on simulations, LEAF is strengthening national preparedness, bridging science and security to protect Lebanon against emerging chemical risks

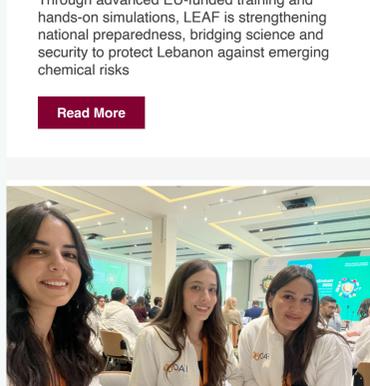
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FAFS Graduates Innovate Smart Food Safety at Hack4SaferPlates

In under 30 hours, FAFS graduates transformed bold ideas into a smart, AI-driven solution for tracking and preventing climate-driven food hazards, and showcasing how innovation, technology, and youth leadership can safeguard the region's food systems.

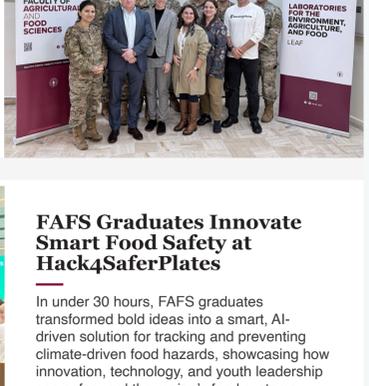
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FAFS PhD Student Takes First Place at MENA 3MT Competition

How do you explain years of research in just three minutes? FAFS PhD student Loyal Jaafar did, and won first place at the inaugural MENA 3MT, showcasing the power of big ideas told brilliantly.

[Read More](#)



FIRST MENA 3MT COMPETITION

1st Place Winner
Loyal Jaafar

Upcoming Events



R Workshop - Beginner Level

An applied data analysis workshop using R software

Date and Time
Friday, Feb 6, 2026 | 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm OR
Saturday, Feb 7, 2026 | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
(The final date and time will be selected based on the majority of participant responses)

Location
Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, AUB Lower Campus

[Learn More](#)

FAFS Seminar Series

AI in Nutrition and Food Science: Disruption, Data, and the End of Business as Usual

This talk explores how artificial intelligence is transforming nutrition research, dietary assessment, and public health, while raising new ethical questions about the future of the profession.

Date and Time
Thursday, Feb 5, 2026 | 1:00 pm

Location
Room 205, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, AUB Lower Campus



GRADUATE STUDIES OPEN HOUSE

SAVE THE DATE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 3:30 - 6:30 PM WEST HALL, AUB
Register Now | All are welcome

Graduate Studies Open House

Discover how our Master's programs can help you turn your passion into impact. Meet faculty, learn about research opportunities, and find the path that's right for you.

Date and Time
Wednesday, Feb 11, 2026 | 3:30 pm

Location
West Hall, AUB

[Register Now](#)