



Issue #53: The 2025 Celebratory Edition

Dean's Updates

Message from the FAFS Dean

To our FAFS family,

As we mark another milestone with the graduation of the Class of 2025, I am reminded that what we celebrate is far more than academic achievement, we celebrate a new generation ready to lead, restore, and reimagine a better world.

Our graduates are stepping into a world facing unprecedented challenges: climate extremes, fragile food systems, displaced communities, and widening inequities. These challenges are not distant headlines, they are urgent calls for thoughtful, ethical, and courageous action.

At FAFS, we didn't just prepare our students to know more; we prepared them to care more, to lead with their hearts and minds. They leave us not only as experts in agriculture, agribusiness, nutrition, food security, and sustainability, but as advocates for communities, protectors of ecosystems, and champions of dignity and hope.

As Raj Patel wisely reminds us, the greatest challenge in global food systems is not scarcity but the unfair distribution of food, wealth, and power. Our graduates know this well, and they carry with them the conviction that true impact means ensuring every community, no matter how vulnerable, has access to nourishment, resilience, and opportunity.

Knowledge alone does not transform the world. But knowledge guided by compassion and conviction does. I know our graduates will stand up for those whose voices too often go unheard and will build bridges where they are most needed.

To our FAFS community — students, faculty, staff, alumni, partners, and friends — thank you for your unwavering commitment to shaping leaders who bring knowledge to life with purpose and humanity.

Congratulations, Class of 2025! The world needs you now more than ever.

Ammar Olabi

Professor and Dean, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences

News Highlights



FAFS Graduates Rise with Purpose at AUB's 156th Commencement

Meet the newest generation of FAFS graduates — young leaders and innovators ready to heal, nourish, and reimagine our world when we need them the most.

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FAFS Honors the Class of 2025 at Its Annual Graduation Reception and Awards Ceremony

An evening of heartfelt speeches, inspiring stories, and well-deserved honors — celebrating FAFS' Class of 2025 set to lead with courage, care, and purpose.

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FAFS Three-Minute Thesis Competition 2025

Discover how our graduate students turned complex research into powerful stories, and see which bold ideas won at this year's 3MT® stage.

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ESDU Keepers of the Land Prize 2025: Celebrating Sustainable Student Innovations

From tackling child nutrition to testing vaccine incubators — see how this year's winners turned big ideas into practical change for Lebanon's food and agriculture.

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A New Chapter in Plant Research Takes Root at FAFS!

Step inside FAFS cutting-edge Plant Biogenesis Laboratory, where innovation meets sustainability to grow stronger, disease-resistant crops and safeguard Lebanon's agricultural future.

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FAFS Inaugurates a Solar Hydroponic Glasshouse: Growing Innovation, Cultivating the Future

Explore how FAFS is revolutionizing sustainable agriculture with its new Solar Hydroponic Glasshouse, blending renewable energy and leading technology, and hands-on learning to cultivate smarter, greener food systems.

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Exploring Sustainability and Innovation in Lebanon: ESDU Launches the Food Security and AI Initiative

What if AI could solve Lebanon's food crisis? ESDU launched a bold initiative bringing visionaries together to harness AI's power for a sustainable, resilient agricultural future.

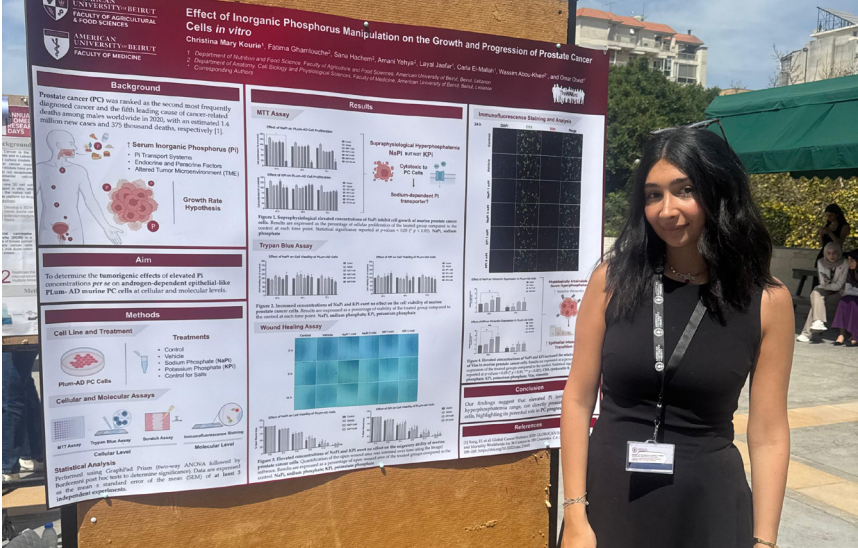
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NFSC Researchers Win Top Honors at AUB Biomedical Research Days

With seven standout posters and two top awards, NFSC is pushing the frontiers of nutrition and health research, transforming science into solutions that matter.

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PhD Student Layal Jaafar Takes Nutrition Research Global at ECO 2025

Layal Jaafar's innovative study on dietary amino acids and anxiety earned her a coveted spot at ECO 2025 in Spain, an inspiring milestone fueling her journey.

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Awards and Promotions



Dr. Hadi Jaafar has been re-elected as Chair of the Department of Agriculture and appointed as FAFS Associate Dean for Research and Innovation.



Dr. Lara Nasreddine has been appointed FAFS Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs.



Dr. Samer Kharroubi has been appointed as Chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences.



Dr. Walid El Kayal has been promoted to Associate Professor at the Department of Agriculture.

Services

Laboratories for the Environment, Agriculture and Food (LEAF)

LEAF provides high-quality services meeting international standards covering various biological, chemical, and physical tests, and responding rapidly to the emerging crisis. ...

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AgHive The Remote Sensing and Geospatial Lab

AgHive helps make scientific information related to agriculture, remote sensing, and water resources management accessible for the community through a variety of services....

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Statistics Support Clinic (SSC)

The SSC, whose ultimate aim is to promote high-standard research through statistical data analysis, offers statistical support and consulting services....

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