

For Immediate Release



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AUB Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences announces scholarship in agriculture to schools in Northern Lebanon

With an aim of promoting and developing the agriculture sector in Lebanon, the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB) announced earlier this year the establishment of the Raji and Fawzieh Sinno Scholarships in Agriculture, made possible through the generous donation of prominent alumnus and FAFS external advisory board member Khaled Sinno.

The Raji and Fawzieh Sinno Scholarships in Agriculture will fund ten full scholarships for students over a period of five years. During the first year, four sophomore students from North Lebanon who are academically talented and have financial need will be selected for these scholarships. Two students will be selected on a yearly basis for the remaining four years. The scholarships will cover all fees, ranging from tuition, to dorms, books, and a monthly stipend.

To raise awareness about the scholarships, a delegation from AUB, composed of Acting Dean of FAFS Ammar Olabi, Professor Isam Bashour, and FAFS Career Services Officer Alia Alameddine held an informative session for 12 school principals in Akkar, Northern Lebanon, about the scholarships. The session also included a presentation about FAFS, specifically highlighting the agricultural sciences and the Diploma D'Ingenieur Agricole Program as well as its employment opportunities.

All documents needed for application to AUB and the Sinno Scholarships were distributed to the school principals: scholarship brochures and questionnaires, admissions application, and the presentation material.

Dr. Ammar Olabi explained the transformative power of these scholarships.

“This visionary scholarship to students from Akkar is one of a kind in the sense that it aims at promoting the agriculture field in a Lebanese region that has an immense potential for agriculture,” said Olabi. “This scholarship will pave the way to talented high school students who are motivated to study agriculture and who do not have the financial means to join FAFS and be at one of the most prestigious institutions in the region.”

Khaled Sinno explained that the scholarships are part of a long-term strategic plan to empower rural economies by reviving the agricultural sector in Lebanon.

“The aim is to offer world-class education to talented and needy students from North Lebanon who plan to return to their rural communities equipped with the knowledge required to make a sizeable impact in the way agriculture is practiced,” explained Sinno. “The idea started when it was noticed that, despite their proximity, huge differences in income and living conditions existed between the capital and its peripherals, particularly the North. Agriculture, which is the principal economic activity and sole source of income for most families there, is still primitive, outdated, inefficient, and suffers from government neglect. However, natural resources are abundant in terms of soil, water, and climate. Only state-of-the-art education and the will of the region’s new generation can bridge the gap and bring about sustainable upward change.”

Sinno graduated from AUB in 1986 with a bachelor’s in business administration. He is the owner, chairman, and general manager of Karma Lebanon, wholesalers and exporters of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried fruits, and nuts.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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