

Advancing Research Enabling Communities Center -AREC-

*Leading the way to food and water security
in arid and semi-arid regions*

Facts and Figures

- Located in the Mediterranean dry lands, about 80 km from Beirut
- Area: 1,000 dunums (about 100 hectares)
- Close to major cultural and archeological sites
- Physical: strategically located functional satellite campus
- Employees: 27
- Environmental: dry lands diversity
- Social Poverty: socio-cultural diversity
- Current services: education, workforce training, research, community development, and encouragement of agricultural enterprise

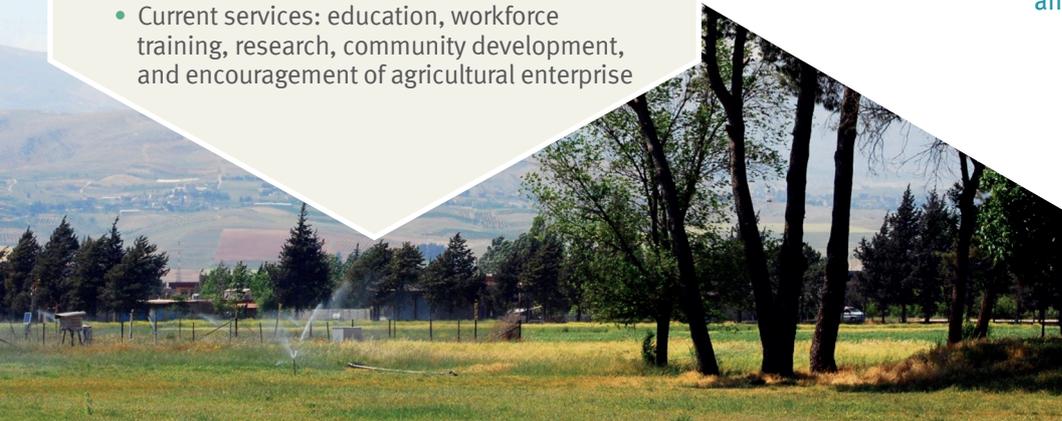
Established in 1953, AREC is one of the regions' premier academic centers that caters to the needs of students, faculty, researchers, and communities. Located in the heart of Bekaa valley, the center addresses the needs of the local communities it serves while serving as a center for learning and research about the most pressing challenges of our time: the development and sustainability of rural livelihoods and environmental sustainability, especially in semi-arid regions.

AREC's legacy is its contribution to experiential learning for over 2,000 agricultural engineers of Lebanon and the region and the development of Lebanon's agricultural sector. FAFS activity through AREC has led to increased collaboration with the private sector, and to a growing cooperative spirit with the surrounding communities, which helped in increasing crop yields and local dairy production.

Numerous AUB centers benefit from AREC's unique location for studying climate change, drought, water management, and more. Engineering students complete their Final Year Projects in sustainable energy through a United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) venture on poultry production. The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) activities have grown to include the development of specialized produce and drought resistant seeds. AREC serves local needs, including Syrian refugees, through collaboration with the AUB Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS), local NGOs, and private sector groups such as Unifert.

AREC Facilities

- Research Farm (cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry)
- Laboratories (Animal Science and Agronomy)
- Lecture Hall (with 100 seats amphitheater), 2 Classrooms (50 seats each)
- Field Research Facilities (42 agricultural tractors and implements)
- Green Poultry House
- Mushroom Production Unit
- Dairy Processing Facility (creamery)
- Seed Bank & Other Cold Storage Facilities
- Weather Station
- Agricultural Library
- Saffron Field
- No-till Demonstration Field
- Bio-digester
- Aquaculture
- Student Dormitories
- Cafeteria
- Faculty Housing
- Rental Facilities, Sports Facilities
- Clinic-Family Medicine



AREC TOMORROW

Vision

A Learning, Innovation and Engagement Center for Renewable Resources and Health at the American University of Beirut.



Climate and Sustainability Center

Goals and Initiatives

GOAL 1

Regional hub for water-energy-food-health (wefh) nexus

- Water-Energy-Food-Health Nexus Renewable Resources Initiative (WEFRAH)
- Regional Center for Zoonotic Diseases
- Center for Food Safety



GOAL 2

Hub for participatory student learning experience

- Global Design Teams (GDT) (experiential service learning)
 - Transforming Higher Education Project
- School of Veterinary Medicine (with Faculty of Medicine)



GOAL 3

Regional community engagement center

- Center for Vocational Training to Neighboring Communities
- Outpatient Facilities (Faculty of Medicine)



GOAL 4

Center of excellence for emergency environments

- Increase awareness of practices and need for improved water management
 - Develop a framework for scaling up livelihood support in agriculture
 - Capacity building of community-based organizations (CBOs)
 - Establish information and business support hubs
- Support tailored skills development and income-generating activities, with a focus on women and youth
 - Promote healthier diets and lifestyles within communities



GOAL 5

Value creation and entrepreneurship hub

- Center of Excellence for Human Wellbeing
- AREC Café
- Commercial Broiler Project
- Commercial Activities at AREC (essential oils, fertilizers, wine, perfumery, etc.)



Scan here for AREC website

