

ZEINA SULEIMAN

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QUALIFICATIONS

Degree	Institution	Main Subjects	Year
Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics	Damascus University	Agricultural & Food Policy	2021
MSc. in Agricultural Economics	Damascus University	Agricultural Trade Policy	2015
B.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering	Latakia/Tishreen University	Agricultural Economics	2008

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Deputy Director**, National Agricultural Policy Centre (NAPC), Syria, from 2021 to Present.
- **Associate Lecturer / Academic Supervisor**, Syrian Virtual University (SVU)- Master's Program "Integrated Management of Natural Resources IMNR", 2024 to Present.
- **Reviewer for "Agriculture and Food Security"**, Agriculture and Food Security peer-reviewed journal, part of Springer Nature, 2020 to 2022.
- **Academic Supervisor of MSc Students / Member of the Judgment Committees**, Economic & Social Planning Institute (ESPI)- Syria, from 2021 to Present.
- **National Consultant / Drought specialist**, FAO, Syria, from Sep.1.2025 to Nov.30.2025
- **Reviewer of Economic Translation and Research Associate** for ACRPS, Qatar-Doha, from 2023 to 2025.
- **Socio-Economic Expert, Project of "Building Local Resilience in Syria (BLRS) GCP/SYR/030/UK"**, First and Second Phases, FAO, 2025 to Present
- **Member of the National Committee for SDGs Tracking & Monitoring**, Prime Ministry of Syria, 2020 to Present.
- **Member of the National Technical Committee for Drought Response**, Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management, Syria, 2025 to Present.
- **Member of the National Committee for Food Support Programs**, Syrian Ministry of Health/ World Health Organization (WHO), 2024.
- **Focal Point- Trade Facilitation Committee**, Syrian Ministry of Agriculture- the Agricultural Agreement between Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, 2023.
- **Research Scholar and Teaching Assistant**, Damascus University, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Economics Department, 2016 to 2020.
- **Chief of the International Agreements Section**, NAPC- Trade Policy Division, 2016 to 2020.
- **Researcher in Agri-Food Systems & Policy**, NAPC- Agri-Food Systems Division, 2016 to 2020.

Key Responsibilities and Achievements:

- **Conducting studies, reports, papers, and policy notes in the fields of agriculture, food security & livelihoods, sustainable development, and socio-economic analysis as well as related policies. This includes: designing survey questionnaires, collecting, processing and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data, and drafting the final technical reports.**
- **Participating in formulation, monitoring, and evaluation of the national strategies and policies in agriculture & related sectors in line with macroeconomic and international policies.**
- **Conducting a National Case Study on Drought in Syria**, FAO, under the development of the Regional Drought Strategy (RDS) conducted by FAO's RNE.
- **Carrying out a socio-economic context analysis and situation assessment for the first phase of "Building Local Resilience in Syria (BLRS)" Project, implemented by FAO**
- **Contributed to the completion of periodic studies of "Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission" issued by FAO & WFP, Syria. This includes:**
 - Data collection (at farmer & household level, focus groups discussions (FGDs), and governorate level),
 - Data tabulation, visualization, analysis, and evaluation
 - Performance assessment of the agricultural sector in multiple seasons.
 - Evaluating the socio-economic situation of the households during crisis and identifying their basic needs in order to identify the appropriate interventions for sustainable livelihoods.

- Assessing the impact of the agricultural projects on improving the livelihood and food security of the targeted groups.
- Reports writing.
- **Produced the technical report of the work shop on “Enhancing Transformation of Food Systems under Climate Change”, using Value Chain Analysis approach, conducted by WFP, FAO, and key partners.**
- **Conducted the context analysis and justifications for the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) under the Integrated Management of Water Hyacinth Control project in Syria, implemented by FAO.**
- **Participated as a member of the national committee for developing the National Strategy of the Agricultural Sector 2021-2030, conducted by Syrian ministry of agriculture in collaboration with FAO and relevant partners. Main responsibilities are:**
 - Preparation phase for the conference “Agricultural Sector Development: Challenges and Opportunities”, 2021, including consultations at the governorate level to meet with all stakeholders in order to identify the main problems and challenges facing the agricultural sector through local community participation,
 - Writing reports and drafting matrices on challenges and opportunities (SWOT analysis),
 - Round table discussions and workshops with all the concerned bodies to review the current situation of agricultural sector and related policies (Context analysis based on the results and evidences), potential solutions and identify the priority of actions and interventions,
 - Writing final reports and developing the intended strategy for the agricultural sector improvement, including target projects to be implemented.
 - Reviewing the projects of the adopted strategy and developing their action plans and activity matrix.
 - Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the programs and projects in coordination and collaboration with the concerned executive bodies.
- **Training and facilitating various groups of technicians in many projects implemented by FAO in collaboration with relevant bodies. Main topics are:**
 - “Food Security Information Monitoring and Early Warning System”,
 - “The Impact of Climate Changes on Household Agricultural Production and livelihood”
 - “Crops and Food Security Assessment Mission CFSAM”.
- **Reviewing and evaluating scientific research related to Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security. Main research articles reviewed are:**
 - Evaluation of technical efficiency of some of rain-fed cereal and legume crops production in Syria: does crisis matter?
 - Gendered determinants of food insecurity in ongoing regional conflicts, North and South Kivu, the Democratic Republic of Congo.
 - Risk assessment of soil erosion by using CORINE model in the western part of Syrian Arab Republic.
- **Tracking progress towards SDGs (with focus on SDG2 & SDG1), including providing required data in collaboration and coordination with the concerned institutions and bodies, calculating the indicators according to the UN standard methodologies, assessing and monitoring of these indicators, writing and editing the final technical report.**
- **Supervising MSc candidates and evaluating MSc Dissertations. Most recent supervised topics are:**
 - “Evaluation of the economic impact of using modern irrigation systems in the development of Syrian strategic crops during 2006-2021.”
 - “Evaluation of the role of Cooperative Agricultural Bank in improving the agricultural production in Syria during 2000-2020.”
- **Most recent dissertations evaluated are:**
 - A proposed framework strategy for the implementation of clean agriculture techniques in Al-Ghab district.
 - Evaluation of the supply and demand of ecosystem services in Ghouta area of Damascus - Syria.
 - A study on the feasibility of expanding the application of regenerative agriculture for vegetables production in Syria- 2021-2022.
 - Guiding the processes of evaluating ecosystem services to preserve and sustain the Fir and Cedar Reserve in Syria according to the application of the TEEB methodology.
 - “Analysis of the impacts of unilateral measures on the Syrian food security during 2011-2020.”
 - Evaluation of the role of governmental subsidy in sheep breeding in Syria during 2000-2019.
- **Participating in the Production of National Multisectoral Periodic Reports:**
 - Syrian country reports on SDGs- 2030 progress tracking,
 - The National Development Program for Syria (the Strategic Plan, Syria 2030),
 - The Situation of Food and Agriculture reports (SOFA),
 - and the Syrian Agricultural Trade reports (SAT).

SKILLS

Hard skills

- Agricultural Economics and Policy
- Food Security and Agri-food Systems
- Sustainable Development and Livelihood
- Socio-Economic Research
- Research & Analysis
- Monitoring Agricultural Policies and Projects
- Supervising, Training and Coaching
- Reviewing and Evaluating Research

Languages

- Arabic: Mother tongue
- English: Advanced level

Interpersonal Skills

- Strategic Analytical thinking
- Communication skills
- Leadership and self-motivation
- Productive work relations and connections
- Work collaboratively within interdisciplinary teams
- Adaptability to changing conditions
- Ability to work under pressure
- Accountability and integrity

Computer skills

- MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- SPSS software

Training received

- **Training on the Use of the Food Security Monitoring Framework in the Arab Region**, ESCWA in cooperation with FAO, AOAD, and AITRS, UN House, Beirut, Lebanon. Review the concept of Food Security Monitoring and adopting a regional monitoring framework and the related indicators for monitoring as endorsed by Arab countries. Aug. 19-22. 2019
- **Distinguished Trainee Certificate on "Food and Medicinal Security During Crises"**, API, Kuwait, Interactive Program. Updates and Developments on Food Security and Nutrition During crisis in the World and Most Important Challenges Facing Agricultural Sector in Achieving Food Security in the Arab Region. Oct. 12-14. 2020
- **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Level 1 Analyst Certificate**, IPC Global Steering, training course on Food Security Analysis, Damascus, Syria, Food security analysis. Provided by Committee and IPC Global Support Unit, Rome. Italy and FAO. Sep. 2017
- **Training course on the calculation of SDG 2.1.1 Indicator (POU) and SDG 2.1.2 (FIES)**, provided by FAO, FAO Expert, Head Office, Rome, Italy. 2021
- **Food security information monitoring and Early Warning system**, conducted by FAO, Provided by FAO Experts. 2018-2019
- **Training on Value chain analysis**, Provided by FAO Expert. 2018
- **Training on SDG Indicator 2.4.1, FAO Headquarters**, Rome. Virtual training. The indicator's framework and computation of its 11 sub-indicators (including: water use, soil health, fertilizer and pesticide risk, and use of agro-biodiversity supportive practices, etc.). Oct. 1-4. 2024
- **Training on "Agricultural Development Policies and Economic Diversification"**, Arab Planning Institute (API), Kuwait. Policies to develop the agricultural sector and enhance its contribution to economic diversification and its role in economic and social development in Arab countries. May. 12-16. 2024
- **Training course on the Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) and Community Based Participatory Programming (CBPP)**, conducted by WFP, Provided by WFP Experts. 2019.
- **Planning and Management of Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects Certificate**, National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, Water harvesting, wastewater treatment and rural development, Provided by (ITEC, SCCAP). Sep. 2016 -Oct. 2016
- **Policy Analysis Matrix (PAM)**, NAPC. 2018

Conferences and workshops

- **A workshop on Climate Changes in Syria**, conducted by Syrian ministries of: Agriculture, Water Resources, and Environment. 2024. The current situation of climate changes and future trends, the impact of climate changes on agricultural sector, water resources and environment, mitigation and adaptation strategies and policies; including sustainable agricultural practices. Damascus, Syria

- **International Scientific Conference on “Role of the Agricultural Sector in Sustainable Development and Food Security”**, Tishreen University. 2023. Prospects and Opportunities for Sustainable Agricultural Development and Food Security- Participating with a working paper and a presentation on “Food Security in Syria.” Lattakia, Syria
- **The Second Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster- related Statistics, issued by ESCWA.** 2022. Advancing official statistics for disaster risk reduction-integrating climate and disaster risk data to build resilience. Beirut, Lebanon
- **A workshop on “Projects Assessment in the Context of National Strategies and Policies and Food Value Chains”**, Damascus University. 2022. Participating with a presentation on “Projects Assessment in the Context of National Strategies and Policies and Food Value Chains”. Damascus, Syria
- **The First Scientific Conference of Food and Consumer Safety.** 2018. Food safety and the role of scientific research. Damascus, Syria
- **Workshop on Value Chains of: Milk, Tomato, Wheat and Barley**, conducted by FAO. 2018. Launching value chain final reports under the EU and DFID projects. Damascus, Syria
- **Workshop on Smallholder Farmers Development Program**, held by FAO. 2018. Strengthen resilience in protracted crisis. Damascus, Syria

Publications

- **Theses**
 - *The Role of Agricultural Policies in Demand Estimate of the Most Important Plant-Food Commodities in the Coastal Region of Syria* (Ph.D. thesis), 2021, Damascus University Publication. <https://agris.fao.org/agris-search/search.do?recordID=SY2022000033>
 - *The Impact of GAFTA Implementation on the most important Fruits and Vegetable crops in Syria* (MSc thesis), 2014, Damascus University Publication. <http://damascusuniversity.edu.sy/agri/index.php?lang=1&set=3&id=523>
- **Scientific Journal Articles**
 - *Analysis of Demand for Some Plant-Food Commodities and Groups in the Coastal Region (Tartous Governorate/ Syria)*, 2021, The Arab Journal for Arid Environments, issued by (ACSAD). <https://acsad.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/J295.pdf>
 - *The Role of Agricultural Planning Policy in Demand Estimate of the Most Important Plant-Food Commodities in Tartous Governorate*, 2020, Journal of Al Baath University, volume 42, No. 25, pages 89-116. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pHVFbacR5y1IHkYsRcK3Ad-wMw9VsDkr/view?usp=sharing>
 - *Estimate of the Expenditure Elasticity of the Demand for Food in Safita District (Tartous Governorate)*, 2018, Journal of Al Baath University, volume 40, No. 79, pages 137-160. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VbxYKpm9yaecTfAciAanHVsUdVFpWIA/view?usp=sharing>
 - *The impact of GAFTA implementation on the most important fruits (apple and orange) in Syria*, 2014, Damascus University Journal for the Agricultural Sciences. <https://damascusuniversity.edu.sy/mag/farm/images/stories/2-2015/283-298.pdf>
- **Working Papers**
 - *Agricultural Policies in Syria: A longitudinal Analytical Overview*, 2025, Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies (ACRPS). <https://www.dohainstitute.org/ar/economic-studies/Pages/agricultural-policies-in-syria-a-longitudinal-analytical-overview.aspx>
 - *Changes in Production and Consumption of the Agri-Food Commodities during the Current Situation in Syria*, 2018, NAPC Publication. <http://www.napcsyr.gov.sy/pdf/changesofgoodsproducts.pdf>
 - “Food Security in Syria”, 2023, a working paper presented at the International Scientific Conference on “Role of the Agricultural Sector in Sustainable Development and Food Security”, Tishreen University, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, Syria.
 - *Food Security Status in Syria During the Crisis*, 2016, NAPC Publication. http://www.napcsyr.gov.sy/dwnld-files/policy_studies/ar/33_food_security_crises_ar.pdf
 - *Food Loss and Waste: The Role of Agricultural Producers*, 2019, NAPC, Syria, (Not published online)
 - *The Current Situation of the Agricultural Sector in Syria*, 2017, NAPC (Not published online).
 - *Strategic Crops in Syria at the Governorates level*, 2024, NAPC, Damascus, Syria.
 - *Trade of Fruits and Vegetables in Syria*, 2016, NAPC Publication. http://www.napcsyr.gov.sy/dwnld-files/working_papers/ar/69_crop_trade_ar.pdf
- **Reports Participated In**

- *The context analysis and justifications for the water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes)*, 2024, the Integrated Management of Water Hyacinth Control project in Syria, FAO.
- *The National Development Program for Post-War Syria (the Strategic Plan, Syria 2030)*, 2020, Prime Ministry of Syria. http://picc.gov.sy/EG8/report/Syria_2020.pdf
- *The National Strategy of the Agricultural Sector 2021-2030*, Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with FAO and other concerned entities, Syria.
- *Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM)*, 2016-2020, periodic reports by FAO & WFP, Syria.
- *The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Country Reports of the Syrian Arab Republic*, 2020-2023, Prime Ministry of Syria.
- *Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) of the Syrian Arab Republic*, 2020-2024, Prime Ministry of Syria. https://www.arabdevelopmentportal.com/sites/default/files/publication/syria_report_arabic_1.pdf
- *The Current Situation of the Agricultural Sector in Syria*, 2017, NAPC Publication.
- *The Situation of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)*, 2016-2019, Periodic reports, NAPC Publication.
- *The Syrian Agricultural Trade reports (SAT)*. 2015-2019, Periodic reports, NAPC Publication.