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Building Inclusive Markets and Decent Work for Syrian Refugees and Lebanese Host Communities

BOUZOUR Project

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Advancing social justice, promoting decent work

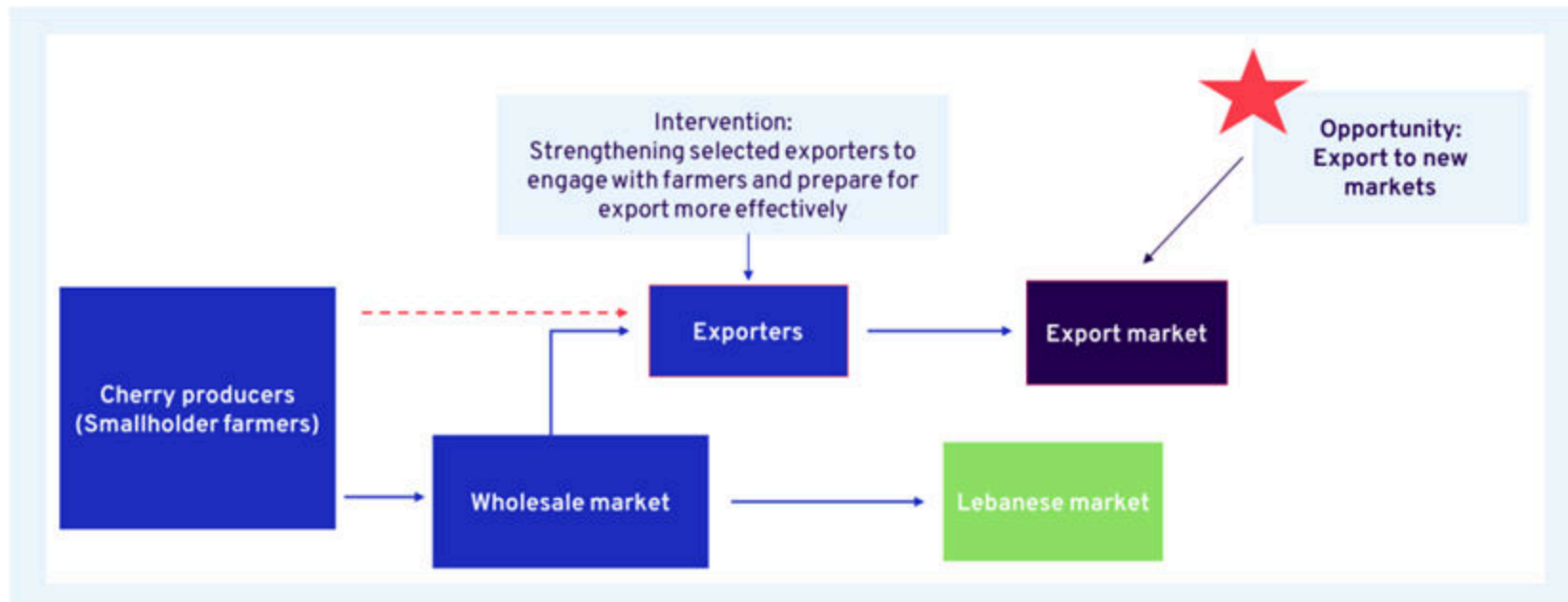


Setting the scene: Lebanon

- **Bouzour Project** focuses on supporting high-potential agricultural and agri-food value chains to stimulate decent job creation for Lebanese host communities and Syrian refugees.
- **Refugee discourse predominantly negative rhetoric**, limiting sectors of work
- **Lebanese context:** Non-camp setting for Syrian refugees
- **Implications for systemic approaches:** focus on how MSD interventions trickles down to refugees



Opportunity: Cherry value chain



- ▶ Cherry farmers gain access to pre-financed inputs and training as well as higher prices and guaranteed off-taker markets for cherries



Workers benefit from training and more and better opportunities in the sector



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Cooperatives play a key role as intermediaries and to ensure proper post-harvest handling of cherries



Exporters gain access to the needed quantities and qualities of cherries



Pilot results: Exporter level

- Investments in new packaging and post-harvest handling
- Provision of pre-financed inputs, training and advice to farmers
- Links to international buyers strengthened

Nasr Rahme reached out to 7 international buyers. Ultimately, 3 sales were completed in 2 different countries. The total volume of cherries exported reached 3,736 Kg for amount of 19,319 USD

- Links in local market strengthened

A partnership was developed to sell organic cherries from a region traditionally disconnected from markets.



Pilot results: Farmer level*

- **Higher prices for cherries:**
Prices obtained were **58% higher** than on wholesale market
- **Access to training:**
91% of farmers rated the trainings received as either 'effective' or 'very effective'
- **Cheaper inputs:**
Percentage of annual income spent on inputs **decreased from 41% to 14%**
- **Higher incomes:**
Average annual incomes of farmers **increased by 38%**
- **100%** of surveyed farmers would like to keep selling to the exporter



► Pilot results: Worker level*

➤ **More workers recruited**

Number of seasonal cherry workers recruited **increased by 8%** from 547 to 615 workers

63% of those workers are Syrian, 53% are female

➤ **Wages of cherry workers increased**

Daily wages of farm workers **increased by 68%** from an average of 6.94 USD to 11.69 USD



How to reach scale...

- Expanding adoption of lead companies and second movers
- Expanding cherry export scheme to other stone fruits
- Tackling common constraints in supporting functions and regulations
- Focus on supporting functions key to increase benefits to **Syrian refugees**

