



## Syrian Expertise for Agriculture: Resources for Farmers

Agricultural Voices Syria (AVS), the first podcast for Syrian farmers, relies on Syrian agricultural experts from within Syria and abroad to support farming and to provide the latest updates on agricultural innovations, practices and technology.

In January 2021, the University of Sussex in partnership with the Cara Syria Programme and the Academic Centre for Development and Peace Studies/Syrian Academic Expertise (ACDP-SAE) began collaborating on a research project aimed at providing Syrian agricultural experts with training in podcast production to support farmers in northwest Syria.

Drawing from a large pool of Syrian ACDP-SAE members including agricultural engineers, agronomists and academics, ACDP-SAE is producing a podcast series on key agricultural areas as part of a knowledge-exchange project.

In May 2021, the pilot podcast team will contact farmers in a number of provinces in northwest Syria, including Afrin, Jarablus, Al Bab, Azaz and Idleb districts, to promote the podcast as well as to collect information on local farmers' interests and needs.

AVS can be accessed through the [ACDP - SAE website](#) or any Android smartphone.

### Dr Shaher Abdullateef

ACDP Co-Director and SAE Director says of AVS:

*One of the most critical impacts of the Syrian conflict on agriculture has been the collapse of support services for farmers, which, before 2011 were provided by the government. This podcast series provides Syrian agronomists and agricultural engineers with a great opportunity to share their knowledge with Syrian farmers and collaborate with local and international actors who are working to ensure food security and improve livelihoods in Syria. Helping those who work in the agri-food value chain to overcome the challenges they face is of great importance to us. We will continue producing podcast episodes on agricultural-related topics following completion of the Pilot Project and welcome contributions from our across the agricultural community.*

### Kate Robertson

Cara Middle East Adviser, specifies:

*This project reflects brilliantly Cara's aims to support and connect academics at risk and facilitate their continued contribution to knowledge exchange during the crisis. Podcasting is an innovative tool that allows Syrian experts to support their own communities, even from exile, as well as to contribute to the longer-term process of post-conflict reconstruction, central to which food security and sustainable agriculture. We encourage all humanitarian responders to the Syria crisis to support this Pilot Project.*

**The first 5 episodes are now available, with a further 10 following by the end of July 2021.**

#### The topics include:

- Irrigation and fertilisation of crops, vegetables and fruit trees;
- Soil preparation and productivity improvement;
- Integrated control of crop and fruit (olive, pistachio) diseases;
- Alternative crops;
- Seed production and preservation of local vegetables;
- Organic fertilisers and compost production;
- Olive products and quality improvement;
- Production methods and yield;
- Cultivation methods in hydroponics;
- Home-made methods of preserving and processing vegetables.

**Listen to the AVS Podcast [here](#) or download our app from the [Google Store](#).**

**For more information about the project please visit:**  
<https://agricultural-voices.sussex.ac.uk/>

**For project updates and news follow us on Twitter [@agriculturavox](#)**