

2022

Happy



Yacine and Daher kissing Hassan under the mistletoe

2023

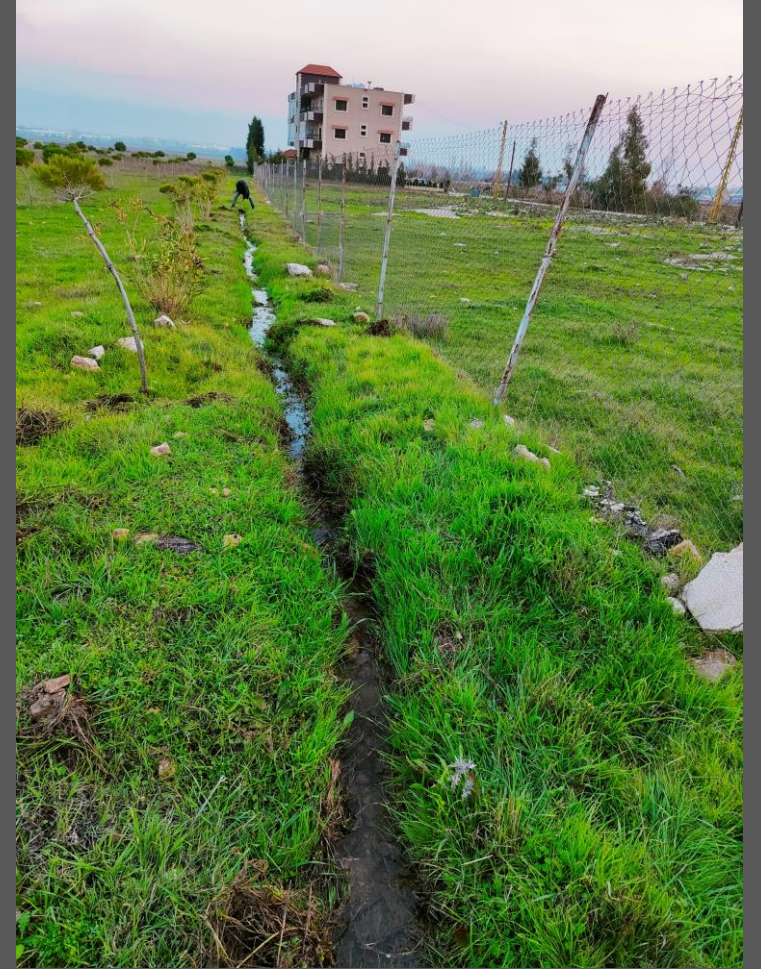
New Year



January in Mekse – the project takes a new start



... with a lot to do on our 7-acres site



Cleaning of the trenches (by Muhammad)



Pruning of figtrees and pomegrenates



Cleaning of the lavender
(with reuse of the grass to plant the hill)





Cleaning and inspection of the tree nursery after 4 months:
A promise of garden





Competition of vine propagation: each one has his own method. Results in Spring



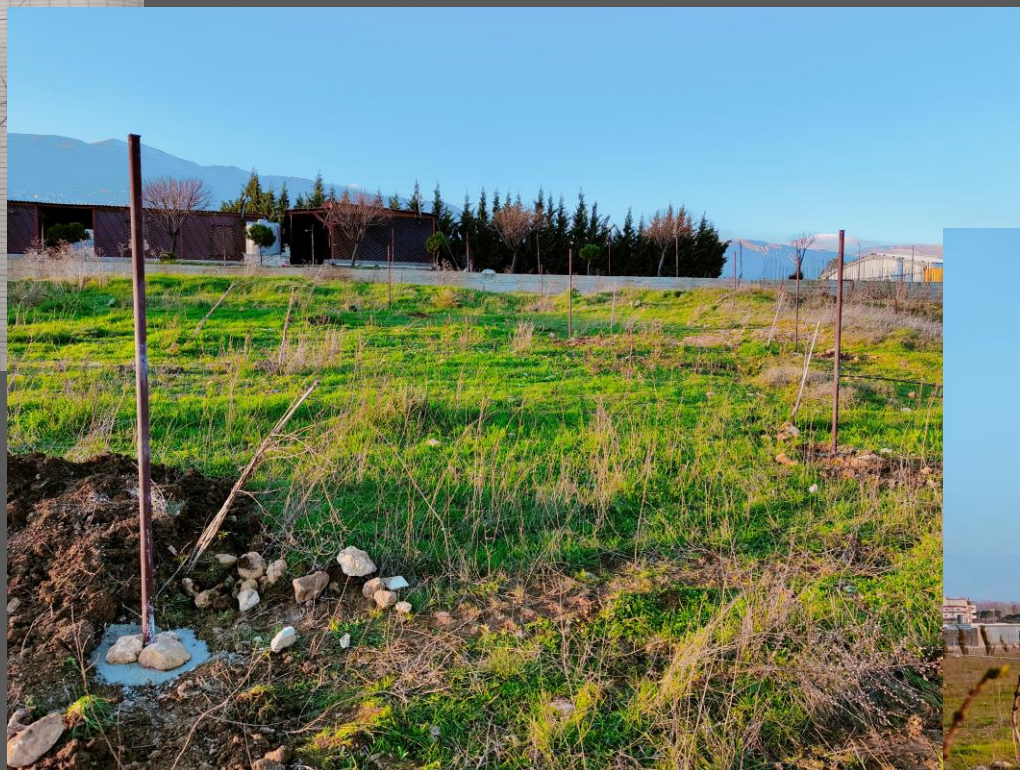
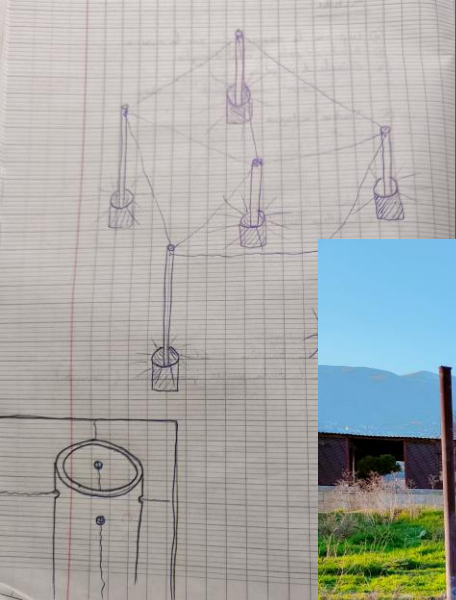
Construction of a mobile chicken coop (thanks to Ali's craft and with Daher, Ali and Nuh waiting for their chicks)



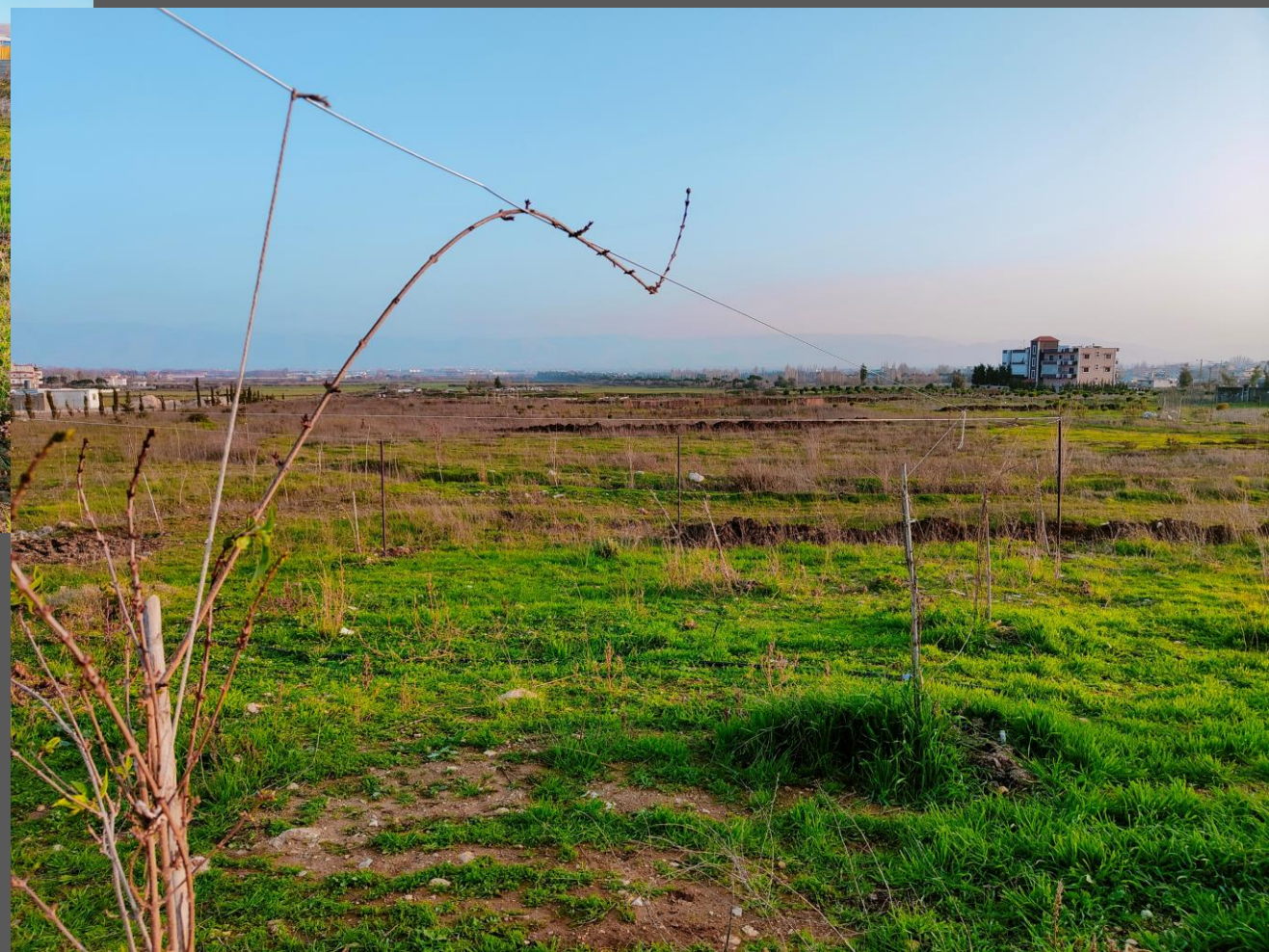


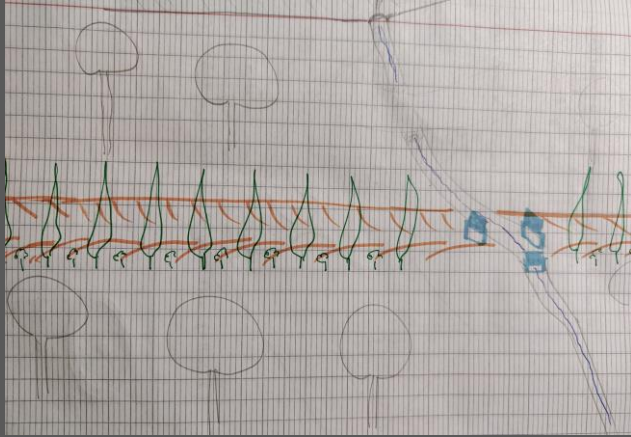
Terrace extension (by Qasem)





Construction of a stand for the creeping winter jasmin planted by Colin last Easter





Digging and planting of irrigation canals

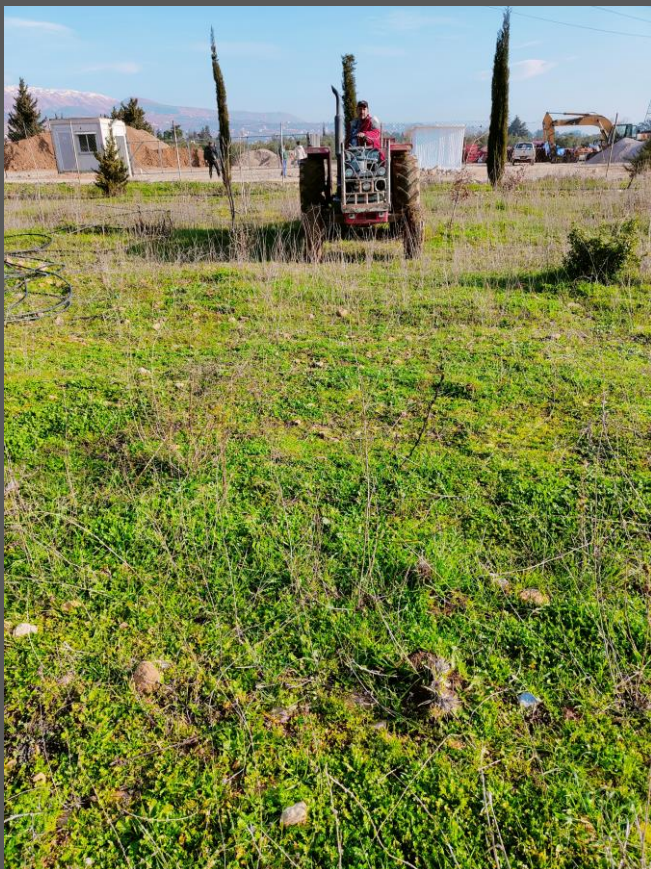


Construction (by Hajj Ali) and installation of their water gates



Digging and planting of swales





By Malek al-Mays



Daher pretending to be a man, no a machine!



... and Elie Farha





Harvest and planting of poplars (by Abbes)





Swales planted with poplar shoots and germinated acorns (by Nuh)

Reinventing the maze









110 stands and 400 vines, a maze where getting lost is an agape feast



Creation of the (so expected) path together with the municipality and a team of workers financed by the UN



Path getting built (Ghassan and Hamoudeh)





Further tests of weed control with sheep



Introduction of catfishes in the pounds



Previously a highly damaged piece of land (GoogleEarth picture was shot in 2017 at the very beginning of the project), the site of Mekse is slowly recolonized by the wildlife...



Megadrile worm



Tree frog



Microdrile worm



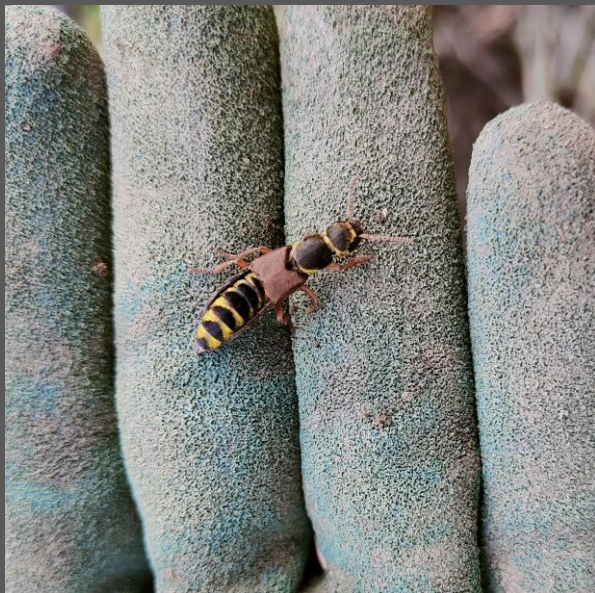
Rove beetle



Sheet weaver (Lyniphiidae)



Larva of Cetonia



Rove beetle (probably *Staphylinus*)



Mediterranean banded centipede
(*Scolopendra cingulata*)



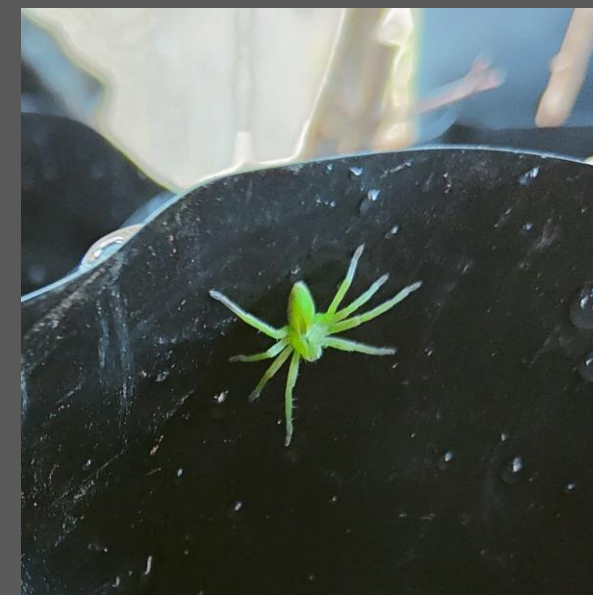
Mouse



Caterpillars called in Arabic
« dūd al-rabi' (Spring worms) »



Beetle



Micrommata ligurina

Bekaa valley is well-known for its harsh winter. The valley is usually covered with snow from January to March. But this year, even the mountains are lacking their white cover. And hearing the songs of the frogs or seeing the queen wasps looking for food in January is more than unusual, it is worrying. As living beings, we are getting into trouble waters...



Special greetings to:

Our enthusiastic employee: Abbes al-Uqla,

His family of volunteers: his brothers Ali and Hamzeh, his nephews Daher, Yacine, Aloush, Nuh, Husayn, Hamoudeh (promised, we will do more kites next time) and the little Hasan, who has a passion for acorns.

Our tireless volunteer from Beirut: Mouhamed Aliwey

Our treasurer: Maha Moacdieh

Our board member: Fakhry al-Fakhry



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