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Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
**Faculty of Tropical
AgriSciences**

**Factors Influencing Intention to Work in Agriculture in Syria
– The Case of Latakia**

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Declaration

I hereby declare that I have done this thesis entitled “**Factors Influencing Intention to Work in Agriculture in Syria –The case of Latakia**” independently, all texts in this thesis are original, and all the sources have been quoted and acknowledged by means of complete references and according to Citation rules of the FTA.

In Prague May 2020

.....

Ibrahim Salman

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Abstract

The shift in career from agriculture jobs to other sectors among young generation, even among agriculturally educated students presents a challenge to rural labour markets and contributes to labour shortage in agricultural sector in Syria. This study addresses the factors influencing intention to work in agriculture among agricultural students, based on data from Latakia region, Syria.

A quantitative questionnaire survey was conducted in 2019. A convenience sampling method was applied to select the respondents from Tishreen University, Faculty of Agriculture. The sample consists of 150 respondents. The results of the binary logistic regression model revealed that five independent variables made a statistically significant contribution to the model (father's occupation, contentment to the rural way of living, farming experience, parents' opinion on agricultural job, and friends' influence on studying agriculture). The strongest predictor of increasing the probability of intention to work in agriculture was farming experience before entering the university. Father's occupation as a farmer increases the probability of intention to work in agriculture. Positive parents' opinion on agricultural job, friends' influence on studying agriculture, and contentment to the rural way of living decrease the probability of intention to work in agriculture. Our results have implication: support of practical stages in agriculture before starting to study agriculture could help to increase the rate of the agricultural students who want to work in agriculture.

Keywords: Agricultural labour, Intention to work in agriculture, Youth, Latakia.

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List of abbreviations used in the thesis

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development	AOAD
Central Bureau of Statistics in Syria	CBS
Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO
Global Communities Partners for Good	GCPFG
International Labour Organization	ILO
Internal Displaced	IDP
Multiple Choices, one answer	MCo
Open Question	OP
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP
World Trade Organization	WTO

1. Introduction and Literature Review

1.1. Introduction

Most countries are encountering a declining share of agricultural employment in total employment, male agricultural employment rates have generally declined, as more young men endeavor to higher education or find better-paying jobs in other sectors (ILO 2011).

Agriculture has long been an important backbone of the national economy that provides livelihood and employment to a large number of people in Syria (Tull 2017).

Despite a devastating drought that started from 2006 till 2010. Leading to mass rural-urban migration, the rural population of Syria remained just under 50 % of total population (FAO 2017). The agricultural sector contributed around 27 % of GDP in 2001 and despite falling to 17 % in 2010. It still represents more than twice the share of manufacturing contributed 7 % of total Syrian GDP in 2010 (CBS; FAO 2018).

In Syrian agriculture, like all other sectors has suffered serious setbacks from a shortage of skilled labour and trained professionals in a wide range of fields (FAO 2018). During 1994-2004 agricultural labour productivity did not grow and may have decreased (World Bank 2008). Agriculture is represented as a central base to many Syrians' livelihoods; it employs 20-25 % of the population directly more than any country in the Middle East and North Africa region and provides demand for off-farm labour in the rural areas (World Bank 2008).

Attracting and retaining youth in the agriculture sector remains a global challenge (Ahaibwe et al. 2013). Agriculture, especially in developing countries depends on how capable people are and which amount of labour force they can provide (Reymond et al. 2004).

Youth have a negative perception towards agriculture as according to them agriculture is a second class job and just a temporary job while waiting for a better job (Gidarakou 1999).

A youth studies perspective helps us to understand the youth's shift away from agriculture in this epoch of mass rural unemployment and underemployment (White 2012). This negative perception that youth are not interested in agriculture, leading to exacerbate the youth unemployment, handicapping any hope for rural development (Swarts & Aliber 2013). Therefore, youth are playing a crucial role in agriculture sector particularly in developing country as they are the most productive group (Pelzom & Katel 2017). This study is aiming to analyze the factors influencing Syrian youths' intention to work in agriculture as an occupation.

1.2. Literature Review

1.2.1. Agricultural employment in developing countries

The agricultural sector represents large portions of employment and value-added in developing countries. Agricultural employment in developing-country takes various forms, depending on production orientation, the technique used, and cultivated crops (Cheong et al.2013).

In developing countries, agriculture is the largest employer, where agriculture employs higher than a billion people in developing countries, where agricultural employment increases in developing countries by 0.25 % to 0.28 % and in developed countries decreases by -0.56 % to -0.62 % (Cheong et al.2013).

Over 60 % of the global agricultural workforce is estimated to be informally employed (Bacchetta et al. 2009). The World Bank estimates that three out of each four poor people reside in rural areas in developing countries and a lot of them rely on agriculture for their livelihoods (World Bank 2008).

Ogbeide Ele and Ikheloa (2015) argued that one of the reasons for the lack of intervention strategy in agricultural employment is that the resources are directed to many people who lack interest in agriculture and do not have sufficient flexibility to live in the rural areas.

1.2.2. Youth and agriculture

Mangal (2009) indicated that there is insufficient youth participation in the agricultural sector although this group of people is very productive (Naamwintome & Bagson 2013). Young people turn far from agriculture not merely as a result of poor economic prospects, but additionally due to status; agriculture is unappealing to the youth because it generally does not bring status regardless of the economic outcomes (Leavy & Smith 2010). Nevertheless, young people in areas of high agricultural growth are probably more likely to be more interested in making farming a central element of their lives than those living in low-growth areas (Leavy & Smith 2010).

1.2.3. Factors influencing intention to work in agriculture

i. Attitudes towards agriculture and prestige

Many choices are not motivated by ‘need’ as much as they are by the concern for social standing and prestige (Baker 1992). Attitude towards agriculture plays a very important role in selecting the occupation (Kidane 2014). Students exclude some occupation options just because these jobs seem to lack prestige and fall below the level they find acceptable (Furlong & Cartmel 1995). In the minds of many youth, a farmer is perceived as someone who is dressed old clothes that have torn and dirty patches due to contact with farm tools and soil (Noorani 2015).

According to Lightbody et al. (1997), in Asian communities, occupational choices are influenced by the potential for social respect and social standing. Parents link a high degree of pride with the educational achievements and professional identity of their children.

Prestige indicates to the profession and social status as well as financial returns associated with a variety of roles which engage an individual, the most crucial one for determining general prestige level is the occupational role (Kadushin 1958). Hoyle (2011) defined occupational prestige as “public perception of the relative position of an occupation in a hierarchy of occupations”. Where the recognition of some occupations as ‘higher than’ or ‘lower than’ others generates a hierarchy of prestige. Dramé-Yayé et al. (2011) affirms that the prestige of any occupation depends largely on public attitudes and opinions. A study by Garwe (2015) in Zimbabwe indicates that students have

negative perceptions of the agricultural career and thus choose other more prestigious careers. These perceptions are well rooted in society, at school, even at university, and we experience them at home, this may be because youth see the agricultural work as an inferior, unsatisfactory, and very hard occupation (Abdul Salam al-Saghir et al. 2008).

Strategy for Agriculture in Rural Development in South Africa shows that one of the challenges encountering agricultural education and training is the negative perception of agricultural career image among youth and it is seen the work of the poor and as not profitable (Department of Agriculture 2003).

ii. Contentment to the rural way of living

Although many people are aware of the significant advantage of the agricultural sector, it still requires large effort to attract the youth to work in the agricultural sector (Abdullah & Sulaiman 2013).

A positive attitude towards rural way of living is a good starting point to stimulate youth' willingness to remain in the rural area; this relationship has received substantial empirical support to increase youth' intention toward working in agriculture (Yazdanpanah et al. 2015).

The previous study conducted by Bavorova et al. (2018) in Altai Krai Region, Russia has found that more than half of the respondents (59.53 %) have an attraction to the rural way of living in case of satisfactory economic and social conditions in rural areas, 29.24 % of them have not an attraction to the rural way of living, and 11.23 % of them have an attraction to the rural way of living.

iii. Parents' opinion

Parents are among the most frequent and important source of help and advice in youth' career choices, and they represent the primary source of help in preparing for further education and work and has been said to be a major factor influencing the career choice of youth (Adedapo et al. 2014; Furlong 1993).

Family with a background in agriculture oftentimes has an impact on youth' decision to major in agriculture and the students more likely to take up their parents' career path (Wildman & Torres 2001).

Miller et al. (2011) found that 54 % of students were influenced in their career choice by their parents. This may be because students' knowledge of jobs is based on the jobs of their parents and other adults in their lives (Wildman & Torres 2002).

According to the study results done by Adedapo et al. (2014) the regression analysis result validates the significant relationship between the influence of parents on the choice of agriculture as a course and profession among youths in the University, where 56.25 % of respondents had strong influence on career choice by parents' influence.

Onuekwusi and Ijeoma (2008) found that 74 % of students evaluated their parents as an important factor influencing on their career decision especially those students from a farming background.

In Syria, rural villages usually consist of cohesive societies, where everyone recognizes each other. The neighbourhood is likely to consist of family members and long-time family friends whose children you grew up playing with and with whom you have established a close friendly relationship. Therefore, fair to assume that rural youth perceptions of farming as a career and their interest to work as a farmer will be greatly influenced by parents (Noorani 2015).

iv. Friends' influence

Another important factor in making a decision on career on choosing agriculture as a career possibly comes from the friends who talk about going to University and to pursue other careers, for instance, engineering and medicine, while agriculture is not often presented as a progressive and innovative industry (Hamill 2012; Esters & Bowen. 2004).

The factor that contributed to the negative friends' perceptions of farming was the tedious and monotonous lifestyle of a farmer, agreeing that working as a farmer requires, probably more than in any other jobs in any other field, hard work and patience, very little returns, making the farming life unattractive, where youth want more out of life than just getting feed; they want to earn enough to be able to afford other services and to buy new stuff which just arrived in the market (Noorani 2015).

Friends with information about faculties are sought for guidance and serve as an influence on their friends. Studies examining the faculty choice process have found this to be true (Barkley & Parrish 2005; Donnermeyer & Kreps 1994).

Adedapo et al. (2014) found that 40.40 % of agricultural students were affected of career choice by their friends.

v. Farming experience

The vast majority of students remain less familiar with preparation for a career in agriculture, this poses problems in the process of selecting agricultural students (Gilmore et al. 2006; Scott & Lavergne 2004), and many new students at Faculties of Agriculture enter without sufficient information about employment opportunities in the agriculture sector (Esters 2008). Many students continue to make their career decisions in agriculture without actively engaging in career exploration and without vast knowledge about careers in the agriculture sector (Esters 2007). It is assumed that students should be more aware about job opportunities within the agriculture sector and that they should be steered through interaction with notable in the agriculture profession (Jones & Larke 2003).

Adedapo et al. (2014) found that 56.67 % of students did not have agriculture experience before entering the University. Contrarily, Adebo and Sekumade (2013) found that 59.36 % of respondents had agriculture experience before entering the University.

vi. Gender influence

There are visible differences among the career choices of gender (Payne 2003). According to Russell et al. (2010) and Dorsett and Lucchin (2014), there are regularities in professional choice by gender in market trajectories among groups of youth. Females receive direct or indirect messages from their families regarding preferred occupations based on gender criteria (Fouad et al. 2008). It is not unexpected that daughters are less inclined to take over the family farm as a successor (Mann 2007).

The agriculture problem intensifies due to the gender label in this profession and can persist over a long period (Furlong & Biggart 1999).

According to Forsythe et al. (2010), Odejide et al. (2006), and Krueger and Rieseberg (1991), the agricultural profession is considered more suitable for males due to the perceived requirement of physical strength needed to perform practical and experimental tasks of the subject. In contrast, studies have shown that male and female have different styles when it comes to choosing a career (Kim 2009). Adisa (2016), Bello et al. (2015) found that gender had no significant influence to take agriculture as an occupation.

Lehberger and Hirschauer (2015) indicate that participating men are more inclined to pursue a farm manager position than participating women.

1.2.4. Agricultural situation in Syria

Historically, agriculture provided the main basis for economic activity in Syria. However, the agricultural sector has continued to be significant in economic activity and has supplied a source of employment the main portion of the GNP. After 2000, the contribution of agriculture to the GNP noticeably decreased, reaching 17.6 % in 2010 (FAO 2003). In Syria, the main production units in Syrian agriculture are small- and medium sized farmers, the agrarian reform caused the practical disappearance of traditional large-scale landowners (FAO 2003).

The elasticity of the Syrian economy despite the crisis can be attributed in large part to the agricultural sector, even by late 2015, the agricultural sector maintains 50 % of the food supply in Syria (FAO Representation in Syria 2016), and still represents an estimated 26 % of GDP and represents a safety approximately 6 million Syrians - including those internally displaced who still in rural areas (FAO 2017).

The current agricultural reality does not bode well, agriculture is linked to the economy and in the absence of its feasibility or difficulty of agriculture system, and farmers will search for other resources for living (Harmoon Center 2017). The unwillingness to work in agriculture is closely linked to economic policies, a large part of citizens moved to work in different services, for instance, selling bread, fuel stations, and side services are the result of a lack of real employment (FAO 2018). Before the outbreak of the crisis in 2011, the sector was a source of livelihood opportunities for half of the population (FAO 2016: 1). After 2011, Syrian agricultural sector was one of the key sectors that suffered significant losses, leading to a collapse in most of the agricultural systems that were built during the last 40 years (Jaafar & Ahmad 2015).

The Syrian Arab Republic has reached self-sufficient in pre-conflict period in some crops, such as wheat and pulses, cotton, vegetables and fruit. There are some cases of surplus production, however, local production of crops for sugar industry, vegetable oils and some types of red meat, not enough to meet domestic demand, add to that an increase in corn imports for use in poultry feed (NAPC 2003). In 2015, food production has dropped by 40 % compared to pre-conflict levels and is at a record low (WFP 2016).

The longer Syrian farmers are away from their land—the longer the habits and rhythms of agricultural life are disrupted and the more their land and other assets are degraded and became the less likely they will be able to return, or that they will be able to make a success of farming if they return (GCPFG 2018). Today, non-internally displaced people households still living in rural areas continue to depend on agriculture as their main livelihood (FAO 2017).

1.2.5. Agriculture labour in Syria

In Syria, 46 % of Syrians (10 million, including children and others not actually working in agriculture) were resident in the rural areas, and 80 % of those, were sustained by income from agricultural work (World Bank 2018).

The percentage of agriculture labour force from the total labour force diminished from 30.4 % in 2001 to 22.6 % in 2005 and 14.6 % in 2019 (Central Bureau of Statistics in Syria; UNDP 2008; World Bank 2019).

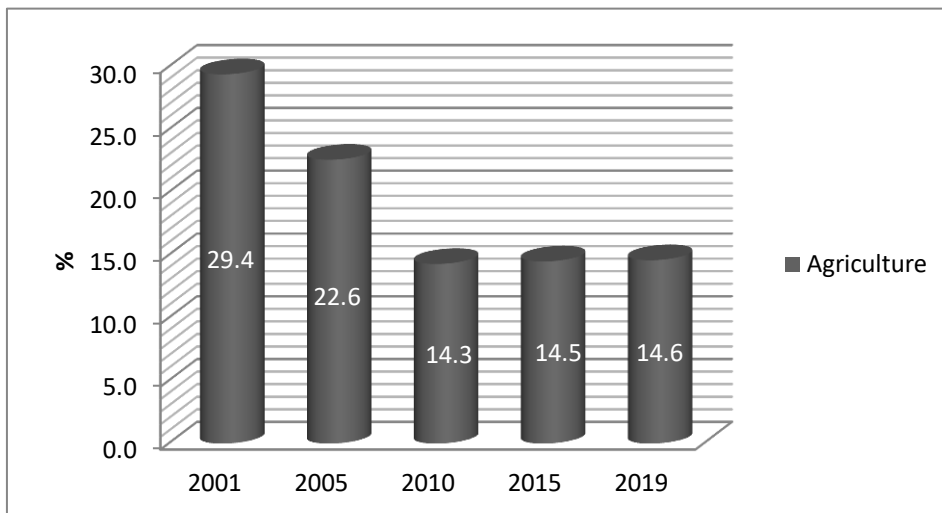


Figure 1: Workers in agriculture of total workforce for year (2001-2019) (%)

Source: Author based on CBS data (2001-2019)

The shares of total employed females working in agriculture are high relative to other sectors and in particular represents a large share of seasonal agricultural workers, who in turn largely come from low-income households (Fiorillo & Vercueil 2003). The significant decline of agricultural employment in 1999 by 23.5 % was mostly accounted for by declines in female agricultural employment. Women’s share in Syrian agricultural labour force decreased from 61.99 % in 2000 to 13.39 % in 2019 (World Bank 2019).

The transformation spurred by Syria’s agricultural intensification programme, initiated in 1975 and included large-scale land reclamation projects, new labour-intensive crops, enhancing production techniques, and irrigation development, especially since 2000. These developments required changes in labour requirements due to various factors, including urbanization and migration from the conflict areas, led to the gender division of labour and social and family roles in Syrian rural areas, resulted in gender asymmetric changes in labour supply and demand (FAO 2011; Table A4; AOAD 1975).

2. Objectives and Questions

2.1. Main objective

The main objective of the study was to assess the factors influencing intention to work in agriculture among agricultural students at Tishreen University and provide policy recommendations based on the findings.

2.2. Specific objectives

- To investigate the respondents' attitudes towards agriculture and prestige of agriculture.
- To explore the impact of respondents' socio-economic factors (gender, father's occupation, mother's occupation, farming experience, etc.) on their intention to work in agriculture.
- To examine the influence of contentment to the rural way of living on the intention to work in agriculture.
- To examine the influence of parents' opinions regarding agricultural job on the intention to work in agriculture.
- To examine friends' influence regarding studying agriculture on the intention to work in agriculture.

2.3. Research question

These objectives are translated into the following research question:

"What are the major influences that either encourage or discourage from being attracted to agriculture as an occupation?"

3. Hypotheses

H₁: Being male increases the probability of students to intend to work in agriculture.

H₂: Father' occupation as farmer increases the probability of students to intend to work in agriculture.

H₃: Mother' occupation as farmer increases the probability of students to intend to work in agriculture.

H₄: Increasing family income increases the probability of students to intend to work in agriculture.

H₅: Family ownership of agricultural land increases the probability of students to intend to work in agriculture.

H₆: Future living of respondents increases the probability of students to intend to work in agriculture.

H₇: Farming experience increases the probability of students to intend to work in agriculture.

H₈: Contentment to the rural way of living increases the probability of students to intend to work in agriculture.

H₉: Parents' opinions in regard to the agricultural job increase the probability of students to intend to work in agriculture.

H₁₀: Friends' influences on studying agriculture increase the probability of students to intend to work in agriculture.

4. Methodology

4.1. Study area

Lattakia is a major Syrian city located on the Mediterranean Sea. The region is dominated by a mild Mediterranean climate characterized by mild rainy winters and a hot humid summer. Characterized by natural forests, abundant orchards, irrigated plains, where agricultural conditions are better than other cities. According to the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics in 2019 the population estimated in Latakia city at 13.720 inhabitants.

The study was carried out at Tishreen University Faculty of Agriculture, Latakia. It is the third-largest university in Syria. It was established on 20 May 1971. In the beginning, the university only had three faculties: The Faculty of Arts and Humanities, The Faculty of Sciences, and The Faculty of Agriculture and an enrollment of nine hundred eighty-three students during the 1970s. The university has expanded and offered to include in addition to colleges and specialized institutes a group of establishments such as specialized hospitals (Al-Assad Hospital and University Hospital), the School of Nursing and the Center for Electronic Computers, and recently opened open education, providing a new opportunity for all who wish to pursue their university studies in a distinct academic atmosphere. Tishreen University hosts many students from all over Syria especially from Tartous and Latakia.

The Faculty of Agriculture at Tishreen University is part of the higher education system. It works to achieve the general objectives of the State through the opening of agricultural colleges in the country, in order to develop the agricultural sector in both its vegetative and animal sectors. Through the graduation of competent and qualified staff to lead the agricultural sector, work to develop it, and the dissemination of agricultural culture and localization to ensure the sustainable development of the country. The Faculty includes several departments:

- Department of Soil and Water Science.
- Department of Food Science.
- Department of Agricultural Economics.
- Department of Rural Engineering.

(Tishreen University, Available form www.tishreen.edu.sy)

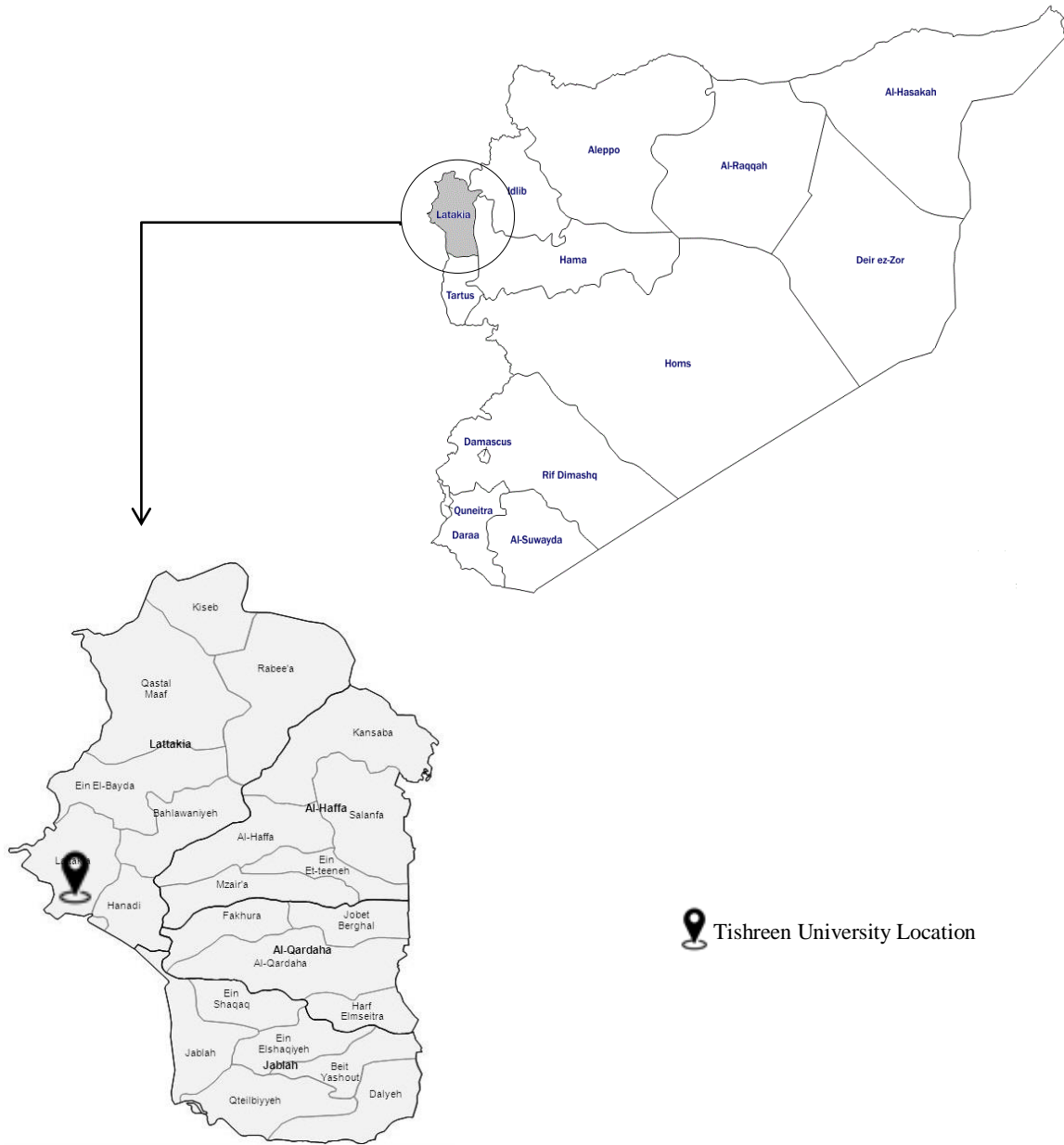


Figure 2: Latakia governorate, Tishreen University location

Source: Own compilation

4.2. Research instruments

The structured questionnaire (included in Annex 1) was used to collect data in this research. The questionnaire was designed according to previous studies focusing on similar issues (Bavorova et al. 2018; Adedapo et al. 2014; Bello et al. 2015).

A questionnaire included open questions and multiple-choice questions. The total number of questions is nineteen. The questionnaire was divided in sections as follows:

- ✓ Section A: Parents' opinion
- ✓ Section B: Friends' influence
- ✓ Section C: Attitudes towards agriculture
- ✓ Section D: Agriculture prestige
- ✓ Section E: Willingness to work in agriculture in the future
- ✓ Section F: Contentment to the rural way of living
- ✓ Section G: Location
- ✓ Section H: Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

4.3. Target population and sampling techniques

The target population for this study comprised agricultural students at Tishreen University – Latakia, representing different geographic areas in Syria. The Syrian coast (Latakia and Tartous) and other cities of Syria (Hama, Homs, Idlib, etc...).

The convenience sampling technique was used to select the respondents from Tishreen University - Faculty of Agriculture.

4.4. Data collection

The survey was carried out at the Faculty of Agriculture at Thisreen University - Latakia on the period 23th-29th of September 2018 and 2nd – 22nd of September 2019.

The questionnaire was pre-tested with students in September 2018 and amended based on the comments.

The researcher carried out the face-to-face, pen and paper interviews in Arabic language. One hundred sixty-six questionnaires were distributed and one hundred fifty questionnaires were valid to analyze. Students were approached at the Faculty of Agriculture during lectures and in the corridor.

4.5. Data analysis

Collected data were coded and transmitted into an electronic database and statistically analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package of social sciences) and Excel software. Descriptive statistics including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations were used to describe the data. Binary logistic regression used to depict the factors influencing the youth intentions to work in agriculture. The model was tested by multicollinearity diagnostic. The binary regression model is specified as follow (James et al. 2013):

$$Y = \text{Ln} \left(\frac{P}{1 - P} \right)$$

$$\text{Ln} \left(\frac{P}{1 - P} \right) = b_0 + b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 \dots + b_5 x_5 + e$$

Where:

Y = Dependent Variable (Yes = 0, No = 1)

P = Probability of the event Y (Probability of intention to work in agriculture)

Ln = Natural logarithm function

b₀ = Constant

b₁-b₆ = Regression coefficients

x_1-x_5 = Explanatory variables

e = Stochastic error term to introduce all of the variation in Y that cannot be explained by the included X

$P_{/1}$ = Odd ratios (odd in favour to work in agriculture)

Table 1: Description and measurement of the study variables used in binary logistic regression model

Study variable	Description and categories
<i>Dependent variable</i>	
Intention to work in agriculture	0- Yes 1- No
<i>Socio-economic</i>	
Gender of respondents	0- Male 1- Female
Father's occupation	0- Agriculture 1- Not agriculture
Mother's occupation	0- Agriculture 1- Not agriculture
Family income	0- Less than 80Thu SY 1- 81-100Thu SY 2- More than101Ths SY
Family ownership of agricultural land	0- Yes 1- No
Future living	0- Large city (more than 100.000 inhabitants) 1- Medium city (more than 10Tthu inhabitants) Village (up to 10 Thu inhabitants)
Farming experience	0- Yes 1- No
Contentment to the rural way of living Attraction to the rural way of living	0- Yes 1- No 2- Yes, in case of satisfactory economic and social conditions in rural areas
<i>Parents' opinion regarding agricultural job</i>	Strongly disagree (1); Disagree (2); Neutral (3); Agree (4); Strongly agree (5)
<i>Friends' influence regarding studying agriculture</i>	Strongly disagree (1); Disagree (2); Neutral (3); Agree (4); Strongly agree (5)

4.5.1. Multicollinearity

The binary regression model was tested for the presence of multicollinearity using a Tolerance and VIF (Variance Inflation Factor). Multicollinearity occurs when there are high intercorrelations among some set of predictor variables (Leech et al. 2005).

Tolerance and VIF give the same information. Commonly used cut-off points for determining the presence of multicollinearity, the value of tolerance less than 0.10, or a VIF value of above 10 (Pallant 2007).

Tolerance is an indicator of how much the variability of the specified independent is not explained by the other independent variable and is calculated using the formula

$$\text{Tolerance} = 1 / \text{VIF}$$

If the Tolerance value is low ($< 1 - R^2$) where R^2 is the value obtained by regressing model, then there is probably a problem with multicollinearity (Leec et al. 2005).

5. Results

5.1. Descriptive statistics

The majority of the respondents (60.7 %) were female, while 39.3 % of them were male (Table 2). Most of the respondents (66 %) had intention to work in agriculture, while 34 % of them did not have intention to work in agriculture.

Respondents who had intention to work in agriculture had a vision about their various careers choices in agricultural fields, where 17.3 % of them want to work in private farm, 14 % of them want to be a manager for a small farm, 7.3 % as a manager of a large farm, 6 % as fertilizers, and 21.3 % other positions. While respondents who did not have the intention to work in agriculture, they prefer to work in other fields such as media, art, IT etc.

As shown in Table 2, the majority (84 %) of respondents' fathers' main occupation was not agriculture. 89.3 % of mothers of the respondents were not practicing agriculture as a main occupation. 14.7 % of respondents' family income was more than 101 Thousand SY, 43.3 % between 81-100 Thousand SY, and 42 % less than 80 Thousand SY.

Table 2 presents that the majority of respondents' families (56 %) own agricultural land.

58 % of the respondents answered that they wanted to live in a large city, 27.3 % of them wanted to live in a village, and 14.6 % of them wanted to live in a middle size city.

The finding revealed that 38.7 % of the respondents have been living in large city (more 100.000 inhabitants), while 36 % of them have been living in middle size city (1001-100.000 inhabitants), and 25.3 % of them have been living in a village (up to 1000 inhabitants).

In regards to farming experience, the result indicates that 60 % of respondents had farming experience. Most of the respondents (40.7 %) obtained farming experience from the family land, while 4 % of them obtained farming experience from training, and 23 % of them obtained farming experience from other sources.

Most of the respondents (49.3 %) were attracted to the rural way of living in case of satisfactory economic and social conditions in rural areas, while 32 % of them were not attracted to the rural ways of living, and 18.67 % of them were attracted to rural ways of living. The results indicate that 42 % of the respondents strongly agree on their parent's opinion that studying agriculture help to find a job, while 42.7 % of them disagree on their friends' influence to study agriculture.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics of variables used in the model, N=150

Question code	Question type	Question text	List of answers	Frequency	% of respondents
Dependent variable: Work in agriculture	*MCo	Do you have the intention to work in agriculture in the future?	0- Yes	99	66.0
			1- No	51	34.0
	*MCo	If Yes, in which area should be?	1- Private farm	26	17.3
			2- Farm manager of a small farm	21	14.0
			3- Farm manager of a large farm	11	7.3
			4- Fertilizers	9	6.0
			5- Other	32	21.3
	**OP	If No, in which area would you like to work?	Art	6	4.0
			Fashion	5	3.3
			Graphic	2	1.3
Industry			1	0.7	
IT			6	6.0	
Media			11	7.3	
Schooling			5	3.3	
Trading			6	4.0	
Sailor			1	0.7	
Beauty			4	2.7	
Medicine	2	1.3			
Translation	2	1.3			
Gender	*MCo		0- Male	59	39.3
			1- Female	91	60.7
Father's occupation	*MCo	What is your father's occupation?	0- Agriculture	24	16.0
			1- Not agriculture	126	84.0
Mother's occupation	*MCo	What is your mother's occupation?	1- Agriculture	16	10.7
			2- Not agriculture	134	89.3
Family income	*MCo		0- Less than 80 Thu SY	63	42.0
			1- 81-100 Thu SY	65	43.3
			2- More then101Thu SY	22	14.7

Our family owns agricultural land	*MCo		0- Yes	84	56.0
			1- No	66	44.0
Future living	*MCo	In future, I wanted to live in	1- Large city (more than 100.000 inhabitants)	87	58.0
			2- Middle size city (more than 10Thu inhabitants)	22	14.7
			3- Village (up to 10 Thu inhabitants)	41	27.3
Where have you been living in the largest part in your life	*MCo		1- In a village (up to 10 Thu inhabitants)	38	25.3
			2- In middle size city (1001-100.000 inhabitants)	54	36.0
			3- in a larger city (more 100.000 inhabitants)	58	38.7
Farming experience	*MCo	Do you have experience with work in agriculture?	0- Yes	90	60
			1- No	60	40
	**OP	If Yes, from where you have practised experience?	1- My family has a farm	61	40.7
			2- Training courses	6	4.0
			3- Other	23	15.3
Contentment to the rural way of living	*MCo	Attraction to the rural way of living	0- Yes	28	18.7
			1- No	48	32.0
			2- Yes, in case of satisfactory economic and social conditions in rural areas	74	49.3
Parents' Opinion regarding agriculture	*MCo	According to my parents, studying agriculture helps me to find a job in the future	1. Strongly disagree	6	4.0
			2. Disagree	19	12.7
			3. Neutral	10	6.7
			4. Agree	52	34.7
			5. Strongly agree	63	42.0
Friends' Influence regarding studying agriculture	*MCo	Friends inspired me to study agriculture	1. Strongly disagree	37	24.7
			2. Disagree	64	42.7
			3. Neutral	17	11.3
			4. Agree	20	13.3
			5. Strongly agree	12	8.0

*MCo: multiple choices, one answer

Source: own survey

The results in Table 3 revealed ages and family members of respondents in the sample, The minimum age of the respondents was 20 years, while 28 years was the maximum age. The minimum family members were 3 members, while 9 members were the maximum.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of age and number of family members

Question text	Question Type	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std.Deviation
Age	**OP	20	28	23.08	1.87
Number of family members	**OP	3	9	4.89	1.38

**OP: Open question

Source: own survey

The results in Figure 4 provide numbers of respondents according to their place of origin in Syria, 34 % respondents originated from Tartous, 32 % from Latakia, 19.3 % from Idlib, 12 % from Hama, and other respondents from other cities Aleppo, Deir Ezzor, Homs, and Al-Raqqah.

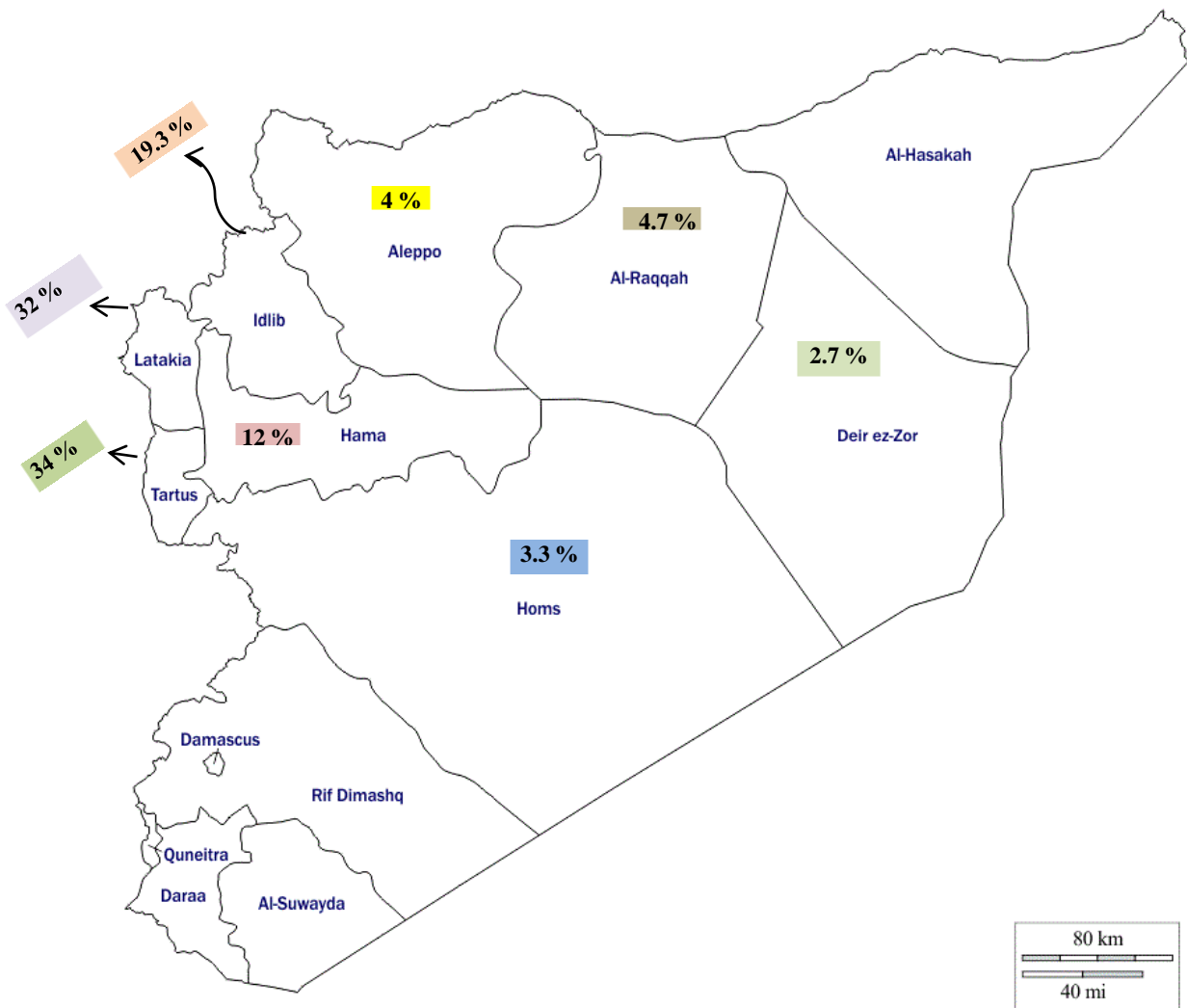


Figure 4: Map of Syria Shows the percentage of respondents based on their place of origin

Source: own survey

5.2. Attitudes towards agriculture

The result in Table 4 provides descriptive statistics of respondents' attitudes towards agriculture. The results indicated that 35.3 % of respondents strongly disagree with the statement that agriculture is dirty work, 46 % of them disagree with the statement that agriculture is low-income work, 44.7 % of them agree that agriculture is hard work, 44 % of them agree that agriculture is time-consuming work, while 54.3 % of the strongly agree that agriculture is important work for society, 54 % of them strongly agree that agriculture is agriculture work close to nature. The majority of respondents disagree with the statement that agriculture is men work and suitable to people with low education.

Table 4: Descriptive statistics of respondents' attitudes towards agriculture

Question text	Question Type	List of answers	Frequencies	% of respondents
Dirty work	*MCo	1- Strongly disagree	53	35.3
		2- Disagree	51	34.0
		3- Neutral	22	14.7
		4- Agree	16	10.7
		5- Strongly agree	8	5.3
Low-income work	*MCo	1- Strongly disagree	24	16.0
		2- Disagree	69	46.0
		3- Neutral	20	13.3
		4- Agree	24	16.0
		5- Strongly agree	13	8.7
Hard work	*MCo	1- Strongly disagree	18	12.0
		2- Disagree	26	17.3
		3- Neutral	18	12.0
		4- Agree	67	44.7
		5- Strongly agree	21	14.0
Time-consuming work	*MCo	1- Strongly disagree	10	6.7
		2- Disagree	14	9.3
		3- Neutral	29	19.3
		4- Agree	66	44.0
		5- Strongly agree	31	20.7
Important work for society	*MCo	1- Strongly disagree	19	12.7
		2- Disagree	8	5.3
		3- Neutral	13	8.7
		4- Agree	42	28.0
		5- Strongly agree	68	45.3
Work close to	*MCo	1- Strongly disagree	5	3.3
		2- Disagree	15	10.0
		3- Neutral	9	6.0

nature		4- Agree	81	54.0
		5- Strongly agree	40	26.7
Men work	*MCo	1- Strongly disagree	57	38.0
		2- Disagree	63	42.0
		3- Neutral	18	12.0
		4- Agree	2	1.3
		5- Strongly agree	10	6.7
Suitable for people with low education	*MCo	1- Strongly disagree	36	24.0
		2- Disagree	49	32.7
		3- Neutral	14	9.3
		4- Agree	33	22.0
		5- Strongly agree	18	12.0

*MCo: multiple choices, one answer

Source: own survey

5.3. Comparison between female and male attitudes towards agriculture

Descriptive statistics (Tables 5) were used by extracting the average and standard deviation for male and female (on the Likert scale 1-5) for their responses to the questionnaire expressions related to the attitudes towards agriculture. To determine values of the 5-point Likert type scale, the range is calculated by $(5 - 1 = 4)$, then divided by five as it is the greatest value of the scale $(4 \div 5 = 0.80)$. Afterwards, number one which is the least value in the scale was added in order to identify the maximum of this cell.

The values are determined below:

- From 1 to 1.80 represents (strongly disagree).
- From 1.81 until 2.60 represents (disagree).
- From 2.61 until 3.40 represents (uncertain).
- From 3:41 until 4:20 represents (agree).
- From 4:21 until 5:00 represents (strongly agree).

Female attitudes towards agriculture

Dirty work. The results (Table 5) of the study indicated the average answers was 2.23, indicating that female disagree on this statement.

Low income work. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 2.38, indicating that female disagree on this statement.

Hard work. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 3.19, indicating that female uncertain on this statement.

Tim-consuming work. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 3.40, indicating that female uncertain on this statement.

Important work for society. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 3.88, indicating that female agree on this statement.

Work close to nature. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 3.71, indicating that female agree on this statement.

Men work. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 2.15, indicating that female disagree on this statement.

Suitable for people with low education. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 2.69, indicating that female uncertain on this statement.

Male attitudes towards agriculture

Dirty work. The results (Table 5) of the study indicated the average answers was 2.15, indicating that male disagree on this statement.

Low income work. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 2.71, indicating that male uncertain on this statement.

Hard work. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 3.44, indicating that male agree on this statement.

Tim-consuming work. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 3.93, indicating that male agree on this statement.

Important work for society. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 3.85, indicating that male agree on this statement.

Work close to nature. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 4.22, indicating that male strongly agree on this statement.

Men work. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 1.88, indicating that male disagree on this statement.

Suitable for people with low education. The results of the study indicated the average answers was 2.51, indicating that disagree on this statement.

Table 5: Comparison between female and male attitudes towards agriculture

Question text	Std. deviation	Average	Direction of inquiry	Std. deviation	Average	Direction of inquiry
	<i>Female</i>			<i>Male</i>		
Dirty work	1.23	2.23	Disagree	1.14	2.15	Disagree
Low-income work	1.12	2.38	Disagree	1.22	2.71	Uncertain
Hard work	1.29	3.19	Uncertain	1.22	3.44	Agree
Time-consuming work	1.22	3.40	Uncertain	0.85	3.93	Agree
Important work for society	1.37	3.88	Agree	1.37	3.85	Agree
Work close to nature	1.10	3.71	Agree	0.79	4.22	Strongly agree
Men work	1.27	2.15	Disagree	0.91	1.88	Disagree
Suitable for people with low education	1.39	2.69	Uncertain	1.33	2.51	Disagree

Source: own survey

5.4. Agriculture Prestige

The result in Figure 3 provides the perception of respondents regarding agricultural prestige. 42 % of respondents consider that agricultural work had medium prestige in the society, while 38 % of them consider that agricultural work had low prestige in the society, and 20 % of them consider that agricultural work had high prestige in the society.

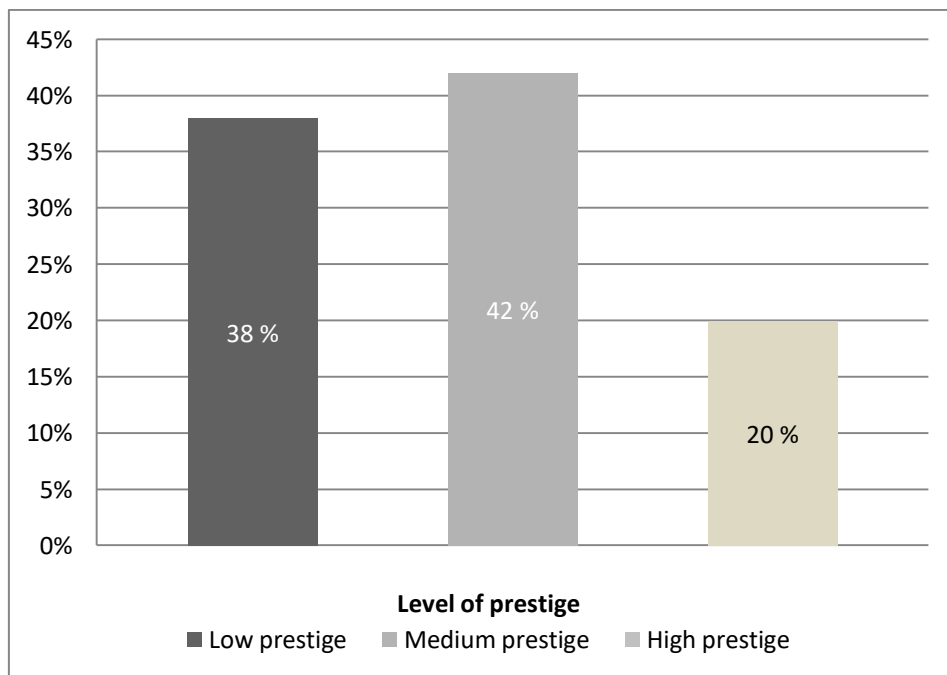


Figure 3: The perception of respondents regarding the prestige of agricultural occupation

Source: own survey

5.5. Estimate binary logistic regression of factors effecting intention to work in agriculture

Logistic regression was conducted to explore whether the predictor variables (Table 1) significantly predicted whether or not students have the intention to work in agriculture.

The Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients (Table 6) indicates that, when we consider all predictors together, the Model or equation is significant $\chi^2 = 63.35$, $N = 150$, $df = 10$, $p < .000$.

Table 6: Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients

Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients				
		Chi-square	df	Sig
Step 1	Step	63.356	10	.000*
	Block	63.356	10	.000*
	Model	63.356	10	.000*

*= significant at $p < 0.01$

Source: own survey

The model as a whole (Table 7) explained between 34.5 % (Cox and Snell R square) and 47.4 % (Nagelkerke R square) of the variance in intention to work in agriculture status, and correctly classified 81.3 % of cases (table 8).

Table 7: Model summary

Model Summary			
Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
1	128.955 ^a	.345	.477

a. Estimation terminated at iteration number 5 because parameter estimates changed by less than .001.

Source: own survey

Table 8: Classification table of binary logistic regression

Classification Table ^a					
Observed			Predicted		
			Would you like to work in agriculture in the future		Percentage Correct
			Yes	No	
Step	Would you like to work in	Yes	88	11	88.9
1	agriculture in the future	No	17	34	66.7
Overall Percentage					81.3

a. The cut value is .500

Source: own survey

The results of the binary logistic regression model (Table 9) revealed that five independent variables made a statistically significant contribution to the model (father's occupation, contentment to the rural way of living, parents' opinion, friends' influence, and farming experience). The strongest predictor of reporting an intention to work in agriculture was farming experience, recording an odd ratio of 27.485. This indicated that respondents who had farming experience were over 27 times more likely to report an intention to work in agriculture than those who did not have the intention to work in agriculture. This result is significant at the $p = 0.01$ level.

The odd ratio of father's occupation indicates that respondents who had a father working as a farmer were over 0.264 times more likely to report an intention to work in agriculture with positive regression coefficient $B = 1.332$. This implies for one-unit increase on father's occupation as a farmer there is an increase in the probability of intention to work in agriculture. This result is significant at the $p = 0.05$ level.

Table 9: Results of logic regression analysis of factors effecting intention to work in agriculture

Factor	B	S.E	P-Value	Odds Ratio
Socio-economic factors				
Gender (being male)	0.749	0.500	0.134	2.114
Father's occupation	1.332	0.700	0.057**	0.264
Mother's occupation	0.189	0.960	0.844	0.828
Family income	-4.468	0.360	0.194	0.627
Family ownership of agricultural land	-0.094	0.456	0.837	0.911
Future living	0.132	0.260	0.612	1.141
Farming experience before entering the university.	3.314	0.562	0.000*	27.485
<hr/>				
Contentment to the rural way of living	-0.751	0.349	0.031**	0.472
<hr/>				
Parents' opinion regarding the agricultural job	-0.505	0.211	0.017*	0.604
<hr/>				
Friends' influence regarding studying agriculture	-0.340	0.199	0.088***	0.712

*= significant at $p < 0.01$, **= significant at $p < 0.05$ and, ***= significant at

Source: own survey

We found that mother's occupation as a farmer, family income, family ownership of agriculture land, future living, and being male had no statistically significant effect on the intention to work in agriculture. The predictors are statistically insignificant.

The odd ratio of contentment to the rural way of living indicates that respondents who were attraction to the rural way of living were over 0.911 times less likely to report an intention to work in agriculture with negative regression coefficient $B = -0.751$. This implies for one-unit decrease on attraction to the rural way of living there is a decrease in the probability of intention to work in agriculture. This result is significant at the $p = 0.05$ level.

The odd ratio of parents' opinion regarding agricultural job (Table 9) was 0.604, indicates that respondents who had a parents' opinion in regard to the agricultural job were over 0.604 times less likely to report an intention to work in agriculture with negative regression coefficient $B = -0.505$. This implies for a one-unit increase in parents' opinion there is a decrease in the probability of intention to work in agriculture. This result is significant at the $p = 0.01$ level.

We found that friends' influence regarding studying agriculture revealed that respondents who had a friends' influence on studying agriculture were over 0.712 times less likely to report an intention to work in agriculture with negative regression coefficient $B = -0.340$. This implies the increase of friends' opinion regarding studying agriculture for one-unit on the intention to work in agriculture will decrease the probability of intention to work in agriculture by the students. This result is significant at the $p = 0.10$ level.

Table 10: Hypothesis testing of factors influencing intention to work in agriculture

Hypothesis	Significant	Not significant	Statistical statement
Being male increases the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture		x	The null hypothesis could not be rejected
Father' occupation as farmer increases the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture	✓		The alternative hypothesis is accepted
Mother' occupation as farmer increases the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture		x	The null hypothesis could not be rejected
Family income increases the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture		x	The null hypothesis could not be rejected
Family ownership of agricultural land increases the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture		x	The null hypothesis could not be rejected
Future living of respondents increases the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture		x	The null hypothesis could not be rejected
Farming experience increases the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture	✓		The alternative hypothesis is accepted
Contentment to the rural way of living increase the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture	✓		The alternative hypothesis is accepted
Parents' opinion in regard to the agricultural job increase the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture	✓		The alternative hypothesis is accepted
Friends' influence on studying agriculture increase the probability of students to intent to work in agriculture	✓		The alternative hypothesis is accepted

Source: own survey

5.6. Qualitative results: reasons to study agriculture?

The aim of the open qualitative question “Explain the main reason why you decided to study agriculture?” in the semi-structured questionnaire was to investigate more reasons of deciding studying agriculture among respondents.

The result in Table 11 shows that the majority of students decided to study agriculture because they want to work in agriculture and to get more experience in an exciting field of business. Also to get more knowledge about agriculture field and they see that agriculture has many career fields in the future.

Five students answered that they decided to study agriculture because they are living in rural areas and their parents are working in agriculture. Twenty seven students answered that they decided to study agriculture because their parents’ influences and friends’ advice, nineteen students answered that they decided to study agriculture because they want to get a job after graduation, where the government is hiring the graduated students from the Faculty of Agriculture in different national installations. Nine students answered that they decided to study agriculture because they had no other option to study another discipline in accordance with the credit (GPA) in Baccalaureate. Two students were answered that they decided to study agriculture because the want to make business which not required high capital relying on their families land.

Table 11: Summary of answers related to the main reason for studying agriculture

Number of respondents	Answers
23 students	Because Syria is an agricultural country and I like agriculture
19 students	To get a job after graduation as a civil servant
9 students	No other option in accordance with me credit in Baccalaureate, because of the high admission rates at the university
11 students	An exciting field of business
5 students	Because I live in rural area and my parents work in agriculture
2 students	Because I love nature and plants and learn about the methods of cultivation and the characteristics of each plant
17 students	My parents advised me to study agriculture to get a job after graduation
6 students	It was my desire to study agriculture since I was a child
3 students	To get more experience in this field
1 student	To get more knowledge about agriculture and have a farm contains several type of plants and develop it with the best agricultural ways
4 students	Because agriculture has many career field in the future
10 students	My friends advised me to study agriculture
2 students	I decided to study agriculture because my family owns a land and I want to make my own business which not required high capital

Source: own survey

6. Discussion

Socio-economic characteristics

First, the descriptive characteristics of the sample are discussed. The results indicate that 66 % of the respondents want to work in agriculture, as 60 % of them have experience in agriculture before enrolling to the university, while 40.7 % of the respondents obtained the farming experience because their families have agricultural land, while the rest obtained from agricultural courses and other sources (See Table 2).

Respondents who have intention to work in agriculture, they have a vision about their various careers choices in agricultural fields, for instance, farm manager of a large farm (7.3 %), farm manager of a small farm (14 %), private farm (17.3 %), fertilizer (6 %), and other fields (21.3 %).

We found that respondents who do not have the intention to work in agriculture, they prefer to work in other field such as; schooling, fashion, media, etc. (See Table 2).

Our results indicate that the majority of respondents' fathers' and mothers' main occupation was not agriculture, which might be because the civil servant profession is a common profession category among the Syrian, where public sector employment represented around 55 % of all employment in 2014 (Joseph 2018).

The results revealed that 18.67 % of the respondents were attracted to the rural way of living that might be due to several reasons, for instance, the transportation problem and the lack of services in the rural areas.

Attitudes towards agriculture

The results show female and male in average do not have perception or attitudes towards agriculture as dirty work and men work (See Table 5). This result is not similar the one was conducted by Sumberg et al. (2019) among high school students in Ashanti Region and Savelugu Senior High School in Northern Region, that indicated youth think working in agriculture is dirty work so they want to be in the city for modern jobs. And also not similar the one was conducted by Shenaifi (2017) at King Saud University that revealed that agriculture work is better suited to male students. In contrast,

Biriwasha (2012) indicated that agricultural work is main work for men because men are stronger than women.

With regard to agriculture as low-income work, we found that there are different attitudes between male and female in average, where males consider working in agriculture will not provide them a good income. The result is not in line to a study was conducted by Jones et al (2017) in the United States indicated that students consider agricultural work as not profitable work.

Female disagree on the statement agriculture as hard work, time-consuming work. The results are not in line to the study was conducted by Jones et al (2017) indicated that students consider agriculture as hard work and they don't like hard work, therefore they want modern jobs.

Our results show that male disagree about the statement "agriculture is suitable for people with low education", while female uncertain in regards to this statement. The results are not in line to the study was conducted by Jones et al (2017) indicated that students consider agricultural work requiring little education.

Binary logistic regression

The results reveal that gender had no significant influence on intention to work in agriculture. This result is similar the one by Bello et al. (2015) Sudan and Adisa (2016) in Ogun State, Nigeria. The results indicated that there is no significant difference between sex variable and work in agriculture. In contrast, the result is not in line to the study was conducted by Lehberger and Hirschauer (2015) at six German universities in 2013. The results indicated that men more inclined to pursue a farm manager position than participating women.

The results in Table 9 reveal that when father's work in agriculture increases the probability of intention to work in agriculture by the students. This result is in line to the one by Jones and Larke (2011) that was conducted on all African American and Hispanic graduates who received a baccalaureate degree in an agriculture-related field at Texas A&M University between May 1990 and December 1997. The results revealed that students were more likely to pursue agriculture career if their father's occupation

was in agriculture, The results are also similar to the result of the study was conducted by Bavorova et al. (2018) in Altai Krai Region, Russia, when the father is a self-employed increase the probability of wanting to work in agriculture after graduation over having a father who works as a business employee or civil servant or is unemployed.

Mother occupation as a farmer had no significant influence on the respondent to work in agriculture, this might be the students are more influenced by their fathers' occupation. The result is in line to the study was conducted by Adedapo et al (2014) in Maharashtra state, India. The results indicated that 75 % of mothers' occupation was housewife, 10 % were government worker, 1.67 % business, 3.33 % no mother, and 9.17 % were farmers.

The difference between the effect of the father occupation and of the mother occupation may be explained by the various types of businesses owned by men and women, where mothers are probably less likely to be managers of private family or businesses connected to agriculture farms than fathers (Bavorova et al. 2018).

The results in Table 9 indicate that family income had no statistically significant influence to take agriculture as an occupation. e result has contradicted with the results of the study was conducted by Adedapo et al (2014) who revealed that there is a significant effect between family income and working in agriculture.

Our finding reveals that when family ownership of agriculture land had no statistically significant influence to take agriculture as an occupation. Students who have a relationship with rural life through land ownership by a family have not carried this connection forward in wanting to pursue a career in the rural areas; these students would typically want to find better work outside the agriculture sector (Bavorova et al. 2018).

The results represented in Table 2 that majority (49.3 %) of respondents were attracted to the rural way of living in case of satisfactory economic and social conditions in rural areas, while 32 % of them were not attracted to the rural ways of living, and 18.67 % of them were attracted to rural ways of living, this result simialr to the study was conducted by Bavorova et al. (2018) in Altai Krai Region, Russia. The result found that

more than half of the respondents have an attraction to the rural way of living in case of satisfactory economic and social conditions.

Regarding parents' opinion on agricultural job the result shows that parents' opinion had a significant influence on students to work in agriculture. This result is in line to the result of the study was conducted by Miller et al. (2011) at The University of Queensland, Adedapo et al. (2014) in India, and Onuekwusi and Ijeoma (2008) in Abia State, Nigeria, towards career in agriculture. This is because students find themselves where they have no choice when guided by their parents.

The result revealed that friends' influence on studying agriculture had a significant influence on students to work in agriculture. This result is similar to the result of the study was conducted by Adedapo et al. (2014) that revealed that 40.40 % of respondents were affected by their profession choice by their friends.

Farming experience before entering the university had a positive significant influence on the students to work in agriculture. This means that students with farming experience are more likely to intent to work in agriculture. This result is in line to the result of the study was conducted by Adedapo et al. (2014) in India and Adebo and Sekumade (2013) at Faculty of Agricultural Sciences in Ekiti State University in Nigeria, that revealed that experience is significant as agriculture is an applied science in outdoor and with this feature, they are likely to create interest in agriculture as an occupation.

6.1. Limitations

- Low number of considerations.
- No statistics regarding the total number of agricultural students studying at the Faculty of Agriculture at Tishreen University could be found.

7. Conclusion and Recommendation

The study was carried out to identify the factors influencing intention to work in agriculture among youth.

The results highlight that the respondents have different attitudes and perception of prestige towards agriculture. Both male and female do not agree that agriculture is dirty work and men work. Female disagree that agriculture is low-income work, while men uncertain with this statement. Men agree that agriculture is hard work and time-consuming work, while female uncertain with this two statements. They have same attitude to agriculture as an important work to the society and work close to nature. There are minor different between male and female attitude towards agriculture as work suitable for people with low education, where male disagree with this statement and female uncertain. The results revealed that the majority of the respondents have medium and low perception of prestige towards agriculture, while a few of them have high perception of prestige towards agriculture.

The results of the regression model reveal that five variables influenced the intention to work in agriculture. Father's occupation, farming experience, contentment of the rural way of living, parents' opinion and friends' influence have importance as has a direct effect on the intention to work in agriculture. Part of the lack of prestige linked to agricultural occupations is the perception that agriculture requires hard work.

Based on the findings, the researcher recommends implementation of counseling program to identify and retain students interested in obtaining a degree from Agriculture Faculty and pursuing agricultural work. Registration of agricultural workers in pension insurance could help to make the work in agriculture more secure and attract youth to work in agriculture. Which help to fill the gap between the local agricultural business that needs an experienced labour force and the Syrian youth who are searching for work.

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Appendices

List of the Appendices:

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Appendix 1: Study questionnaire in English language



Dear students,

*My name is Ibrahim Salman, a student at the Czech University of Life Sciences.
Carrying out a research study for the award of a master's degree*

I would kindly request you to offer your support by responding to the questionnaire accurately and honestly as this will be critical in ensuring objective answers.

This questionnaire will help me analyze students' attitude at the Faculty of Agriculture at Thishreen University towards agriculture as a profession in Syria

Thanks for your time and help!

Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

Section A: Parents' Opinion

1. According to my parents, studying agriculture helps me to find a job in the future

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

Section B: Friends' Influence

2. Friends inspired me to study agriculture

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

Section C: Attitude towards agriculture

3. What do you think of agricultural work?

i. Dirty work

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

ii. Low income work

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

iii. Hard work

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

iv. Time consuming work

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

v. Important work for society

- Privet farm Farm manager of small farm Farm manager of large farm Fertilizers or Trader or Other

If No you do not want to work in agriculture in which area would you like to work?

Section F: Contentment to the rural way of living

6. Attracted to rural life: I am attracted to the rural way of living
- Yes No Yes, in case of satisfactory economic and social conditions in rural areas

Section G: Location

7. Where are you from?

8. Where have you been living in the largest part in your life?

- in a village (up to 1000 inhabitants) in a middle size city (1001-100.000 inhabitants) in a larger city (more than 100.000 inhabitants)

Section H: Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

9. Gender

- Male Female

10. What is your age?

11. Father Occupation

- Agriculture Not agriculture

12. Mother Occupation

- Agriculture Not agriculture

13. Family income

Less than 80Ths SY 81-100Ths SY More than 101Ths SY

14. Our family owns agricultural land

Yes No

15. Number of family members. Please specify

16. Do you have experience with work in agriculture?

Yes No

If yes from where you have practiced experience?

My family has a farm Training courses Other

17. Please indicate the number of following family numbers

Children up to 15 years Retired Youth

18. Future living: In future I wanted to live in

Large city (more than 100.000 inhabitants) Middle size city (more than 10 Ths inhabitants) Village (up to 10 Ths inhabitants)

19. Please explain shortly (1-3 sentences): What was the main reason why you decided to study agriculture?

Appendix 2: Study questionnaire in Arabic language



أعزائي الطلبة،
الاسم إبراهيم سلمان ، طالب في الجامعة التشيكية لعلوم الحياة .إجري دراسة بحثية لدرجة الماجستير
أود أن أشكركم مقدّمًا على ملء هذا النموذج . في هذا الصدد ، أطلب منكم تقديم دعمكم عن طريق الرد على الاستبيان بدقة وأمانة لأن ذلك سيكون حاسماً في ضمان الإجابات الموضوعية. سيساعدني هذا الاستبيان في تحليل المواقف تجاه الزراعة كمهنة في سورية.

شكرا على وقتك ومساعدتك
الجامعة التشيكية لعلوم الحياة ، براغ

❖ القسم الاول: الوالدين Parents

١. وفقا لوالدي ، دراسة الزراعة مهمة تساعدني في العثور على وظيفة في المستقبل

موافق بشدة	موافق	محايد	غير موافق	غير موافق بشدة
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

القسم الثاني: الاصدقاء Friends

٢. الهمني الأصدقاء لدراسة الزراعة

موافق بشدة	موافق	محايد	غير موافق	غير موافق بشدة
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

القسم الثالث:

٣. ما رأيك في العمل كمزارع؟

موافق بشدة	موافق	محايد	غير موافق	غير موافق بشدة	أ. عمل بذي
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
موافق بشدة	موافق	محايد	غير موافق	غير موافق بشدة	ب. عمل منخفض الدخل
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
موافق بشدة	موافق	محايد	غير موافق	غير موافق بشدة	ت. عمل صعب
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
موافق بشدة	موافق	محايد	غير موافق	غير موافق بشدة	ث. عمل يستغرق وقت طويل
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

ج. عمل مهم للمجتمع

غير موافق بشدة	غير موافق	محايد	موافق	موافق بشدة
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ح. العمل بالقرب من الطبيعة

غير موافق بشدة	غير موافق	محايد	موافق	موافق بشدة
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

خ. عمل للرجال فقط

غير موافق بشدة	غير موافق	محايد	موافق	موافق بشدة
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

د. مناسب لذوي التعليم المنخفض

غير موافق بشدة	غير موافق	محايد	موافق	موافق بشدة
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

٤. هل تعتقد أن العمل في الزراعة هو عبارة عن برستيج؟

برستيج منخفض

برستيج متوسط

برستيج جدا

القسم الخامس: الاستعداد للعمل في الزراعة في المستقبل

٥. هل لديك نية للعمل في الزراعة في المستقبل؟

نعم لا

إذا كنت الاجابة (نعم)ترغب في العمل في الزراعة في المستقبل ، أي مجال ترغب ان تعمل؟

مزرعة مدير مدير لمزرعة كبيرة صناعة المدخلات أخرى
خاصة مزرعة صغيرة
والمخرجات الزراعية
(بائع اسمدة او تاجر)

إذا كانت الأجابة (لا) ترغب في العمل في الزراعة في المستقبل. في أي مجال ترغب ان تعمل؟

القسم السادس: الرضا عن طريقة المعيشة الريفية

٦. أنا منجذب لاسلوب العيش في المناطق الريفية

نعم لا نعم في حالة وجود ظروف اقتصادية واجتماعية مرضية في المناطق الريفية

القسم السابع: الموقع

٧. من أي محافظة أنت؟

٨. أين كنت تعيش في الجزء الأكبر من حياتك؟

في قرية (١٠٠٠) في مدينة صغيرة (١٠٠١-) في مدينة كبيرة (أكثر من ١٠٠.٠٠٠ نسمة)
نسمة) (١٠٠.٠٠٠ نسمة)

القسم الثامن: الخصائص الأساسية

٩. الجنس

ذكر أنثى

١٠. كم هو عمرك؟

١١. مهنة الاب

زراعة غير الزراعة

١٢. مهنة الام

زراعة غير الزراعة

١٣. دخل العائلة

أقل من ٨٠ ألف ل.س من ٨١ ألف - ١٠٠ ألف أكثر من ١٠١ ألف ل.س

ل.س

١٤. تمتلك عائلتي أرض زراعية

نعم لا

١٥. عدد افراد الأسرة, يرجى التحديد

١٦. هل لديك خبرة مع العمل الزراعي قبل دخول الجامعة؟

نعم لا

إذا كانت الإجابة (نعم). من اين كنت تمارس الخبرة؟

عائلتي تملك أرض دورات تدريبية أخرى

١٧. يرجى الإشارة الى عدد افراد الأسرة التالية, أفراد عائلتك من

الأطفال حتى سن ١٥ سنة متقاعدين شباب
١٨. في المستقبل أرغب أن أعيش في

مدينة كبيرة (أكثر من مدينة متوسطة (أكثر قرية (حتى ١٠٠٠٠٠ نسمة)
١٠٠.٠٠٠ نسمة من ١٠٠٠٠٠ نسمة)

١٩. رجاء شرح قصير (١-٣ جمل) ماهو السبب الرئيسي, لماذا قررت دراسة الزراعة؟

Appendix 3: Photos documentation during data collection



