

Friday March 25, 2011
For immediate Release

Green Jobs set to improve youth employability in six of Syria's 100 poorest villages

ILO-UNDP workshop trains rural workers on solar water heaters in the Aleppo governorate

BEIRUT (ILO News) – Youth from some of Syria's poorest regions are learning to harness solar energy to improve their living standards in an environmentally sustainable way.

A three-day workshop that starts in Aleppo on Saturday (March 26) will train rural workers on the installation, operation and maintenance of solar water heaters, to enhance their employability in the emerging solar energy sector and to promote the creation of green jobs. This workshop follows a ten-day training in basic plumbing skills.

Young people, aged 15-32, from the villages of Mogheirat Shibli, Jafr Mansour and Khan Tokman in the Aleppo governorate will participate. A similar workshop with residents of three more villages will be held in Deir Ezzor in May.

“This training will be very useful for me and provide me with the skills I need to find a job,” said Mustapha Ibrahim, a participant from Jafr Mansour.

The ILO-UNDP training is part of a joint UN programme launched in late 2009, entitled “Integrating Community Development for Up-scaling the Millennium Development Goals”, that aims to support the government's efforts to alleviate poverty in the poorest one hundred villages in Syria.

The initiative targets six villages in the governorates of Aleppo and Deir Ezzor to enhance the dairy sector, skills development and employment placement and green jobs. Solar energy has been identified as one of the emerging green sectors in Syria that have great potential for growth and that could provide substantial job opportunities.

This initiative will not only contribute to improved working and living conditions for people in the targeted villages, but that it is also an important step towards promoting environmentally sustainable and decent work in the region,” said Maurizio Bussi, ILO's Decent Work Team Director for the Arab States.

The ILO defines ‘green jobs’ as decent work that reduces the environmental impact of enterprises and economic sectors ultimately to levels that are sustainable or involve jobs that conserve or rehabilitate the environment.

This includes jobs that protect ecosystems and biodiversity; reduce energy, materials, and water consumption through high-efficiency strategies; de-carbonise the economy; and minimise or altogether avoid generation of all forms of waste and pollution.

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