



From Idea to Validation

A Five-Cohort Program Shaping Early-Stage Innovators and Their Ideas

2023 - 2025



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Kingdom of the Netherlands



***“An entrepreneur is someone who jumps off a cliff
and builds a plane on the way down.”***

Reid Hoffman



Director's Welcome Note

Over the past three years, IdeaLab has evolved into a platform where young innovators have learned to refine their ideas, challenge assumptions, and embrace experimentation. Each cycle reflects the commitment of participants who dedicate themselves to developing innovative solutions, connect with trainers and experts who guide them throughout the program.

We promise our community to continue building this journey, and we thank our partners, USEK leadership and the ACIE team for their continuous support and wonderful collaboration. Their engagement has made it possible for IdeaLab to grow, adapt, and offer a rich experience that empowers aspiring entrepreneurs to move from concepts to validated prototypes.

I am proud of every cohort's achievements and look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of our entrepreneurs.

Nancy Saliba

ACIE at a Glance

The Asher Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship serves as a dynamic hub for aspiring and established entrepreneurs within the USEK community and across Lebanon. Through a comprehensive portfolio of programs, workshops, competitions, and mentorship opportunities, the center supports individuals in transforming innovative ideas into scalable and impactful ventures. Guided by its commitment to innovation, inclusion, integrity, collaboration, and sustainable economic growth, ACIE continues to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem and empower youth to lead meaningful change.

01

100+
Startups

02

70+
Active mentors

03

\$5M
Equity
investments

04

5000+
Participants in
ACIE Events

05

120+
Jobs Created

06

350+
Student
Volunteers

IdeaLab Insights

IdeaLab is a 12-week validation program that helps idea-stage entrepreneurs refine their ideas, test their assumptions, and build practical foundations for their ventures through targeted workshops, expert guidance, and structured follow-ups.

1

Concept Initiation

Introduces participants to framing their idea, defining the problem, and shaping a clear value proposition.

2

Market Validation

Equips teams with tools to engage users, test assumptions, and validate real market needs.

3

Prototyping

Guides participants in creating simple prototypes to visualize their solution and gather early feedback.

4

Business Model

Helps teams structure their solution through key elements such as customers, value, revenue, and activities.

5

Pitching

Prepares participants to communicate their idea, findings, and impact in a clear, compelling presentation.

49

Supported
Startups

\$73.5K

In total cash
grants

28

Workshops
conducted

400+

Business follow-ups
delivered

Program Donors



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ACT Smart Innovation Hub is co-funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Lebanon. The Netherlands supports programs that are aimed at strengthening Lebanon's social infrastructure and improving prospects for its people.

Berytech
powering potential

Over the past five cycles of IdeaLab, ACIE has been a key partner in advancing our shared mission of transforming early-stage agrifood and cleantech ideas into viable, impact-driven ventures. Through their dedication to outreach, mentoring, and on-the-ground coordination, aspiring entrepreneurs accessed structured validation, hands-on guidance, and expert coaching across all phases of the program. ACIE's commitment has helped bridge the gap between raw ideas and validated prototypes ready for further development, strengthening the ecosystem's ability to cultivate innovation from university campuses to real-world applications. Berytech extends its sincere appreciation for ACIE's collaboration and commends their continued efforts in empowering Lebanon's next generation of green and food-tech innovators.

Lara El Khoury, Programs Director - Berytech

Cohort 1 - 2023



SoilGuardians

Provides advanced automatic irrigation systems that optimize water use for efficient agritech operations.

Fadi Abboud and Elie Abboud
Agritech



TRACKIT

Offers a user friendly recycling app that incentivizes proper waste sorting and directs users to nearby drop off points.

Christopher Eid and Clarita Sassine
CleanTech



Blu Mdtrn

Implements sustainable aquaculture systems focused on fish, sea urchins, and algae production.

Robert Gaby, Albert Farhat, Mia Majdalany, Tarek Tawil
Agritech



Cigarise

Transforms discarded cigarette filters into durable, sustainable eyeglass frames.

Ralph Omeira and Serena Ghieh
CleanTech



G alGae

Cultivates algae sustainably to produce affordable biofuel and biomass solutions.

Jinane Tannous and Nissrine El Helou
Agritech



Green Ride Junction

Builds solar-powered multifunctional stations for charging e-bikes, securing parking, and supporting urban mobility.

Anthony Al Khoury and Ribal Fakhoury
CleanTech



3aRRRi2

Revives traditional Lebanese Arak with a modern flavor twist, positioning it as a cultural ambassador for younger generations.

Antoine Abou Chaar and Alphonse Abou Chaar
Agritech



CanTalk

Operates recycling vending machines that reward users with mobile credit or data in exchange for tin cans.

Dona Hachache, Rita Abou Rjeily, Maria Abou Rjeily
CleanTech



Cohort 2 - 2023



Lion's Mane

Mitigates lionfish overpopulation by converting the species into food products and handmade jewelry.

Laura Khatib and Samer Lakiss
Agritech



HydroCarbX

Develops hydrogen-based automotive systems that reduce emissions and enhance fuel efficiency.

Fredy Eid and Fadi Eid
Cleantech



Wiggles

Introduces sustainable, high-protein food products derived from worm-based protein.

Wael Yammine, Maria Arakelian and Karen Rizkallah
Agritech



Sip

Offers healthier, additive free instant coffee with rich flavor in convenient packets.

Charbel Ghosn and Mikaella Haddad
Agritech



Bean Burners

Produces eco friendly heating logs using recycled coffee grounds.

Elie El Haddad and Maria El Haddad
Cleantech



Lebanese Agri Connect - LAC

Connects farmers to global markets through consulting and an e-commerce platform focused on sustainable exports.

Alexandra El Khoury and Vanessa Lahoud
Agritech



EVX

Provides a comprehensive digital platform serving electric vehicle users across Lebanon and the MENA region.

Youssef Antoury, Elie El Massih and Charbel Antoury
Cleantech



Lou Mushroom

Grows mushrooms using innovative, sustainable cultivation methods that minimize waste.

Loubna Ajram and Hanan Fakhri
Agritech



REMOLD

Creates affordable, eco-friendly prosthetics using recycled materials.

Joy Imad and Rayan Imad
Cleantech



Honeylicious Treats

Honeylicious Treats offers a 100% pure honey powder, free from additives and preservatives, crafted to address rising health concerns around refined sugar.

Alexandre El Nahry, Alan El Nahry and Georges El Nahry
Agritech



Cohort 3 - 2024



FitFood Innovators

Provides personalized, health focused meal plans through a smart digital nutrition platform.

Emile Eid, Rani Rahbani
Agritech



BattLife

Designs sand based thermal batteries that provide efficient, sustainable water heating solutions.

Celine Sakr, Rayan Saade
Cleantech



AgriSmart

Delivers instant agricultural advice through an AI powered WhatsApp chatbot.

Elie Salloum, Jamal Merhej
Agritech



De Casa

Creates artisanal cheeses and whey protein using eco friendly processes that celebrate local dairy traditions.

Nancy Khalil, Elie Hakmeh
Agritech



Byssus

Repurposes textile waste by collecting, shredding, and transforming fabrics into new sustainable materials.

Elias Charbel Salameh, Lynn Akiki, Diana Al
Hayek, Tony Hayek
Cleantech



MushCo

Makes crunchy, sustainably sourced mushroom chips using innovative processing.

Christina Dirany, Melissa Machaalani
Agritech



Aquavolt

Develops innovative water system technologies and builds strategic partnerships for large scale deployment.

Doris Chaya, Tony Zouein
Cleantech



Nazar

Produces durable, customizable 3D-printed eyeglasses with interchangeable designs.

Eli Sebaaly, Tatiana Maroun Barakat
Cleantech



Vitaminer

Extracts vitamin B3 from nicotine waste, turning industrial byproducts into valuable nutrients.

Labib Nassif, Nour Matta
Cleantech



ReSource

Converts plastic waste into clean, usable fuel through advanced processing technology.

Charbel Bou Doumit
Cleantech



Cohort 4 - 2025



Sapores Del Sud

Creates zero waste solid liquid hybrid soap using upcycled olive oil to eliminate plastic packaging.

Samer Hasbany, Anita Hasbany
Cleantech



Wirestorm

Optimizes wireless infrastructure with AI to reduce energy use, extend hardware lifespan, and cut ewaste.

Ryan Kyrillos, Ramona Bayssari, Chris Kareh, Elie Badari, Elias Cheikh
Cleantech



EZMeal

Delivers ready to heat Lebanese comfort dishes like Moghrabiye and Mouloukhiye, blending convenience with tradition.

Rabih Ammoury, Rebecca Fahed, Maroun Ammoury
Agritech



ForestFolks

Alexis Matar
Agritech



ElectRide

Offers an easy to install e bike conversion kit that makes green transport affordable and accessible.

Georges Sarkis, Marc Zaarour, Paul Zaarour
Cleantech



Fresh Drop Tech

Builds a smart device that monitors food freshness and detects spoilage in real time.

Josiane Bechaalani, Marianne Sakr, Maria Akiki
Agritech



Mashrou3 Protein

Introduces the high-protein mankoushe, merging Lebanese bakery heritage with functional fitness nutrition.

Rawad Mouawad, Anthony Karam
Agritech



DuraPave

Develops durable, cost-effective asphalt using recycled polymers for sustainable road repair.

Celine Karam, Ghida Metlej
Cleantech



Cohort 5 - 2025



HeaTape

Generates clean electricity from temperature differences using a thermoelectric energy harvesting device.

Elio Najjar, Vatche Ghazarian
Cleantech



Jnoun

Produces healthy plant based extruded snack chips using local ingredients and an innovative process.

Fares Murr, Dania Kowetly
Agritech



SIMAR

Runs a digital marketplace connecting farmers and consumers through transparent, traceable, and fair bidding.

Maryse Bou Zeid, Johnny Hanna
Agritech



EcoSense

Deploys AI powered forest monitoring to predict wildfires and enable rapid response.

Christian Abou Daher, Christ Nakhoul
Cleantech



Karabon

Converts carob molasses residue into high-value activated carbon using a zero waste process.

Dimitry Neaimah, Lara Harb
Agritech



CORpu

A natural water purification solution using coriander's heavy metal binding properties to deliver safer drinking water.

Rita Nassif, Perla Naaman, Elias Naddaf
Agritech



SPACIOUS

Provides modular, customizable prefabricated units paired with a digital design platform for fast, sustainable spaces.

Julien Kamar, Nadine Nassar
Cleantech



OViTech

Offers a precision artificial insemination device that improves breeding efficiency in sheep.

Edward Habchy, Georges Habchy
Agritech

Prozap

Prozap

Builds an AI powered pest control device that detects and eliminates pests using precise, chemical free laser technology.

Jana Bashnak, Lara Sobh
Agritech



Syntnum AI

Enables remote monitoring through an offline first mesh network with edge AI.

Roy Mouawad, John Yahchouchi
Cleantech

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Bank of Beirut

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P.A.L.E. Mouat Lebanon

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Norma Marakem



Reine Marie
Zeghondi



Richardos Lebbos



Wael Khalil



Ziad Holeihel

Our Technical Experts



Adib Abboud



Adib Akl



Alain Abi Rizk



Antoine Bou Moussa



Bechara Nehme



Christelle Bou Mitri



Dalida Sneifer



Dany Romanos



Elias Al Sarraf



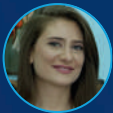
Elias Farah



Georges Mouawad



Hosni Takache



Lea Nehme



Marie Rita Hojeij



Marina Al Ammourey



Nicholas Gholam



Philippe Riachy



Roger Matta



Samar Azzi



Sandy Rihana



Savio Karam



Wael Khalil



Wael Yammine



Walid Harb



Youssef el Rayess



Yves Mansour



Zaher Massaad



I joined IdeaLab while shaping G Algae and turning my vision into a scalable solution. With mentor and community support, I clarified the problem, refined the business model, and took concrete steps toward sustainable nutrition and climate resilience.

JINANE TANNOUS



In a world shaped by uncertainty, incubators help turn distant dreams into achievable goals. IdeaLab provided mentors who challenged my ideas, strengthened my confidence, and helped me believe in my project. Programs like this give young people clarity, purpose, and a rare chance to truly pursue their ambitions.

MARYSE BOUZEID



ACIE came when I needed direction and helped reignite my entrepreneurial drive. The program felt genuinely tailored, the team was supportive in a real and human way, and the guidance continued even after graduation. For me, ACIE was not just a program, but a reset and a community that truly cares.

CHARBEL ABI DOUMIT



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