



# IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY, QUALITY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN FAYOUM

In Egypt, the smallholder horticulture sector, which represents 90 percent of the horticulture production sector, has not been able to keep up with recent technological developments in terms of on-farm water use efficiency, and the application of integrated production and protection management, as the backbone of Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs). Overall, the sector is at risk of losing its competitiveness with a consequent loss in jobs and income for a large number of rural families. In Fayoum Governorate, there were constraints regarding the availability of water per capita and for agricultural use, and the application of agricultural technology, management and inputs, post-harvest technology and facilities, as well as access to market information and linkages. The overall goal of the project was to improve the living conditions of small-scale horticulture farmers in five target villages in Fayoum, by increasing the production, quality and competitiveness of horticultural production through the development and adoption of GAPs.



©FAO/Hamada Soliman

## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project identified five suitable small farmers' associations (SFAs) operating in the five target villages, and strengthened their capacities to serve the community and enhance agricultural development. The marketing capacities of small farmers were improved, and new market linkages were established through capacity building, study visits and contract facilitation. Practices and technologies related to GAPs, on-farm water management and natural resources management (NRM) were introduced through training programmes and field demonstrations, and SFA members were engaged in the maintenance of tertiary canal networks or *mesqas* to improve water productivity. Training and demonstrations on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) raised farmers' awareness on the use of biofertilizers and compost for food safety and human health, leading to a reduction in the use of agrochemicals. In addition, training workshops on gender equality and development were conducted, promoting rural women's participation in agricultural activities, as well as increasing their membership in SFAs.

## IMPACT

The adoption of GAPs, Integrated Production and Protection (IPP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the cultivation of horticultural cash crops led to improved water and soil management, reduced chemical use, and increased productivity and net income for small-scale farmers. The established greenhouse facilities also created job opportunities for women and men as seasonal workers and permanent labourers. In addition, soil fertility and land productivity significantly improved as a result of the project interventions.

## KEY FACTS

### Contribution

USD 747 050

### Duration

March 2017 – February 2020

### Resource Partners

European Union Joint Rural Development Programme (EU-JRDP)

### Partners

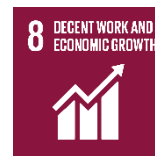
Fayoum Agro Organic Development Association (FAODA), Fayoum University, Faculty of Agriculture (FUFOA), and Union of Producers and Exporters of Horticultural Crops (UPEHC)

### Beneficiaries

1 400 small farmers in five targeted villages in Fayoum Governorate

# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Five suitable Community Development Associations identified, operating in the five target villages, with membership reaching 1 400 small farmers.
- Capacity-building training workshops conducted for SFA board members, including two training workshops on gender equality and development and one training workshop on monitoring and evaluation.
- 15 marketing contracts facilitated between traders and targeted SFAs to sell vegetables produced in greenhouses implemented; and 12 informal contracts established with local traders.
- Training sessions held for 1 400 small farmers at target villages on adoption of GAP, IPM, water management and NRM.
- 462 SFA members supported to maintain *mesqas* on regular basis; these participated in cleaning eight *mesqa* canals, comprising a total length of almost 6 500 metres.
- 95 tonnes of gypsum purchased and distributed to 95 small farmers, and applied on total area of almost 77 *feddans*; and deep soil ploughing conducted over 91.3 *feddans* encompassing five villages.
- Training and practical field days conducted to sensitize 850 small farmers on advantages of using compost as organic fertilizer, including 16 practical demonstrations of compost piles in target villages.
- Five IPM training workshops delivered to 250 small farmers, including pest control and pest management, and use of safe alternatives to pesticide.
- Eight polyethylene greenhouses and eight walk-in tunnels established in the five targeted villages; and 150 small farmers provided with hands-on training on IPP of horticultural crops and production of vegetable seedlings.
- 375 rural women employed as temporary workers in greenhouses and tunnels established, and 500 000 high quality seedlings of eggplant, tomato, pepper, cabbage and cucumber produced, which were distributed to 528 SFA members for cultivation in open fields.
- Six training workshops held for 270 small farmers on advantages of crop diversification towards more productive and higher value horticultural crops.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## Project Code

FAO: GCP/EGY/027/EC

ID Donor: ENPI/2013/024-474

## Project Title

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for sustainable improvement of quality and quantity of horticultural production of small-scale farmers in Fayoum

## Contact

FAO Representation in Egypt

[FAO-EGY@fao.org](mailto:FAO-EGY@fao.org)



Partnerships and Outreach

For more information, please contact: [Reporting@fao.org](mailto:Reporting@fao.org)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

00153 Rome, Italy

©FAO, 2021

CB3660EN/1/03.21