



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## EGYPT AND FAO

### PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The FAO Representation to the Arab Republic of Egypt opened in 1978. Over the years, the Organization has participated in a large range of agricultural and rural development activities targeting Egypt's specific needs. FAO's support includes strategy, policy and institutional development, an example being the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee on food security policy to facilitate dialogue, regulatory measures and strategies, good agricultural practices and South-South Cooperation. The Organization has also taken the lead in supporting investments in agriculture.



Established in 1978, the FAO Representation in Egypt is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

#### Optimizing water management

With FAO's support, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation has identified a cropping pattern for optimizing the use of shrinking water resources and for informing people about climate change risks and response. The Organization has also helped establish a comprehensive monitoring system to forecast climate change-related impacts of rises in sea level on soil and groundwater in the Nile Delta.

Egypt is involved in FAO's Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity in the Near East and North Africa, whereby countries have developed a cooperative strategy for sustainable agricultural water management. As a result, a water accounting system for water consumption and productivity has been put in place at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, and a solar-powered water-lifting technology for irrigation in the Nile Delta has been developed.

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#### Matching FAO's expertise to Egypt's development priorities

FAO assistance in Egypt is shaped by the **2018-2022 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centered on three Government priority areas:

- ➔ **Improved agricultural productivity**, focusing on strategies and plans for small-scale dairy production and agricultural extension; regulations and frameworks of sanitary measures; capacity development of R&D on modern technologies for inland and marine aquaculture production; enhancing Information Management Systems for agricultural policies and food security monitoring; and increased capacities in technology transfer.
- ➔ **Raising the degree of food security in strategic food commodities**, by further developing national strategies and plans for food and nutrition security; reducing pre and post-harvest losses; strengthening agricultural cooperatives; supporting public-private policy dialogues; expanding social protection to rural areas, including small-holder farmers and small-scale fisher folks; and encouraging small enterprises for youth and women.
- ➔ **Sustainable use of natural agricultural resources**, focusing on innovative technologies for water productivity and enhanced climate change adaptation; the water-energy-food nexus and water availability through alternative freshwater sources, water harvesting and use of treated wastewater, and biodiversity management strategies for agriculture.

Jointly developed with the Government and other development partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, including the **Egypt Vision 2030**, the **Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy**, and the **National Water Resources Plan**.

## Policies and national strategies

FAO has supported the Government of Egypt in developing key strategies to guide the sustainable development of agriculture and food security:

- **Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy towards 2030.** This serves as a reference for all UN and donor agencies' agricultural interventions in Egypt. The government is currently reviewing the strategy with technical support from FAO. Related to this is the Forest Policy Framework, which was formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) with FAO assistance, and which led to the development of the Tree and Forest Management Law.
- **National Policy for the Sustainable Reuse of Wastewater in Agriculture.** Formulated and supported with the construction of a pilot wastewater reuse farm at Abu Rawash (northwest Cairo), this policy aims to demonstrate the best options for crop selection, irrigation methods and water management, as well as best agricultural practices.
- **Strategy for the Development of the Date Palm Sector.** Jointly developed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, and the UN Industrial Development Organization, this serves as a reference for any date-palm related interventions in the country.

## Promoting diverse and healthy diets

A successful food security and nutrition project targeting women and youth has brought positive changes to the diets of 2 700 beneficiaries. Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the project aimed to diversify and improve diets, while empowering women and youth with knowledge and skills in horticulture, poultry and small animal husbandry as well as in nutrition. The impact of the project was such that it has been scaled up to enable the women and young people participating to initiate sustainable micro projects, concentrating on small animal husbandry, landless gardening and home-based food processing.

## Global knowledge transfer

FAO has supported Triangular and South-South Cooperation activities between Egypt and five Nile Basin countries, namely Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda. Conducted by the Egyptian International Centre of Agriculture (EICA), in collaboration with the Egyptian Agency for Partnership Development (EAPAD), activities include training in effective sustainable aquaculture, and post-harvest food losses, theoretical and practical lessons, institutional mapping, deployment of Egyptian experts as well as field visits and laboratory tests.

## Focus on institutional capacity

### Transboundary animal disease control

Through the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), FAO Egypt has supported institutional capacity strengthening within the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation. Thanks to a USD 24.5 million USAID-funded project, ECTAD provides emergency response to control and prevent the spread of transboundary animal diseases, particularly those of pandemic and zoonotic importance. ECTAD has built strong and enduring ties with the Ministry through the General Organization for Veterinary Services (GOVS), which supports efforts to strengthen Egypt's Livestock Early Warning System.

"Agriculture and food security are the entry points for growth and development strategies in many countries."

FAO Director-General

### Agricultural investment

Through its Technical Cooperation Programme, FAO supported Egypt in improving agricultural investment. Conducted in December 2017, the Agriculture Investment Forum was a successful event that helped to promote Egypt as an attractive investment destination in both agriculture and trade. FAO's technical audit and assistance in irrigation modernization contributed to improving investments in the sector by ensuring technical adherence to specifications and reduced costs. Further, the joint work of FAO-EBRD on public-private policy dialogue improved grain supply chain efficiency by easing a number of bottlenecks and risks in grain trade, training national institutions and establishing the Egyptian Grain Suppliers Association.

### A new perspective on agricultural cooperatives

FAO's capacity development work with the Ministry supported reform of Egypt's law on agricultural cooperatives. In just one year, several workshops targeted over 300 participants, representing different types of cooperatives from 24 governorates. Successful knowledge exchange resulted from two study tours – to Kenya and France – and a National Dialogue Platform (NPD) for cooperatives was set up and equipped.



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