The European Union is made up of 28 member states who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

The FAO country representation office in Egypt was opened in 1978. Since then, FAO has cooperated and participated in agricultural and rural development activities which respond to the needs of the country. The main purpose of FAO representation in Egypt is to assist the government to develop policies, programmes and projects to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition; to help in developing the country's agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors; and to use its environmental and natural resources in a sustainable way.

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Water harvesting and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for improved livelihood and increased and sustained production in Matrouh rain-fed agricultural areas
In Matrouh, yields of rain-fed agriculture are very low due to the erratic and variable rain fall pattern in the area.

Livelihood in the area depends largely on the rainfall and the different water harvesting structures available, and as such it is a priority to increase the efficiency of runoff water, for human consumption as well as for other agricultural uses, both crops and livestock.

Beside its effect on crop production and productivity, the water scarcity challenges of the area and the erratic highly fluctuating rainfall affects the area’s feed supply for livestock which in turn affect the production and reproductive performances of animals as assessed by the number of offspring per female and per year, body weight and milk yield.

**Concept**

Olive oil – one of the most famous products of Matrouh Governorate
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**Objectives**

Overall objective(s) are: (i) to increase the sustainability and production of rain-fed agriculture in the rural areas of northern Matrouh and (ii) to improve the livelihood of the rural poor in the area.

Specific objective(s) are to scale up water harvesting and crop-related GAPs in rain-fed areas in northern Matrouh.

**Stakeholders**

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR); the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Ministry of water resources and irrigation, Matrouh local government; The Desert Research Centre (DRC) and other research institutions in the area; governmental, non-governmental and civil society organizations; farmers and their household members especially women; and Local businesses, such as nurseries.

**Expected results**

- Baseline socio-economic report and stakeholders’ consultation for beneficiary selection delivered.
- Inventory report of available water harvesting techniques and systems prepared.
- Land use, land cover and topography report for selection of suitable water harvesting measures prepared.
- Water harvesting structures built.
- GAP demonstrations established for olive, fig, almond, barley and wheat crops.
- Livestock production implemented to improve household nutrition.

**Project duration:**

March 2017 - September 2019

**Project funding:**

EUR 960 000
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