CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN EGYPT
In the 1980s, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported the Egyptian government in introducing agricultural policy changes. The idea to create a blueprint for smart and sustainable agriculture has been in the works since the 1980s, but it finally got off the ground with the creation of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy (SADS) between 2008 and 2010, launching a state-endorsed medium-term action plan.

During this period, FAO - through cost sharing arrangements with various United Nations programmes, financing agencies and donor countries - provided assistance in building institutional capacity for strategic planning and efficiency in management.

In the 1990s, FAO focused on building expert systems for improved crop management, the most significant of which is the Central Laboratory for Agricultural Expert Systems (CLAES) developed under the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR). The expert system helps define expert domains suitable for several applications, such as capturing experts' knowledge in a problem domain; coding and implementing products; testing, packaging, and maintaining said products – ultimately helping farmers optimize their use of resources while maximizing crop output.

FAO has notably helped Egypt improve food security since 1997, under the umbrella of its Special Programme for Food Security.
From empowering Nile Basin countries, including Egypt, to promoting conservation and fostering growth through investment, FAO has been working tirelessly during this period to bring several promising initiatives and projects to life.

The organisation is a key orchestrator of the Nile Forecast Center at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI), helping Nile Basin countries take informed decisions related to water policy and management.

FAO was also successful in introducing utilisation practices that improve the quality and feed value of rice straw, addition to encouraging environmental conservation that lure in private-sector investments in it, for ruminant livestock feed and biofuel energy production. In 2001, FAO pioneered roof top cultivation in which a range of vegetable crops was grown in different systems.

FAO’s main focus themes boiled down to nutrition and food security, water scarcity and climate change, natural resources management, control of transboundary animal diseases, fisheries, good agricultural practices, food loss and waste, as well as reforestation.

In addition to finalising SADS 2030 and supporting several agricultural cooperatives, the Food Security Policy Advisory Board was established to enhance food security policy formulation, analysis monitoring and evaluation.

As well, FAO has been helping Egypt combat the Avian Influenza, and Foot and Mouth Disease, in addition to curbing their negative impact.
Supporting agricultural policies and strategies

In addition to the Agricultural Development Strategy (SADS), FAO backed up policies in the fields of sustainable re-use of wastewater in agriculture and established a Food Security Policy Advisory Board (FSPAB) to boost technical and institutional capacities for food security policy formulation, analysis, monitoring and evaluation at the household, national and regional levels.

In collaboration with government ministries, FAO launched strategies that helped reform laws governing agricultural cooperatives, as well as strategies for developing the date palm sector, for waste reduction and eliminating food loss along the value chain.

Agricultural Knowledge Management Networks

FAO supported MALR in developing several information management systems that are still up and running until today, the most prominent of which are:

- The Rural Development Communication Network (RDCON) to improve communication between extension, research and private and public persons and institutions involved in rural and agricultural development; and

- Strengthening of the Horticulture Information Support Network for Small Farmers in Egypt (HORTISUN) to support small-scale producers and market service providers to ultimately contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable rural development.
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Since 1994, FAO has been helping Egypt design and execute three consecutive projects – jointly funded by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the government of Egypt – to achieve sustainable rural and agricultural development.

The first two projects worked on seamlessly integrating education on population and family life into agricultural extension programmes, with a focus on the environment.

Born out of the womb of these projects was a plan to introduce the same approach throughout the new lands. Awareness was heavily spread via television and radio. Such activities yielded a skilled multidisciplinary extension cadre in the field and eventually lead to awareness campaigns in target villages in addition to promoting good practices.

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Women farmers harvesting Molokhia in Fayoum

Green food from green roofs

When Egypt launched an ambitious programme to enable poor families to grow fresh vegetables on rooftops, terraces or patios, FAO provided the necessary technical expertise to make it happen.

This programme was designed to benefit poorer families living in densely populated areas, helping them cultivate food for home consumption as well as creating an additional source of income, which is a perfect setup for stay-at-home women and mothers.

The organisation offered a series of know-how training workshops and crash courses on rooftop gardening. Those who received the training were encouraged to transfer this knowledge to others, and the experts hired by FAO started getting requests to conduct similar trainings for beneficiaries served by other donors, expanding the programme’s scope and reach, and widening its influence.

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Multi-pot system in rooftop gardening
Our priorities and key initiatives

Agriculture remains a backbone of Egypt's food security, and in turn a requirement for bettering employment rates, poverty reduction efforts and empowerment of rural populations. Because of this, FAO's support will focus on the following Egyptian priorities that contribute to 10 out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

**Priority 1: Improved agricultural productivity**

FAO’s contribution to improving agricultural productivity includes strengthening agricultural and veterinary extension services; the enhancement of farmer field-school programmes; increasing the productivity of small-scale dairy farming; enhancing regulation for sanitary and phytosanitary measures; and finally contributing to a solid surveillance, control and early warning system of transboundary animal diseases with special attention to projected climate change impacts.

**Priority 2: Raising the degree of food security in strategic food commodities**

FAO will support the government of Egypt in developing action plans across different sectors to reduce pre- and post-harvest food losses and waste in the agriculture sector; support post-harvest management for smallholder cereal and horticultural producers; strengthen agricultural cooperatives and smallholder producer groups; and strengthen the public-private policy dialogue in the grain sector, as well as review of food loss and waste reduction strategies.

**Priority 3: Sustainable use of natural agricultural resources**

FAO will help in boosting the strategy for increasing water productivity in irrigated agriculture in the old and new lands, as well as newly reclaimed lands; develop a strategy for efficient use and management of water as an adaptive measure to climate change; formulate a strategy for climate change adaptation and natural disaster risk reduction in agriculture; and promote water saving technologies.

Moreover, FAO will support a strategy for capacity strengthening, water and biodiversity management for agriculture, which includes the development of an oasis agro-ecosystem and a map on soil organic carbon. Furthermore, FAO will support Egypt to share its expertise with other African countries through South-South cooperation.
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Paving the way for a #ZeroHunger future

FAO Egypt in its efforts for a zero hunger future will focus on the following SDGs:
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FAO Egypt team
Egypt is a founding member of FAO. It hosted the first FAO regional office for North Africa and the Near East in 1952. Afterwards, in 1978 FAO representation in Egypt was established and a long-term relationship of support started.

To further strengthen relations between FAO and the Egyptian Government, several high level visits took place, the last of which was held by FAO’s Director General in March 2017. During this visit he met with H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, several ministers, Non-Governmental Organizations and FAO project beneficiaries. The visit translated into an Agricultural Investment Forum and support to the Egyptian Government’s 1.5 million feddan project.
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Government of Netherland  Government of Spain

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

European Union  UNFPA

Canadian International Development Agency  JICA
Our partners

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- Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Local Development
- Ministry of Planning, Follow Up and Administrative Reform
- Ministry of Social Solidarity
- Ministry of Supplies and Internal Trade
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation

**Ministry affiliate entities**
- Agriculture Directorates in governatorates
- Agricultural Research Centre
- Agriculture Extension and Rural Development Research Institute
- Central Administration for Agriculture Extension
- Central Administration for Agricultural Cooperatives
- Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research
- Central Laboratory for Date Palm Research
- Desert Research Centre
- Egyptian Food Safety Information Center
- Food Security Information Center
- Food Technology Research Institute
- Foreign Agricultural Relations
- General Authority for Fish Resources Development
- General Organization for Veterinary Services
- General Department of Locusts and Agro Aviation Affairs
- National Nutrition Institute
- National Research Center

**Universities**
- Ain Shams University
- Alexandria University
- Beni Sueif University
- Cairo University
- Fayoum University
- High Institute for Agricultural Cooperation
- Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development
- Kafr El-Sheikh University
- The American University in Cairo
- Zagazig University

**Civil Society Organizations**
- Caritas
- Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services
- Fayoum Agro Organic Development Association
- Horticultural Export Improvement Association
- Institute of Cultural Affairs
- Misr El-Kheir Foundation
- Orman Association
- Fayoum Agro Organic Development Association
- Horticultural Export Improvement Association
- Institute of Cultural Affairs
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- Plan International

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