



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF KHARGA OASIS AGRO-ECOSYSTEMS



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

# CONTEXT & GOAL

A rapid population growth, with its exponential urbanization and extended and intensified unsustainable agricultural sector development (with over-pumping, monoculture, and heavy reliance on synthetic fertilizers) have been the main drivers of land degradation processes including progressive and accelerated salinization, soil and water pollution, soil fertility depletion, and erosion of genetic plant resources. These have further led to increased wind and water erosion and sand encroachment.

This GEF co-financed project will offer local communities and smallholders with the required technical capacities, financial means, knowledge, and institutional support to plan and sustainably manage land, water and agro-biodiversity resources.



Agroforestry practices

## STAKEHOLDERS

(List of organizations/entities arranged by alphabetical order)

**Agricultural Cooperatives**

**Agricultural Directorate  
in El-Kharga**

**Desert Research Centre**

**Egyptian Environmental  
Affairs Agency**

**Irrigation Directorate**

**Local Extension Centres**

**Local farmers**

**New Valley Governorate**

**New Valley University**

**Private sector**

**Water Users Associations**

**Women associations**



# 2

## OBJECTIVES



- Innovative practices & technologies piloted, tested or scaled up by producers to sustainably increase productivity, address climate change and environmental degradation.
- Policies, strategies and investment programmes formulated in support to sustainable agriculture, and address climate change and environmental degradation.

# 4

## ACTIVITIES



1. Strengthening the institutional, management and technical capacities of key stakeholder groups at the Governorate level in order to support the mainstreaming of sustainable management of land, water and agro-biodiversity into development investments.
2. Introducing locally adapted and adopted sustainable soil and Water Management practices leading to the sustainable use of oasis agro-ecosystems.
3. Communicating achievements and lessons learnt of the project in various forms and via different channels.



# 3

## EXPECTED OUTCOME



Improved quality of life for local communities and smallholders – women and disadvantaged in particular - of the Kharga oasis that eventually contributes to sustainable food production intensification and diversified livelihood options.



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Inefficient irrigation system



Solar powered water pumping



# ABOUT GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established in 1992 on the evening of the Rio Earth Summit to help tackle the planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided more than USD 21.1 billion in grants and mobilized an additional USD 114 billion in co-financing for more than 5 000 projects in 170 countries. Through its Small Grants Programme, the GEF has provided support to more than 25 000 civil society and community initiatives in 133 countries.



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Low soil fertility

# ABOUT DRC

In 1950 King Farouk 1st inaugurated the Desert Research Institute, an institute for the exploration of the Egyptian desert in order to evaluate its rich natural resources. It has been administered by numerous institutions and ministries. In 1990, the institute acquired the new name "Desert Research Centre" (DRC) with new structures, laws and bylaws. The centre delivers scientific research and technological activities to serve desert reclamation and development policies in Egypt. Another aim is to serve local and international actors in promoting livelihoods development of communities living in desert areas. The New Valley station of DRC carries out research in support of the agricultural development in the New Valley governorate focusing on water resources, soil management, plant production, animal husbandry, ecology, and socioeconomic studies.

# ABOUT FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (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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Sand creeping at el moneera



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