Project on enhancing crop and livestock production and productivity in new lands through the adoption of innovative climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies

Context

Farmers lack the capacity to adapt to climate change and to adopt more diverse and productive farming systems. This led to a deterioration of conditions and livelihoods in the New Lands. Moreover, the farmers’ knowledge about agricultural practices is theoretical; and therefore real practical guidance to improve water management, soil fertility, plant protection, crop diversification and animal health, increasing crop yields, livestock production and post-harvest added value and meeting the rising food quality standards is required for farmers.

In view of the above, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation in Egypt through its Sustainable Agriculture Investments and Livelihoods project funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), have agreed that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Egypt implements the Project and provides the required technical assistance on their behalf to establish and implement farmer field schools (FFS) effectively for the promotion of innovative and improved climate smart agriculture (CSA) and natural resources management (NRM) practices and technologies.

The Project will be implemented in close collaboration and co-ordination with concerned government line departments at national, governorate and district levels and relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the community level.
**Overall objective**

Improved agricultural production and productivity of 3 440 men and women smallholder farmers and female, male and youth members of vulnerable rural households.

**Expected impact**

The Project shares its impact statement with the development objective of the SAIL Project, namely: “smallholder farmers enabled to enhance their incomes, increase profitability and diversify their livelihoods”; that is in line with Egypt’s Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy 2030.

More specifically, the Project will contribute to FAO’s Strategic Objective: “Innovative practices and technologies piloted, tested or scaled up by producers, to sustainably increase productivity, address climate change and environmental degradation”.

**Expected outputs**

1. National, governorate and community-level stakeholder agencies and organizations demonstrating an increased awareness on the needs of smallholder farming communities in the project areas.

2. The technical knowledge and communication skills of 20 “master trainers” and 60 local community-based FFS facilitators enhanced to effectively promote sustainable CSA and NRM practices and technologies through the implementation of FFS.

3. 172 FFS effectively established and implemented for the testing, adaptation and replication of sustainable CSA and NRM practices and technologies by 2 400 men and 1 040 women smallholder farmers.

4. 172 FFS effectively monitored, evaluated and networked to ensure a continuous learning process for smallholder farmers in the selected governorates.
Main activities

- Review and update existing socio-economic baseline surveys, situation analyses and household needs assessments across the Project’s target villages.
- Identify and train the FFS facilitators in CSA and NRM practices and FFS methodology.
- Identify and train the master trainers in CSA and NRM technologies and FFS approach.
- Implement FFS for women and men.
- Monitor and evaluate the performance of FFS facilitators.
- Create governorate-level databases of FFS established and implemented.
- Support the FFS network to exchange information and lessons learned on a continuous basis.

Geographical coverage

- Kafr ElSheik governorate: Metobous area
- Beni Sueif governorate: Western ElFashen area
- El Minya governorate: Western Samallout area
- Aswan: Wadi ELSayeda, Wadi ELNokra

Funded by: