Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

MODERNISATION OF IRRIGATION TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOODS OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN UPPER EGYPT

Area of work

The project works towards achieving increased crop yields per unit of irrigation water used over time and improved income generation and employment in Assiut, Sohag and Qena Governorates through the promotion of: (i) tested and validated land use consolidation (LUC) approaches, modern irrigation technologies and climate-smart water management (CSWM) practices to men and women smallholder farmers affected by increasing water shortages, soil infertility and plant pests and diseases; and (ii) micro and small agrifood enterprises (MSEs) adding value to and marketing surplus irrigated food production.

Main objectives

The project will contribute to improving the livelihoods and resilience of vulnerable rural people of the Upper Egypt region by increasing agricultural production through the transformation from inefficient conventional individual irrigation practices to collective modern smart irrigation techniques and farming systems.

Expected results (outputs)

1. Suitable modern irrigation technologies and CSWM practices for replication and up-scaling after piloting across different agro-ecologies of Assiut, Sohag and Qena Governorates.
2. Vulnerable smallholder men and women farmers adopting and practicing modern irrigation technologies and CSWM practices and good agricultural practices (GAP) principles under community-based and participatory LUC schemes for sustainably increasing horticultural and field crop production while using water more efficiently.
3. Gender-responsive value chains approach is adopted to support the supply of modern irrigation equipment and CSWM inputs and marketing of irrigated horticultural and field crops and processed agrifood products.
4. An enabling environment created among approximately beneficiaries and institutional stakeholders at community, district, governorate and national levels for the promotion of collective farming systems and modern irrigation techniques through participatory farmer field school (FFS) approaches and enhanced value chains.

Visit by project team and donor to the demonstration field of Fennel in As Sawalim Al Bahariyyah village in Assuit Governorate.

Farmer with his water pump in kom Buha village in Assuit Governorate.

Beneficiaries

The project will provide support to around 11 250 vulnerable smallholder men and women farmers from a total of 45 target villages selected through a participatory process led by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR).

Main highlights (project updates)

So far the project :

- convened several technical coordination meetings with MWRI to review the project activities and align them to the current MWRI strategic priorities and modernization plans for Southern Egypt;
- organized several field missions to inspect the project potential locations with the possibility of establishing a continuous water flow set as a main criterion for the nomination by MWRI;
- held project inception workshop with the participation of various stakeholders from MWRI, MALR, Agricultural Research Centre, National Water Research Centre and donors' community;
- conducted a socio-economic baseline study in the three governorates; and
- developed the project's communication strategy.

FUNDED BY

Netherlands

Geographic coverage:	Project duration:
Assiut, Sohag and Qena	4 Years (November 2022–October 2026)