



# Egypt and FAO

## *Partnering for sustainable food security and climate change adaptation*

The FAO Representation to the Arab Republic of Egypt opened in 1978. Over the years, the Organization has participated in a large range of agricultural and rural development activities targeting Egypt's specific needs. FAO's support includes institutional development, for example assisting in the establishment of an interministerial committee on food security policy to facilitate dialogue on short- and long-term policies, regulatory measures and strategies. The Organization has also taken the lead in supporting agricultural investments.

### **FAO presence in the field**

In addition to its FAO Country Representation, since 1952 Egypt has hosted the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa. The office supports 18 states in the region and helps country offices prioritize policies and draw up national action plans to guide government action to ensure food security and sustainable agricultural development.

### **FAO-sponsored projects**

#### ***Reforming the agricultural cooperatives law***

FAO is providing technical assistance to support reform of the country's agricultural cooperatives law. The project aims to improve the organization of cooperative systems as well as providing small-scale farmers with an enabling environment to help their cooperatives thrive.

*Project: Support to the Reform of the Law Governing Agricultural Cooperatives in Egypt*

#### ***Reducing food losses and waste***

FAO is supporting the Government in its efforts to reduce food losses throughout the grape and tomato value chains. The regional project includes training on methodologies for value chain analysis, and it is expected to improve the inclusiveness of value chains, enable small holders to generate added value, build employment opportunities in the off-farm rural and agro-industry sectors. FAO is also working with the Horticulture and Agricultural Economic Research Institutes for the analysis of tomato and grape losses. Another regional project aims to strengthen capacity among local leaders, managers and extension personnel in

### **Matching FAO's expertise to Egypt's development priorities**

Capacity building is at the top of FAO's agenda in Egypt. This is apparent in the different forms of support, targeting individuals (training) and institutions (organizational development), and creating an enabling environment through appropriate policy and strategies. FAO Egypt also plays an intermediary role in the mobilization of resources with various development partners at the country level.

FAO support to Egypt is focused on four key areas:

- Agricultural information generation, sharing and dissemination
- Improving productivity and efficiency in the agricultural sector
- Sustaining rural community development
- Conserving natural resources and adapting to impacts of climate change

order to build value chain management skills of food producers, handlers, processors, distributors and marketers. A large-scale training programme, including assessments, workshops and study tours, has been implemented.

*Projects: Food Losses and Waste Reduction and Value Chain Development for Food Security in Egypt and Tunisia; Capacity Building for Food Loss Reduction in the Middle East*

### **Targeting women and youth for improved food security and nutrition**

The Organization is supporting a project focusing on four basic strategies:

- Promoting education for nutritious and healthy habits and new approaches to outreach through media, social mobilization, and direct communication with target groups
- Promoting household food production and income-generation activities
- Building capacity and complementary and participatory means to improve food security and nutrition
- Establishing a micro-credit revolving community development fund to which women and unemployed youth can apply by submitting proposals for increasing home-grown food

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## Working together

### *Transboundary animal disease control*

Established in Egypt in 2006, the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) provides emergency response to control and prevent the spread of transboundary animal diseases, especially those of pandemic and zoonotic importance. ECTAD has built strong and enduring ties with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) through the General Organization for veterinary Services (GOVS). It provides a diverse range of institutional capacities to strengthen the Livestock Early Warning System (Investigation & Response, epidemio-surveillance and Laboratory diagnostic capacities) both at central locations and in the field.



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### *Palm date value chain development*

Siwa Oasis has been selected as the nucleus for a project that will pave the way for implementation of the national strategy for improvements in the date palm value chain. The aim is to identify potential varieties that would be suitable for national and international markets, using the best pollinators and implementing genetic collection plantations in order to preserve the genetic resources of indigenous date palms. The project will also build capacity and improve sustainable production, processing and marketing of date palm and products in Egypt.

## Egypt as a focus country for FAO's Regional Initiatives

Egypt is involved in the FAO Regional Initiative on **Water Scarcity in the Near East and North Africa**, launched to help countries coordinate policies, governance and practices relating to management of this strategic resource. Participating countries have developed a cooperative strategy for sustainable agricultural water management, which is proceeding through regional partnerships among stakeholders. As a result, a preliminary monitoring system for water consumption and water productivity has been

established, a capacity development plan has been drawn up, and a solar powered water-lifting station for irrigation in the Nile Delta developed.

### **Egypt is also a focus country for the FAO Regional Initiative Small-scale Family Farming for Inclusive Development in the Near East and North Africa.**

This initiative provides a coherent framework to promote smallholder agriculture as a means to reduce poverty in the countries of the Near East and North Africa.

At the institutional level, the initiative facilitates coordination among member countries to promote policy and institutional frameworks conducive to hunger eradication and enhanced food security and nutrition. The main results achieved to date are a dates sector development strategy, and the designation of the "Siwa Oasis Farming System" as a "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System". The law governing agricultural cooperatives has been reformed and sector studies conducted on the sustainable development of small-scale family farming in Egypt.

Egypt is one of the lead countries supporting another FAO Regional Initiative, **Building resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition in the Near East and North Africa**. This aims to build the capacity of families, communities, and agricultural systems to pre-empt the negative impact of human-induced and natural disasters, and to cope with them when they occur and recover in the aftermath.

*"Agriculture and food security are the entry points for growth and development strategies in many countries."*

**José Graziano da Silva**  
FAO Director-General



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