

Under the European Union's ENPARD (European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development)  
Initiative in Egypt



# EUROPEAN UNION – JOINT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (EU-JRDP)

## Executive Summary Report

## Final

ENPI/2014/352-319

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## 1. DESCRIPTION

### 1.1 Name of the Delegatee Body

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC) - General Directorate for Development and Cooperation.

### 1.2 Project Title

EU–Joint Rural Development Programme (EU-JRDP).

### 1.3 Number of the Delegation Agreement

ENPI/2014/352-319.

### 1.4 Start Date and End Date of the Delegation Agreement

The Programme initial duration was 58 months from December 10, 2014 to October 9, 2019. In December 2018, the Programme was extended until October 9, 2020 (cf. FoYIR). Up to six months closure is foreseen in the Delegation Agreement.

### 1.5 Sixth Reporting Period (Interim)

The Sixth Year Interim Implementation Report (SiYIR-Interim) contains information on progress made from December 10, 2019 to October 9, 2020. This report therefore covers a period of 10 months and was prepared, based upon a request received from EUD on 26 of November 2020, to facilitate the work of the final evaluation mission contracted by EUD planned for January 2021.

### 1.6 Target Region

Egypt: Governorates of Fayoum, Matrouh and Minya.

In Total approximately 123,000 people (out of a total planned of 105,000) directly benefitted from the action, corresponding to:

- 6,433 nuclear families of 5 members (all in Matrouh) out of 8,813 as planned,
- 339 extended families of 17.5 members (all in Matrouh) out of 200 as planned,
- 11,320 nuclear families of 7.5 members (all in Minya and Fayoum) out of 7,616 as planned.

Since all works of rehabilitation/construction of *wadis*, cisterns and irrigation infrastructures were implemented by local communities through Cash for Work (CfW) approach (or by locally recruited workers), EU-JRDP succeeded to create temporary jobs as below:

- 113 short term jobs (21 months each),
- 1,650 short terms jobs (3 months each) and,
- 10,775 short-term jobs (1 month each).

The average daily wage for each working day ranged between 100 and 150 EGP.

Gender was an integral component of every activity implemented by the Programme. In total, 3,685 women and 70 women groups directly benefitted



Indirect beneficiaries: Indirect beneficiaries include specifically community-based organizations, water users' associations, farmers and informal groups, women's and youth associations, environmental

experts and researchers have benefitted indirectly of the EU-JRDP. The project also targeted formal and informal learning institutions, and sector-specific capacity building for government officials.

## 2. ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 Executive Summary and Context of the Action

The European Union – Joint Rural Development Programme (EU-JRDP) is an “area-based” initiative taking place in three governorates (Matrouh, Minya and Fayoum). EU-JRDP is implemented by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Development, through the Italian Embassy in Egypt, with the technical assistance of the Italian Agency for Cooperation (AICS). The said action is funded by the European Union (€ 21.9 M) under the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) and co-funded in parallel by AICS (€ 11.0 M) through: i) the “Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization System Improvement in Minya and Fayoum Governorates” (SAMSIMIFA) and ii) the “Social Economic Development of North West Coast of Egypt (SEDNWCE) in Matrouh. The main Egyptian Authorities are the MALR (Lead Ministry), the MWRI and MoLD. The Ministry of International Cooperation is the National Coordinator.

In Matrouh Governorate alone, the EU is also funding, in coordination with EU-JRDP and same steering Committee meetings, the “Demining Component” implemented by UNDP. This report summary refers to the EU-JRDP - EU component only (€ 21.9 M).

EU-JRDP aims to strengthen the capacities of rural associations (both farmers and non-farmers) in terms of sustainable management of local resources and to explore innovative solutions for income generation.

EU-JRDP has one overall objective (to improve the quality of life of people living in rural areas) and two specific objectives: i) Specific objective 1 – to increase sustainable agricultural production by managing water and natural resources more effectively and efficiently; ii) Specific objective 2 – to improve rural livelihoods by promoting income generating activities. In total, seven expected outcomes are under specific objective 1, four expected outcomes under specific objective 2

The Programme is implemented through i) Calls for Proposals (CfP) (grants) and ii) Tenders (purchase of goods, works and construction services):

- CfP: a total of eleven grants for a total value of € 9.26 M (total EU contribution of € 8.30 M) were awarded to the following organizations: DRC (1), ACF/ACSAD (1), APRI (1), FAO (2), CEOSS (2), CEDARE (2), ICARDA (1), ECH (1) of which:
  - ✓ Three grants (all in Matrouh) of total value € 3.38 M (total EU contribution €3.00 M) awarded in 2016.
  - ✓ Seven grants (in the three Governorates) of total value € 5.43 M (total EU contribution € 5.30 M) awarded in 2017.
  - ✓ One grant (in Fayoum) of total value € 0.45 M (total EU contribution € 0.40 M) awarded in 2019.
- Tenders: a total of fourteen tenders (total EU contribution € 6.78 M) were awarded to contractors and services providers of which four (total EU contribution € 6.50 M) are directly related to purchase of goods, works and construction services for the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure in Minya and Fayoum.

Main cumulative outcomes obtained through the implementation of grants and tenders are as follows:

#### **Matrouh**

**In connection with outcome 1 (Increased water harvesting and lands for agricultural production)**

*best water harvesting practices in the dryland's areas of the North West Coastal Zone.*

- *Water harvesting practices in the wadis:* the 55 km of *wadis* constructed/rehabilitated by DRC are contributing to reduce erosion and converted the surface of lands to agricultural production (741 *feddans*). The decrease of soil erosion is reducing land losses in the surface layers of soils and, consequently, lands have better productivity. Land degradation, from 50% (before rehabilitation) is reduced to 25% (after rehabilitation).
- *Construction or rehabilitation of cisterns, Roman wells and reservoirs:* EU-JRDP succeeded to establish and rehabilitate 1,371 cisterns and Roman wells (1,208 cisterns for human and animal consumption and 163 for agricultural use) for a total storage capacity of about 206,000 m<sup>3</sup> (189,387 m<sup>3</sup> for human and animal consumption and 16,500 m<sup>3</sup> for agricultural use) which contributed to 4% of total water storage capacity and reduced the water gap for human and animal consumption by 72%
- *Provision of agricultural services to farmers and social aspects:* the services provided by DRC (in all 49 *wadis* targeted) and FAO (in 33 out of the 49 *wadis* targeted by DRC) resulted in a significant increase in crop productivity of the main crops cultivated in the *wadis* (e.g. 20% and 30% productivity increase for figs and olives respectively) and related incomes.

### **In connection with outcome 2 (GAPs adopted to boost the quality and quantity of main crops)**

*Introducing ad-hoc well adapted new technologies for high yielding crops for marketing purposes.* In total, 3,737 households benefitted from the promotion of GAPs through DRC (1,876 households mainly producing olives and figs in the *wadis*), FAO (1,665 households mainly producing olives, figs, almonds, barley and wheat) and CEDARE (196 households mainly producing olives, grapes and figs). In addition, 70 women' groups benefitted from home gardening (FAO) and 76 women benefitted of awareness campaigns in GIs (CEDARE).

The promotion of GAPs together with the provision of agricultural services, inputs, small equipment and the trainings had a positive environmental impact since said GAPs have contributed to maintain soil fertility and improved the control of weeds and diseases. The active engagement of beneficiary communities, combined with hands-on capacity building, is finally bringing sustainable results.

### **In connection with outcome 3 (Rural communities of farmers and community-based associations enhanced)**

*Promoting Geographical Indications – a practical approach for boosting local products and culture.* One community-based association (MADAD) was reinforced by CEDARE. Thanks to CEDARE intervention, MADAD is assisting 165 farmers to boost local products and preserve local traditions by promoting Geographical Indications concepts. MADAD succeeded in registering the first three Geographical Indications products (figs, olives and grapes) in Egypt. These products were selected because they have proved to have a direct impact on i) improving market access, ii) adding value to existing products, iii) bringing an exclusive territorial benefit to local communities within the region, iv) preserving traditional knowledge/production methods of local associations and, v) creating job opportunities.

### **In connection with outcome 4 (Livestock production of rural communities supported)**

*Increasing the resilience capacity of pastoralists.* The adaptation of local animal breeds to climate changes and the enhancement of local feed resources for livestock have contributed to: i) increase the resilience of Barki sheep and goats to dry condition and ii) produce additional milk entirely processed locally by Bedouin women. APRI mainly improved well adapted Barki sheep and goats; enhanced local feed resources through treatment with Non-Protein Nitrogen, molasses and biological materials (enzymes) and promoted hydro grass as a green fodder for sheep and lambs. FAO worked on animal feed concentrates, improved the vegetative cover/increased grazing capacity, contributed to scale out the achievements of APRI and promoted activities in relation with poultry development to the benefit of women groups.

Both grantees have proven to have had great impact on the adaptation of local breeds to climate changes and, in the case of goats, have increased the meat (fattening period reduced by two weeks) and milk production (+50%). The provision of veterinary service and the vaccination campaigns (52,596 heads) were indispensable component to the success of livestock improvement.

### **Minya & Fayoum**

### **In connection with outcome 1 (Efficiency of irrigation systems as well as water management improved)**

*Increasing land and water productivity through the rehabilitation of irrigation network in old lands.* The works of the two contractors financed by EU-JRDP (TTC and ICPW under the supervision of NWRC) and the action implemented by ICARDA (together with AEnRI-ARC) combined, had a direct impact of better irrigation efficiency on a total of arable land of 3,554 *feddans* net for agriculture to the benefit of 2,348 farmers organized into Water Users Associations-WUAs (out of which 1,094 benefitted also from ICARDA initiative) in Minya and Fayoum. Additional 1,775 horticulturalists benefitted from improved water management practices promoted by the FAO initiative in Fayoum.

The works of rehabilitation of infrastructure: i) increased water flow, ii) reduced the pumping costs, iii) increased water efficiency (+ 30%), iv) increased land value (+ 40%) and, iv) improved the access to land plots. Water distribution among farmers is today more equitable and farmers' willingness to pay water fees to WUAs has increased. The use of local materials and the adoption of labour-intensive technologies during the rehabilitation works (promoted by EU-JRDP) generated job opportunities within local rural communities.

The EU-JRDP's participatory approach through involvement of local stakeholders and the reinforcement of WUAs have improved the sustainability and ownership, empowered irrigation bodies with specific legal competences and facilitated the acceptance of implemented infrastructures by the final beneficiaries.

The rehabilitation of the main canals (especially those crossing the villages) with riprap (use of stones and cements) is reducing the illegal discharge of human sewage into the canals and consequently the negative effect of pollution on water bodies.

### **In connection with outcome 2 (GAPs adopted to improve quality and quantity of main crops)**

*Introducing ad-hoc well adapted new technologies for high yielding crops for marketing purposes.* The main Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) promoted by FAO, CEOSS and ICARDA aimed at improving the quality and quantity of main crops in the irrigated old lands as well as increasing farmers' income through the introduction of modern technologies (e.g. introduction of high-yielding hybrids in horticulture, laser levelling and raised bed cultivation, practices improving soil fertility/reducing salinity).

For FAO, the farmers who adopted the crop diversification model and the Integrated Production and Protection practices increased their income by more than 340% for tomato, 220% for cabbage and 330% for the cucumber. For CEOSS, 1,744 farmers increased their income from 27,021 EGPs to 39,632 EGPs/farmer; the costs of production decreased by 15-20%, the quality of the crops improved, and post-harvest losses decreased by 20-30% due to the proper harvest, post-harvest handling and packing. For ICARDA, the intervention led to water saving of 20/25% and to yield increase of 25%.

The assessment carried out by EU-JRDP shows that, inside the irrigation rehabilitated areas, there was an increased crop intensification of 31.25% during the summer and 10% during the winter. Yields of main crops increased an average of 20%.

### **In connection with outcome 3 (Agricultural water reused for agricultural production and generation of additional income)**

*Promoting waste management interventions in irrigated lands and behavioural changes.*

CEDARE (Minya and Fayoum): the promoted well-integrated waste management activities have i) reduced the negative effects of pollution on water bodies and generated job opportunities within local rural communities and ii) promoted hygiene practices and income generating opportunities to the benefit of women' groups. Trash pollution and human sewages illegally ending up in water bodies have been widespread and caused serious consequences for the ecosystem and livelihood of people. The project reduced the negative effects of pollution on water bodies. New technologies on solid waste management were introduced. Garbage pollution has been largely removed in seven villages (more than 60 percent of waste dumps in water canals and village streets were removed). Vegetables are being planted on top of the cleaned channel banks and people are now eager to take the visitor to the renewed sites.

CEOSS (Fayoum): the conversion of agricultural and, partially, animal wastes into compost and the promotion of behavioural changes among farmers have increased soil fertility and incomes and generated an increased revenue, as a result of the use of compost, calculated at 4,700 EGP/*feddan*.

FAO (Fayoum): the promotion of GAPs in relation with the Integrated Production and Protection and Integrated Pest Management for the cultivation of horticultural cash crops led to improved water and soil management, reduced chemical use, and increased productivity and net income for small scale farmers.

**In connection with Outcome 4, (Rural communities of farmers and community-based organisations enhanced)**

*Enhancing the role of rural communities and community-based organisations in local development.* The main practices related with the enhancement of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and rural communities of farmers promoted by EU-JRDP are related with i) the establishment of Small Farmers' Association (SFA) and Women Farmers' Association (WFA), ii) building the capacity of small farmers to work collectively (creation of farmers' groups, elected committees and community cadres) and to increase female participation in the farmers' groups and their representation in the elected committees (CEOSS); iii) the reinforcement of the role of WUAs in operating and maintaining the *meskas* and pump stations, better water allocation along *meskas*, to maintain equity of water distribution, to resolve conflicts among users on water use (ICARDA).

Five small farmers associations were formed by FAO to provide ad-hoc training to horticulturalists. This aggregation enabled member farmers to connect and negotiate with buyers and input/service providers, as well as to gain access to knowledge and information, to be more engaged in associations, to facilitate linkages with local service providers and local authorities.

CEOSS created CBOs, Elected Committees and Territorial Committees aiming at better organising farmers and better connecting them with the Ministry of Agriculture and its technicians as well as with suppliers and buyers. Moreover, the female participation in the farmers' groups and their representation in the Elected Committees promoted their role within their communities and provided them with the opportunity to access their rights.

EU-JRDP established and registered 40 WUAs in Minya and Fayoum serving 2,348 members. ICARDA together with EU-JRDP, trained said organisations on technical, administrative and financial aspects.

**In connection with Outcome 5 (Increased capacity building of local service providers)**

*Strengthening management capacity of local service providers.* The centres for waste management and the start-ups promoted by CEDARE are nowadays producing several products (e.g. collected, sorted and washed waste, collected agricultural waste, recycled materials and compost). The compost unit is transforming agricultural waste into soil fertilizers and compost needed for agricultural use. Said centres are nowadays filling a void in the waste value chain, which will benefit the whole local community, in terms of income and environmental and health benefits.

The Water Users Associations promoted by ICARDA are better managing and operating rehabilitated *meskas* and contributing to fair distribution of irrigation water among all members of the association.

The Agricultural Extension Agents staff trained by CEOSS in Minya are contributing to spreading awareness of modern agricultural practices. In said Governorate, the Extension Agents had a positive outcome on the target farmers practices and skills and contributed to improving their livelihood conditions after acquiring several skills, such as the ability to:

- select the appropriate crop and variety,
- accurately analyse the data and predict potential risks,
- analyse the impact of the climate changes,
- identify diseases and pests,
- as well as analyse market changes.

The Farmers Field Schools' approach contributed to producing more profitable crops by an average of 30-40% compared to the state of the art before implementing the project's interventions. Communities farmers organisations were empowered and are now capable to connect and negotiate with buyers and input/service providers, to have access to knowledge and information, to be more engaged in associations, to facilitate linkages with local service providers and local authorities.

The Small Farmers' Associations formed by FAO, are providing marketing and other agricultural services to small farmers. Said associations opened new market linkages through capacity building, study visits and contract facilitation. These visits and meetings provided greater awareness of local and export marketing facilities and requirements, as well as a platform for negotiating contracts between the SFAs and buyers. With a contract, the farmers' associations are getting access to key information about requirements for product quality, while buyers are motivated to provide small farmers with technical support. Revenues from the sale of the products were double or even triple the amount obtained by farmers before the project.

**Fayoum (Eco-tourism)**



### **In connection with outcome 6 (Ecotourism action plan implemented)**

*Improving eco-tourism facilities, infrastructure and services and enhancing local traditions.* The main practices related with outcome 6 (eco-tourism plan implemented, and new archaeological site developed) proposed by EU-JRDP and Expertise Consultancy House are related with : i) the preparation of tourism guides and e-books and ii) building and consolidating relations with local communities and local authorities with a direct economic impact on rural women in Tunis village. Main activities: improve tourist facilities, infrastructure and services, enhance traditional handicrafts sector, capacity and skills building of local eco-tourism actors.

The mobility of visitors in the already existing tourism and ecotourism circuits was improved. Tunis village residents received higher visits since the beginning of project developments because the capacity and facilities were improved. 35 ecotourism operators and desert guides were successfully trained. All the stakeholders received fair information of the project activities where they can operate all the facilities independently. The livelihood in the area of Tunis village and the villages surrounding Medinat Madi improved. The maintenance of all-weather road helped to access safely and efficiently main touristic destinations. The project contributed to meet the real needs in the *Wadi Al-Rayyan* protected area by maintaining all-weather roads to link the western region to the eastern and by establishing solar panels to generate electricity.

### **In connection with outcome 7 (Local Action Group established)**

*The Local Action Group: a tool for better managing eco-tourism sector and better preserve touristic sites.* The main practices related with outcome 7 (local action group-LAG established) implemented by EU-JRDP and Expertise Consultancy House are: i) forming LAG, equipping LAG office, training LAG members to manage the tourism sector and to preserve touristic sites; ii) organising awareness campaigns, co-sponsoring local events, launching promotional campaigns.

A very strong and consolidated relations with local communities and local authorities was built with a direct economic impact on rural women in Tunis village. The project managed (in cooperation with LAG) to introduce the concept of cultural heritage management to 25 local eco-tourism operators.