

農業生産性向上プロジェクト Overview of Enhancement of Agricultural Productivity Project

○ワリード・ハッサン・アボウエルハッサン*, ナグラ・エルベンダリ*, 清水克之**
○Waleed Hassan AbouElHassan*, Naglaa ElBendary*, Katsuyuki Shimizu**

1. Introduction

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is currently implementing the project titled, “The Project for Enhancement of Agricultural Productivity”, which was initiated in March 2023 funded by Japanese government. The objectives are improving food security and income generation through long-term increases in crop yields per unit of irrigation water in Egypt. The target districts are Minya, Qena, and Kafr el-Sheikh governorates in Egypt. The project aims to introduce and test to the modern irrigation and drainage technologies such as drip irrigation, solar-powered pumps systems, climate-smart water management (CSWM) practices, microtopography-induced soil salinity control to approximately 1,300 men and women smallholder farmers in the targeted villages of 3 governorates above mentioned. The objective is to achieve a 70 % willingness among the participants to adopt, continue practicing, and actively support the demonstration and upscaling of these practices through peer-to-peer learning and networking, extending beyond the project's duration. This report provides an overview of the project and its progress.

2. Project partners

The project is implemented by FAO Egypt in cooperation with Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) as lead government agency; with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) and technical assistance and partnership from Tottori University (TU), National Water Resource Center (NWRC), Regional Center for Training and Water Studies (RCTWS), as well as International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

3. Expected output of the project

The Project has been developed by FAO, in-line with MWRI’s Strategies within the context country Vision 2030. The project has four interrelated outputs:

Output 1: Irrigation modernizations are demonstrated to optimize energy use and water productivity.

Output 2: Technical knowledge and skills of small farmers enhanced to effectively promote sustainable irrigation and efficient CSWM practices through the implementation of farmers’ field schools (FFSs).

Output 3: Capacities of smallholder farmers are enhanced to effectively promote modern irrigation technologies and CSWM practices in line with Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) principles.

Output 4: Smallholder farmers engaged in sustainable income-generating activities and their income increased activities in small agri-business development.

The Project’s direct target groups / beneficiaries include MWRI and its branches in the three targeted

Affiliation: *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, **Tottori University

Keywords: Water productivity, Modern irrigation method, Egypt

governorates, MALR and its branches in the three targeted governorates, NGOs as well as smallholder farmers.

4. Summary of the progress

This progress report covers the period from 1st April to 31st December 2023. The official start of the project has been postponed to 1st June due to delay in the governmental approval for the project as well as the official signing between FAO and government of Egypt represented in MWRI which has been issued by 31st May 2023 with high level participation from MWRI, FAO, as well as the Embassy of Japan. Based on the official signing between FAO and the Japan Embassy, FAO started the recruitment process targeting national and international consultants to support the project's preparation and implementation phases. Once the consultants are on board, the project team started preparatory work related to site selection for all activities including modern irrigation systems, greenhouses, saline soils, Agri-voltaic and assessment sites for the baseline survey. In this phase, the preparation of proposed Letters of Agreement (LoAs) has started to speed up the project implementation process. Accordingly, the workplan has been revised to overcome the two-months delay caused by late signing of the project document with the government.

Overall progress of the project records around 50% where the project achieved good progress during the reporting period in all components and outputs related to building capacities and training reached 80% of the planned work.

Summary of main achievements include:

- (1) Setting the targeted sites based on consultation with MWRI, MARL, ICARDA, and TU include the following:
 - Selection of two command areas to be transformed to modern irrigation. One in Menia and the other in Qena. With total area approximately 100 Feddan (=42 ha)
 - Selection of greenhouses locations; two sites in Menia, two sites in Qena and six in Kafr El Sheikh
 - Selection of the sites and collect the needed database which will be used for assessment proposes with total of 15 site (five sites per governorate)
 - Selection of five sites to install Agri-Voltic system in the three governorates.
- (2) 70% of the proposed systems have been designed and got technical approval from FAO-HQ
- (3) FFSs and Training achievements reached to 80 % where the formulation of all FFSs has been completed and by mid of January all the training targets governmental staff will be accomplished. Four LoAs have been signed with the project partners who have indicated in the project document: RCTWS, TU, NWRC and ICARDA.

5. Further activities

As mentioned above, due to the delay in project implementation, the project could not monitor the summer season, which is important for the project, and only monitored and evaluated the winter season. However, the project was extended and continued for one year. Further updates and results will be presented in the session.