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EU-ZIRA3A engages local stakeholders in planning the programme's activities in Sohag, Assiut and Beni Suef



EU-ZIRA3A - EU Integrated Rural Development Programme for Egypt recently held a series of productive meetings with stakeholders in Sohag, Assiut, and Beni Suef governorates. Building on the insights gathered from the programme's inception workshop held in October 2023, these meetings aimed to gather invaluable input from a diverse range of participants representing both the agricultural and irrigation sectors from local governorates. Each meeting started with informative presentations on overall and specific objectives of EU-ZIRA3A programme, institutional framework, and anticipated results. This transparency adopted a platform for open discussions, allowing stakeholders to actively identify priority areas where they believed EU-ZIRA3A could have the most impactful support.



Tailored Solutions for Diverse Needs:

Beni Suef: The discussions in Beni Suef highlighted the need for practical solutions to manage agricultural waste effectively. Additionally, stakeholders emphasized the importance of equipping agricultural schools with modern tools and infrastructure to enhance the skills of future generations of farmers. Adapting animal housing to better withstand the effects of climate change was another key area of focus. The FSU Beni Suef team will embark on a data collection exercise, visiting relevant directorates like Veterinary Medicine and milk collection centers to assess equipment needs and develop a comprehensive development plan.

Assiut: In Assiut, stakeholders highlighted the need for improved services within areas like artificial insemination, vaccination programs, and agricultural quarantine measures for key export crops such as pomegranates and basil. The FSU Assiut team will investigate these needs further and develop plans to address them. This might involve acquiring equipment, providing training programs on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for intercropping, and promoting sustainable waste management practices through shredder machines. Additionally, the team will explore opportunities to scale up Azolla cultivation, a sustainable animal feed source, and investigate the role women can play in this process.

Sohag: The FSU Sohag team adopted a participatory approach during the meetings, encouraging active dialogue and brainstorming sessions with stakeholders. A frequent subject was the need to establish an agricultural quarantine branch and a dedicated pesticide laboratory in the governorate. Data collection will be a critical next step, with FSU Sohag representatives scheduled to meet with the Directorate of Agriculture and other relevant bodies to assess the volume and types of export agriculture products, along with the feasibility of establishing these facilities. Discussions also focused on optimizing livestock breeding through improved data on milk and meat production, identifying potential locations for milk collection centers, and strengthening veterinary services through training programs. Finally, the team will gather information on the needs of agricultural secondary schools to enhance their teaching and student training capabilities.



These fruitful meetings mark a significant step forward for the EU-ZIRA3A programme. With a clear roadmap established for each FSU, future activities will involve data collection, and targeted site visits. This information will be instrumental in shaping future EU-ZIRA3A calls for proposals and service tenders, ensuring program initiatives directly address the specific challenges and opportunities faced by each region. This collaborative approach exemplifies the program's unwavering commitment to working hand-in-hand with local communities to pave the way for a more sustainable and prosperous agricultural future across Egypt.





EU-ZIRA3A - EU Integrated Rural Development Programme for Egypt held second information session for the launched call for proposal titled:

"Enhancing Integrated Governance to Improve the Performance of the Egyptian Plant Quarantine System and Pesticides Monitoring and Developing and Adopting a Digital Archiving System."

The call sought to address some of the most critical technical needs and challenges in the areas of plant quarantine, M&E, and digital archiving systems within the Egyptian agricultural sector.

The agenda was diverse and included the following presentations:

- Presentation of the overall EU-ZIRA3A Programme and specific aspects of the call for proposal.
- Specific needs and requirements in respect of the proposal from both Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ) and Central Lab of Residue Analysis of Pesticides and Heavy Metals in Food (QCAP).
- Presentation of insights from Foreign Agriculture Relations (FAR) on monitoring agricultural and rural development initiatives in Egypt.

The participants engaged in open discussions and recommendations after a presentation on the proposal's context, objectives, activities, and scope. There were some queries regarding the distribution of activities and broader implications for Egypt's agricultural sector. The EU-ZIRA3A emphasized its commitment to support plant quarantine and residue analysis, The upcoming launch of additional tenders reflects the Programme's commitment to the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and technological innovation in the agriculture sector in Egypt.

Selection process of this call for proposal is expected to be concluded by end of July 2024.



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