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EU-ZIRA3A NEWSLETTER

FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING



EU-ZIRA3A, the EU Integrated Rural Development Programme for Egypt, assembled its first Steering Committee meeting at the Ministry of International Cooperation (MoIC) on January 18th, 2024.

Attended by representatives from key ministries, including Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MoALR), Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MoWRI), and Ministry of Local Development (MoLD), as well as delegates from the Delegation of the European Union to Egypt and the EU-ZIRA3A Programme Management Unit (PMU), the meeting marked a significant milestone in collaborative efforts.

The session commenced with opening remarks delivered by Mr. Marco Migliorelli, Head of Section for Green and Sustainable Transition at the Delegation of the European Union to Egypt, Dr. Martino Melli, Head of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – Cairo Office (AICS Cairo), and Mr. Nicola De Mastro, Team Leader of the EU-ZIRA3A Programme.

Mr. Migliorelli highlighted the European Union's commitment to foster cooperation and implement programmes dedicated to agriculture, rural development, and food security in Egypt.

Accentuating a substantial portfolio with an amount of 154 M€, he emphasized the sector's strategic importance within EU priorities.

During his speech, Dr. Melli emphasized Italy's commitment to prioritize the agrifood sector and the continuing contribution of AICS to Egypt's development landscape. He assured attendees, of AICS's willingness and commitment to engage in constructive dialogue to address any emerging challenges. Dr. Melli also pointed out the milestone achievement of signing a Technical Convention (TC) with the National Water Research Center (NWRC), marking the initial step in implementing the irrigation component of the EU-ZIRA3A Programme. Mr. De Mastro's presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the progress of the Programme implementation and outlined the path for the EU-ZIRA3A Programme's advancement throughout 2024. Following the opening remarks and presentations, discussions ensued among participants regarding various aspects of the EU-ZIRA3A Programme.



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Ambassador Mohamed Hegazy, serving as the Advisor to the Minister of Local Development for International Cooperation, emphasized MoLD's integration into Hayah Karima activities in Upper Egypt, accentuating its support for micro-credit initiatives aimed at empowering farmers.

Mr. Ahmed Sabry, an Agriculture Specialist representing FAR/MoALR, emphasized the imperative of holding regular technical in-depth meetings with the EU-ZIRA3A PMU and the establishment of an official technical committee for this purpose. He announced planning for the inaugural technical committee meeting to coincide with the launch of Call for Proposals no.1 and the receipt of concept notes.

Dr. Yousry Khafagy, Head of the Irrigation Improvement Sector (IIS) at MoWRI, gave a brief speech emphasizing the crucial importance of regular technical meetings between EU-ZIRA3A and its partners and stakeholders.

He highlighted the necessity of developing synergy with other projects operating in the governorates of Sohag, Assiut, and Beni Suef, supporting the seamless integration of activities across these governorates.

In response to inquiries from partners, the EU-ZIRA3A PMU provided comprehensive clarification and assurance:

- Collaboration with MoALR to establish the mandate of the technical committee was confirmed, ensuring effective coordination.

- Detailed explanations regarding the launch procedures of Call for Proposals (CfP) were provided, ensuring transparency, and understanding among stakeholders.
- An overview of CfP no.1, including its objectives and activities, was presented, fostering clarity and alignment.
- The PMU welcomed consultations with partners and stakeholders regarding planned activities, promoting inclusivity and collaboration.
- Through the Technical Convention with NWRC, a baseline assessment will be conducted to identify command areas and breakdown activities of the irrigation component, ensuring informed decision-making.
- The PMU confirmed its commitment to innovation within the irrigation component, demonstrating a forward-looking approach.
- It was highlighted that EU-ZIRA3A calls align with the project documents of the signed contribution agreement, as well as the conclusions of both the inception workshop and the baseline assessment.
- A list of calls for proposals and services, along with the estimated budget allocated for each call, was presented, providing transparency and clarity regarding resource allocation.





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TECHNICAL CONVENTION WITH NWRC

LAUNCH OF A CALL FOR PROPOSAL



The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – Cairo Office (AICS CAIRO) and the National Water Research Centre (NWRC) reached a significant milestone with the signing of a technical convention on January 11, 2024, within the premises of NWRC.

The convention, sealed by Dr. Martino Melli, Head of AICS Cairo Office, and Dr. Sherif Mohamady, President of NWRC, solidifies their partnership in advancing crucial infrastructure works aimed at enhancing irrigation and drainage networks across the governorates of Sohag, Assiut, and Beni Suef.

Under this agreement, NWRC assumes a pivotal role in organizing engineering services for the infrastructural projects. This comprehensive endeavor encompasses several phases:

- **Baseline Assessment:** An essential initial step to accurately identify command areas and assess existing conditions.
- **Pre-construction Phase:** This phase involves meticulous surveying of the command areas and the engineering design of necessary works to optimize efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Pre-procurement Phase:** In preparation for the procurement process, this stage involves the careful preparation of tender documents, ensuring transparency and adherence to regulations.
- **Procurement Support and Work Supervision:** NWRC will extend its expertise to support the PMU throughout the procurement process and provide diligent supervision to ensure the successful implementation of the projects.

Through this determined effort, AICS CAIRO and NWRC are confident to significantly enhance agricultural productivity and contribute to sustainable development in the targeted governorates.

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) - Cairo Office is seeking proposals for implementing the project entitled: "Enhancing integrated governance to improve performance of the Egyptian plant quarantine system and pesticides monitoring as well as developing and adopting a digital archiving system" in Sohag, Assiut, and Beni Suef as well as at central level in Cairo with financial assistance from the EU-ZIRA3A - EU Integrated Rural Development Programme for Egypt funded by the European Union.

Full information is available on the following website:

<https://ilcairo.aics.gov.it/home/opportunities/calls/>

CONTRACT INFORMATION NOTICE	إشعار إخباري لعقد
<p>Publication reference: B0148A99B0</p> <p>The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) - Cairo Office is seeking proposals for implementing the project entitled: "Enhancing integrated governance to improve performance of the Egyptian plant quarantine system and pesticides monitoring as well as developing and adopting a digital archiving system" in Sohag, Assiut, and Beni Suef as well as at central level in Cairo with financial assistance from the EU-ZIRA3A (EU Integrated Rural Development Programme for Egypt) funded by the European Union under the Contribution Agreement ENI/2021/427-389.</p> <p>Full information, eligibility criteria and guidelines for applicants are available for consultation on the following website: https://ilcairo.aics.gov.it/home/opportunities/calls/</p> <p>Information meeting will be organized on 15th of February 2024, 10:00 am at the programme management unit of EU-ZIRA3A at 1081 Corniche El-Nil – Garden City, 20th floor, Cairo, Egypt.</p> <p>Deadline for submission of the Concept Note: 18th of March 2024, 03:00 pm (Cairo local time).</p> <p>Procedure: Restricted Legal basis: PRAG (Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for European Union External Actions).</p> <p>Main activities</p> <p>>> Integrated governance in rural development sector.</p> <p>>> Capacity building of official staff of MoALR at central and local levels.</p> <p>>> The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and protection mechanisms, food safety and economic prospects.</p> <p>>> Enhancing the performance of Egyptian plant quarantine including improving the tools of sampling and analysis.</p>	<p>مرجع النشر: B0148A99B0</p> <p>تبحث الوكالة الإيطالية للتعاون من أجل التنمية - مكتب القاهرة عن اقتراحات لتنفيذ مشروع «تعزيز الحوكمة المتكاملة لتحسين أداء نظام الحجر الزراعي المصري ومراقبة المبيدات بالإضافة إلى تطوير واعتماد نظام الأرشيف الرقمية» في محافظات سوهاج - أسيوط - بني سويف بالإضافة إلى المستوى المركزي في محافظة القاهرة، وذلك بالمساعدة المالية من برنامج التنمية الريفية المتكاملة لتمسّر (EU - ZIRA3A) التمويل من الاتحاد الأوروبي ضمن إطار اتفاقية مساهمة رقم ENI/2021/427-389.</p> <p>جميع المعلومات وشروط الأهلية للتقديم والإرشادات العامة متاحة من خلال هذا الرابط:</p> <p>https://ilcairo.aics.gov.it/home/opportunities/calls/</p> <p>سيتم عقد اجتماع توضيحي يوم ١٥ فبراير ٢٠٢٤ الساعة ١٠:٠٠ صباحاً في وحدة إدارة البرنامج - EU-ZIRA3A ١٠٨١ كورنيش النيل، جاردن سيتي، الدور ٢٠، القاهرة - جمهورية مصر العربية.</p> <p>آخر موعد لتقديم العروض هو ١٨ مارس ٢٠٢٤ الساعة ٣:٠٠ مساءً (بالتوقيت المحلي للقاهرة).</p> <p>الإجراءات: مقيدة القواعد القانونية: الدليل العملي لإجراءات التعاقد للإجراءات الخارجية للاتحاد الأوروبي PRAG.</p> <p>الأنشطة الرئيسية:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •• الحوكمة المتكاملة في قطاع التنمية الريفية. •• بناء قدرات موظفي وزارة الزراعة واستصلاح الأراضي على المستويين المركزي والمحلي. •• الإدارة المتكاملة للأفات وآليات الحماية والسلامة الغذائية والأفداح الاقتصادية. •• تعزيز أداء الحجر الزراعي المصري بما في ذلك تحسين أدوات أخذ العينات والتحليل.