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# EU-ZIRA3A NEWS LETTER

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## 2024 Key Highlights

### Technical Convention (TC) with NWRC

The TC was signed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 between AICS Cairo and the National Water Research Centre (NWRC). The TC aims to provide engineering services of the infrastructural works to improve the irrigation and drainage networks in the governorates of Sohag, Assiut, and Beni Suef as per SO2 of the Programme. The TC includes the baseline assessment for identification of the command areas, the pre-construction phase, for the survey of the command areas and engineering design for future works, the pre-procurement phase, for the preparation of the technical tender document, in addition to supporting the PMU during the procurement process for the awarding of the works contracts and the work supervision. The baseline assessment report from NWRC is expected to be submitted in February 2025.



## First Steering Committee Meeting

On the 18th of January 2024, the first Steering Committee meeting was held at the Ministry of International Cooperation, attended by EU-ZIRA3A PMU, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MoALR), Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MoWRI), Ministry of Local Development (MoLD), and the EU Delegation to Egypt to discuss EU-ZIRA3A's progress and the way forward for 2024. It emphasized the importance of arranging a technical committee and technical meetings between EU-ZIRA3A and its partners and stakeholders. The second steering committee will be held in February 2025.



## Local Stakeholders Meetings

EU-ZIRA3A held several meetings with partners and stakeholders in the three targeted governorates of Sohag, Assiut, and Beni Suef. These meetings aimed to build on the insights gained from the inception workshop held in Cairo on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2023, with a focus on confirming planned activities and interventions of the Programme.



# Call for Proposal no. 1

The evaluation of Call for Proposals No.1 titled *“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”* has been finalized, and the contract was signed with Cairo Center for Development Benchmarking (CDB) on October 8th, 2024.

kick-off meeting was held with CDB on 23rd of October 2024 at the PMU to review the project’s objectives and discuss the implementation strategy.

An Introductory meeting was organized by Foreign Agricultural Relations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (FAR) on 20th of November 2024, with CDB and EU-ZIRA3A team to discuss the implementation of the grant and identify the support needed to achieve our shared goals.



## Tender no. 1

“Enhance extension service for crop and animal production towards tackling impacts of climate change, efficient and sustainable management of natural resources and agrifood-ecosystems in Sohag, Beni Suef and Assiut”

### **Tender no.1 is divided into 3 lots**

**LOT 1 (Services)** “Capacity building services for the improvement of extension services. Training, field demonstration” awarding process is ongoing. EU-ZIRA3A will enhance agricultural and veterinary services by developing extension plans, training extensionists, and establishing 150 farmer field schools, demonstration fields, and 60 water user associations. The programme will implement field trials on improved fodder, and strengthen veterinary services through capacity building and animal husbandry support. Additionally, the project is expected to conduct awareness sessions, design demonstration models, and develop a digital platform with a mobile application to support farmers.

**LOT 2 (Supplies)** “Supply of equipment for offices, for extension departments and artificial insemination centres” was signed on the 23rd of January 2025. As part of the contract, EU-ZIRA3A will supply the three targeted governorates Sohag, Beni Suef, and Assiut with equipment for offices, extension departments, dairy processing centres, and artificial insemination centres, equipment and genetic resources from imported animals of dual purpose (meat and milk). In addition, EU-ZIRA3A will be providing equipment for the establishment of 3 animal feed production units.

**LOT 3 (Works)** “New construction of animal housing and animal feeds production units in Sohag, Assiut, and Beni Suef. Rehabilitation works for artificial insemination center in Beni Suef, and liquid nitrogen production units in Sohag and Assiut” was signed on the 23rd of January 2025. EU-ZIRA3A aims to enhance the efficiency and productivity of veterinary services by rehabilitating 10 veterinary units in Beni Suef, 5 in Assiut, and 9 in Sohag. Recognizing the challenges faced by the artificial insemination center, the only facility of its kind in Upper Egypt, EU-ZIRA3A will undertake rehabilitation works to improve its capacity. Additionally, the programme will establish new animal feed production units, ensuring the availability of high-quality feed at competitive prices by utilizing innovative and cost-effective ingredients. Under this contract, EU-ZIRA3A will also optimize the liquid nitrogen production facility through maintenance activities, improving the nitrogen room’s conditions and ensuring an adequate supply of liquid nitrogen for semen preservation.



## Upcoming Events

### **For the Irrigation component:**

A comprehensive survey and feasibility study for the selected command areas, and their sub-areas, will be conducted within February 2025.

Preliminary and final engineering design will be finalized by the end of May 2025.

Technical specifications and technical documents for the tender will be finalized by the end of July 2025.

The tendering process for works to rehabilitate canals in the three targeted governorates, according to PRAG rules will start in August 2025.

### **For the Agriculture component:**

Follow up, monitor, and support with the implementation of the signed grant contract titled: *“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.”* This technical monitoring includes administrative, and communication & visibility activities monitoring.

Tender no.2 titled *“Enhance capacity of agricultural cooperatives towards land fragmentation by improving value chain of agriculture products, collective measures of agriculture waste management, supporting SMEs and rural women in Sohag, Assiut and Beni Suef”* is expected to be announced soon.



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