

EU-Integrated Rural Development Programme for Egypt

Project Overview

EU-ZIRA3A - EU Integrated Rural Development Programme for Egypt supports socio-economic development for better livelihood of rural communities in Assiut, Sohag, and Beni Suef. The Programme is €27.3 million initiative funded by the European Union and Italy, implemented by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS Cairo), for the empowerment of local communities towards achieving sustainable development. The implementation period started in November 2022 with a total duration of 66 months.



Project Goals and Activities

The programme aims to improve the living conditions and revenues of the smallholder farmers and their communities in the governorates of Sohag, Assiut, and Beni Suef, through a sustainable and integrated approach to rural development while addressing the issues of increasing resource scarcity in a context of quick population growth.

Specific Objective 1: The central Egyptian authorities and their representations in the three governorates are reinforced in their action towards sustainable rural development.

Specific Objective 2: The capacities of the rural population in the three governorates are reinforced with increased agricultural economic opportunities, notably for women and youth.

Implementing Agency:

• Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Targeted Governorates:

• Assiut • Sohag • Beni suef

Financial Figures

Total funding € 27.3 million

EU: €24 million

AICS parallel funding: €3.3 million

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Project Outputs

- Agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practice have been introduced with EU support (ha).
- Number of staff of the Egyptian authorities trained on sustainable management of natural resources (200)
- Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land. (6000 families per governorate)
- Number of women gaining access to new income generating activities thanks to the EU support.
- Length of branch canal rehabilitated (km) 30 KM (tentative)
- Length of Meskas rehabilitated (km) 100 KM

Expected Impact

The programme has been designed to support the Egyptian Government in implementing the Sustainable Agriculture Development (SADS) and to support the socio-economic development and improve livelihood of the rural communities.