

Egypt : Behera, Fayoum, Menia



Mohamed NAWAR june 2003

Governorate	Behera	Fayoum	Menia
Location	Nile Delta	Depression Middle Egypt	Nile Valley
Population (x1000)*	4428	2264	3781
Rank in population	5	15	8
Labor Force (x1000)*	1493	599	1104
% Labor Forces in Agriculture & Fishing*	40	48.6	54.8
% Rural **	77.2	77.5	80.6
Villages and satellites***	490 (5737)	162 (1428)	346 (1429)
Cultivated Area (feddan)	922445	330945	406416
# Farms	301177	118702	296837
Average farm size	3.6	2.8	1.4

***In 1/1/2002**

****Census 1996**

***** April 2003**

Fayoum governorate

It is a depression area that has established a very special irrigation system depends on 'Hadarat' to regulate the flow of water across lands of different latitudes. Operation of this system necessitates the establishment of some organization called 'Motarfa'. Some of these areas have been developed physically and from the social organization point of view. A recent assessment of these new changes refers to the need of further follow up and more attention to the replacement process as well as the capacity building and the relationship among the official irrigation department, the water users associations and other water users.

Researches implemented by the members of CRDRS, through a recent national survey for the assessment of WUAs have enabled them to pin point the main socio-economic and technical constraints that affect, negatively, the efficiency of the new social organisations in the Fayoum area. It would be much easier for the CRDRS team and other partners to get benefit from the recent experience of that team and all their previous work in this connection.

Behera

This area includes both old lands and Nubaria and South Tahrir Desert Reclaimed Lands (Nile delta)

Most areas in the old land use flood (surface) irrigation method while in the newly reclaimed desert lands farmers are obliged - by law- to apply modern irrigation techniques such as sprinkler and dripping. More problems related to the lower quality of water used and recycling of drainage water to compensate the shortage of water resources are encountered by the farmers in the area. Tertiary canals (Mesqa) in old lands are relatively longer in length and serve larger areas and greater number of farms. This needs more efficient and effective managerial approaches and organization of the WUAs through some information and building capacity programs. Lack of hierarchy of the WUAs does not help efficient use of resources available for these organizations. Establishment of federations at higher administrative levels is a step ahead.

Menia

Located in the Nile valley.

Irrigation technique used is the flood (surface). Tertiary canals (Mesqa) are relatively shorter in length and serve smaller areas and less number of farms. Lack of hierarchy of the WUAs does not help efficient use of resources available for these organisations. Establishment of federations at higher administrative levels is a step ahead

General representation of water management in a basin approach and differences of the issues upstream-downstream

