



PRESS RELEASE

Cairo, Tuesday 29th October , 2013

Towards a Rural Development Strategy Benefiting Small Scale Farmers in Fayoum & Menia

An inter disciplinary ministerial level meeting is planned on Thursday October 31st, to reaffirm political commitment towards the development of a national strategy benefiting small scale farmers and to review progress achieved to date in the implementation of the Support to Rural Development Programme (SRDP) , a pilot project currently being implemented in Fayoum and Menia Governorates.

Dr. Ayman Abou Hadid, Minister of Agriculture & Land Reclamation is convening this meeting jointly with Mr. James Moran, Ambassador of The European Union Delegation to Egypt. Also participating in the meeting are Dr. Mohamed Abdel Mutaleb, Minister of Water Resources & Irrigation, Dr. Laila Iskandar, Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, along with General Salah Zeyada, Governor of Menia and Dr. Hazem Atteya, Governor of Fayoum.

The SRDP contributes to the Ministry of Agriculture's commitment towards a National Strategy for Rural Development that includes a conditional incentive-based approach geared to the small scale farmers. The pilot project will assess a set of interventions which will improve the income and the quality of life of farmers holding less than three feddans, in six villages of Fayoum and Menia. The implementation of these interventions - considered as conditional incentives - is directly linked to each local community's commitments to observe an agreed upon set of environmental protection measures. The incentives range from lining canals, land leveling, greenhouse units, compost units, sorting, grading and packaging of harvested crops, introduction of new crops, job creation and investment in appropriate technology for agriculture. The conditions are specific to each community and negotiated with the farmers; they cover appropriate use of soil, rational use of water quantity and quality, respect for biodiversity and others. The conditional incentive approach is being implemented by seven grants recipients working with local communities over a period of 24 months starting June 2013 under the guidance of the Union of Producers & Exporters of Horticultural Crops (UPEHC), the implementing agency within the Ministry of Agriculture. A comprehensive base line study is being carried out to enable assessment - by the end of the project's duration - of the impact of these interventions on the farmers and their communities along with improvement in the management of natural resources.

The overall budget for the SRDP pilot is 10 million Euros fully funded by the EU through the European Neighborhood & Partnership Instrument (ENPI). It is worth noting that the new EU-Egypt partnership includes a high-level dialogue on agriculture.

For more information on the event and on the SRDP activities, kindly contact:

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A project implemented
By the Ministry of Agriculture
& Land Reclamation

This project is funded
by the European Union

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

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