



**Fayoum Agro Organic
development
Association**

Field Study

**To explore opinion of a number of the natural leaders and the
engineers of Fayoum irrigation Directorate**

**About the project of supporting the good Agriculture and Irrigation
practices.**

Introduction:

In the modernization of the data for the study of identifying the need assessments for the project of **supporting the good Agriculture and Irrigation practices** which is applied to the Spanish cooperation through Fayoum Agro Organic Development Association.

Report contains the results of the supplementary field study to determine the need assessments that have been implemented in the frame work of preparing the project's proposal, which will be viewed through the following points:

1. Overall objective of the study.
2. Methodology.
3. Research questions.
4. Data resources of the study.
5. Data collection.
6. Frame works of the study (Geographic frame work, technical frame work & human "the sample").
7. Data analyses.
8. Results of the study.

1. The Main Goal of the study:

Monitor trends & views of the farmers, natural leaders and the Irrigation engineers in Fayoum governorate towards the goals & activities covered by the project's proposal.

2. Methodology

We used the methodology of **(Case study)** and this is the methodology which is been used through the preparation of the project's proposal.

3. Research questioners:

- What are the plans for Fayoum Irrigation directorate?
- What are the most important projects which are going to be implemented in Fayoum for supporting the good management of the Irrigation resources?
- What are the main problems facing the implementation of good management of Field irrigation resources in Fayoum governorate?
- What are the most important constrains facing the farmers for managing the field watering?

- What are the formal and informal entities supporting the good management for the field watering?
- What are the opinions of the participants in the field study towards the project's goals & activities?
- What are the participants' suggestions for enhancing the project's goals & activities?

4. Data resources:

4-1- Secondary data:

- Data for the general directorate of works & water resources in Fayoum governorate.
- The technical studies for some Organizations and international projects working in the field of enhancing the management of field watering in Fayoum governorate?

4-2- Field study tools:

4-2-1 Natural leaders' focusing groups Guide line.

4-2-2 Questioner for the opinion of Irrigation engineers in the general directorate of works & water resources in Fayoum governorate.

4-2-3 Guide line for the focusing groups of farmers at the ends of water canals in Fayoum districts.

5- Data collection:

- Been done by the team work of Fayoum Agro Organic Development association.

6- Field study frames:

6-1- Geographic frame:

Fayoum governorate in general but focused on the of the water canals, where the problem of irrigation got increased.

6-2- Technical frame:

This study representing a complementary research in the frame work of identifying the need assessments for supporting the compliance of the proposal

6-3- Human frame (Description of the field study sample):

The underline schedule contained a description of the target human sample which we handle it during the field study.

The schedule contains the numbers of field research activities which was implemented by FAODA team work, also the number of participants

in the focus groups discussion and the number of questioners been implemented through the field study.

Activity	Number of participants in the activity	Numbers of implementation	Sample total number
Focus groups discussion for the natural leaders	٥	٢	١٠
Questioner for the opinion of irrigation engineers	١	٢	3
Farmers focus groups discussion	٥	٢	15
Total		٨	٢٨

7- Data analyses:

All the implementation of data analyses been done by FAODA team work.

8- Results of the field study:

This part of the report exposed the results of the field study for the natural leaders in Fayoum governorate (members of water users' organization in Fayoum- members of local popular community consults from the levels of village, district and governorate besides some participants from the large scale of farmers in Fayoum governorate) as follow:

- Fayoum irrigation water system is a very special type of irrigation, this system is a unique system, they study it around the world under the name of (Fayoum type water), but in the time been this system is exposed by a number of constrains:
 1. The random enlargement of land reclamation without any plan of water systems.
 2. The geographic nature of Fayoum did not give any chance of enlarging the capacity of water canales, otherwise it may cause a disaster for Fayoum governorate caused by water flood.
 3. The infringements of farmers on the irrigation systems and private buildings for dams, water falls and water gates.
 4. Increasing the areas of disagreement and conflict between farmers.

5. Using the mechanization of irrigation randomly.
6. Lack of awareness among farmers of modern irrigation systems field.
7. Lack of financial capacity for farmers to implement of modern irrigation systems field.
8. Lack of financial and technical support to farmers for the application of modern irrigation systems in farms.
9. Lack of coordination among the relevant actors in the field of water management.
10. Lack of festiveness of the irregularities that is released through irrigation for the offenders farmers.
11. Legislative framework of the linkages boards and water users, which does not support the exercise of these entities functions.

- There is an agreement among the participants in focus groups on natural leaders that there is a strong trend with the ministry of irrigation was discussed through a number of meetings and conferences on the importance of rationalizing water that is used in irrigation and the need to change flood irrigation to modern techniques but it has been agreed that the absence of specific mechanisms of this trend, also the field study is being noticed that there is a law to prevent the use of flood irrigation and that the law would support the changing of field irrigation systems, but the responses indicate that it is not yet known how the change will be like.
- The participants noted that the most important decision been taken and implemented during last year is to prevent the cultivation of rice in all Fayoum province, that what is described as “bold decision” due to the large number of opponents of the resolution but it has been implemented.
- The results of the focus groups pointed that the most important problems facing farmers in field irrigation water management is the lack of water in the water canals, and it has been noted that more than 30% of the total acreage of farmland is not planted in summer due to the lack of irrigation water, this percentage on the overall level of the province and it could be reach to some locations to 50% of the area, that what causes major financial losses for farmers, and it is therefore increases the rates of unemployment and poverty which is followed by social, economic and security problems.
- The results of focus groups for natural leaders pointed that there are many of water users organizations, while it has been pointed also that these links are not effective because of the following reasons:
 1. There a problems in the formation of links related to the social balance of power and dissatisfaction of some of the participants in the links on the composition been

done at the level of private irrigation water gates or at the level of microprocessor boards or public water canals.

2. Weakness of the institutional capacity of the said links.
 3. The Irrigation engineers controlled the formed links, where there are under the Ministry of Irrigation in terms of configuration and the main time it is under the management of water directorate in the Ministry of Irrigation.
 4. The absence of mechanisms to finance the links is not conducive to the continuity of activities for the links.
 5. Weak legislation and laws that support the work of the links of water users either with farmers or with the departments of irrigation as there is no force for the records of the offenders in the links of water users or any impacts of its decisions on the offices of Irrigation Engineering.
- The results of the focus groups discussion shows that the idea of the project is perfect in terms of reconciling between the farmers to create units of Five acres applied systems for irrigation field and funded these groups collectively, are contributing effectively and in process of solving the problem of funding for the establishment of modern irrigation systems, also its pointed to the need of continuing technical support for modern irrigation field system.
 - With regard to the proposals of the participants in the focus groups to improve the goals and activities of the project, the study suggested an important role to the need to train technicians through the project on the maintenance of modern irrigation systems and the need to support a technical staff to work and provide ongoing technical support have to be able to repair any crashes to support the continuity of field irrigation systems that are implemented through the project.

8-2 – Survey view of the irrigation engineers:

The results of the analysis for surveying view of the irrigation engineers, which included 3 irrigation engineers from the departments of irrigation directorates in Fayoum Governorate, which were taken into consideration to be selected from various irrigation engineering offices to support the diversity in the study:

- The results of the questionnaires pointed that there are specific directions for the Ministry of Works and Water Resources to support water conservation at the level of field irrigation and support the participation of farmers in the management of water resources through the mechanisms of social entities involved in water management (links and boards).
- The results of the questionnaires shows that there are a number of construction projects for example: pumping stations and maintenance of canals, gates, cladding and coverage of canals within the residential blocks, and are all tracking the project plan for the state through the administration of

public works and water resources in Fayoum Governorate.

- The results of analysis of a questionnaire to the engineers saw that the most important problems of irrigation from the viewpoint of engineers is:
 1. Dumping Waste into canals and watercourses, whether domestic or agricultural waste, so far the irrigation directorate are suffering from the cost of removing waste and what it caused for wasting of water resources in addition to the pollution.
 2. Infringements of farmers on irrigation buildings, which are; water gates and water falls, which resulted from lack of water and lack of awareness of farmers.
- Irrigation engineers whom are participating in the questionnaire see that the project is very important and consistent with the objectives of the Ministry of Public Works and Irrigation, the most important components that are displayed is the component for awareness because the irrigation engineers suffers from the lack of awareness among the farmers on modern irrigation field systems, particularly the sector of small farmers, in addition to the process of funding the construction of modern irrigation systems through lending was described as good because of the economic conditions faced by farmers.
- With regard to proposals for the irrigation engineers to improve the project's activities, it has been monitoring two proposals, one of them for the coordination with the General Directorate for irrigation in Fayoum Governorate, and the other for cooperation with associations of water users in the selection of farmers who will be trained and dealt with through the project.

8-3 - focus groups of farmers:

The results of the analysis of a questionnaire for the opinion of farmers participated in the focus groups that have been implemented during the study, which included 3 groups of small farmers in the beginning of the end of canals in Fayoum Governorate lead to the following results:

- The results of analysis of focus groups shows a lack of awareness among farmers that there is a general problem relating to international water and irrigation, as only the point of view of farmers in the problem to the non-arrival of irrigation water to allow flooding irrigation regardless to the problem on a general level.
- The results of the field study shows a lack of awareness among farmers of modern irrigation Field systems, where they have limited knowledge of modern irrigation systems to drip irrigation which is being used in the territory of Reclamation and believe that it is not commensurate with the nature of crops that are grown and they have no awareness that systems are in place

to streamline the field irrigation commensurate with the nature of the irrigation of the governorate of Fayoum.

- The field study did not monitor any awareness of the farmers who have been targeted in the field study projects that are implemented through the public administration and irrigation works or projects to be implemented through projects operating in the field of irrigation, and all the reports of the field study observed that there is a confusion in the roles between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Irrigation.
- The results of focus groups of farmers shows that the most important problems of irrigation are:
 1. The irrigation water does not reach to the ends of canals.
 2. Encroachment of farmers in the early canals for water of farmers at the end of Canals.
 3. The lack of revenue from cultivation as a result of specific cost of irrigation operations (Machines, workers ..).
 4. Effort that is being implemented by the farmers in the follow-up and access to water.
 5. Problems that are related to the dispute over irrigation water.
 6. Records and fines, which is released through the irrigation engineers.
- The results of focus groups that have been implemented shows that there are a presence of knowledge among farmers who participated in focus groups that there is a link water users, but they see that they are ineffective, as they see that the representation of the linkages are limited to the natural community leaders and senior farmers and small growers do not have any size of representation and no feasibility of their implementation, where it did not ultimately solve the problem of irrigation.
- The reports of the focus groups that have been implemented with farmers shows that the project is excellent in that it will contribute to the training of farmers on irrigation systems unknown to them, and as will as support the production and marketing, but it was noted that there will be questions about when the project will be started.

And is there will be an execution for the project or it is just talking as usual!!!!!!

That what reflected the magnitude of the problem of irrigation for farmers, as indicated in the results of the study to welcome the idea of group lending and assemblies due to suffering of small growers from fragmentation of holdings on the level of production and marketing.
- The field study did not refer important proposals by the farmers that are due to lack of awareness of the modern field irrigation systems and the exacerbation of the problem of irrigation and lack of return of agricultural production.

Done by:

reviewed by

Ahmed Nassim Bayad

Mohamed M. El- Medany