



STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC SECURITY IN RISK-PRONE COMMUNITIES IN UPPER EGYPT

SUCCESS STORY: MEASURE TO MANAGE

August 2013: Small scale agriculture in Minya has a long standing tradition, passed on from generation to generation. While a lot of heritage and knowledge is passed along, innovations and good practices for modern cultivation are often missed as a result of lack of access to knowledge. Theoretical training on good agricultural practices, complemented by field visits of consultants to farmers, have increased the awareness of producer on the importance of water and soil analysis for production management. Hayat project facilitated the analysis of soil and water for around 30 samples. This intervention not only helped farmers improve their farming practices, implementing more targeted irrigation and fertilization, it also helped reduce the amount of water and fertilizers used. In return, farmers expect a decrease in production cost and therefore higher returns for the coming harvest. This can also have positive environmental effects, reducing nitrogen leaches and conserving ground water.

SUCCESS STORY: SHEIK OMAR OVERCOMING NEMATODES

October 2013: A tomato crop was almost lost to root rot and nematodes, putting farmers income at risk, was overcome by the assistance of the Hayat project. While Sheik Omar, a farmer in Minya complained about low rates of flowering and fruit formation, as well as wilted plants, project staff dug underground to find root rots and fungi infection as a result of nematodes. With the right amount and proper application of pesticides, Sheik Omar was able to save his crop, securing his income for the season, as well as the daily bread for his family. Happy about the success of the intervention, he insisted on being photographed with his now prospering tomatoes.



FARMER PROUD OF HIS TOMATO CROP

SUCCESS STORY: GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES INCREASING FARMERS' INCOME

So far, the project has worked with over 300 farmers in Edwa and Maghaga improving their agricultural practices, which resulted in an average of a 37% surge in revenues as production increased. In addition, production costs decreased by 35%, resulting in twice the profits for tomato producers. The project has also assisted farmers in assessing their inputs, in terms of soil and water. When discussing with farmers about the quantity and application methods of fertilizers and pesticides, it appeared that during soil preparation overuse of sulphur and sulphuric fertilizers not only affected the nutrition of the plants and soil fertility negatively, but also cause unnecessary costs. The project also recommended the use of compost fertilizers as opposed to chemical nitrogen fertilizers, reducing the hazard of leaching of nutrients. Furthermore, the project emphasized the importance of using compost fertilizers rather than manure, in order to reduce the risks of pest and diseases. On another account, over-irrigation caused decrease in production and high incidence of diseases, and saving 30% of irrigation water resolved that issue, with positive environmental side effects.



PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION ON SUN-DRYING TOMATOES

Fertilizer application in general has decreased, especially with regards to Nitrogen fertilizer. UNIDO recommended an increase in other main nutrients to improve produce quality, as well as Calcium and Magnesium. It was also interesting to note, that farmers were aware of the importance of micro-nutrients. Over-application and the use of foliar applications resulted in high costs and losses and reduction in efficiency. Through interventions, the project contributed to reducing the costs of fertilization by around 10% adjustment of quantities and application methods, which significantly increased production and improved quality. With regards to pesticide application, simple awareness raising on application methods and readjusting nozzle size and pressure cut the costs of pest management by half.



FIELD TRAINING OF FARMERS