



Rice is the main farm crop around the project area in summer. Apart from rows of houses, its landscape looks like one in monsoon Southeast Asia rather than one in an arid climate. It even reminds us Japanese of the scenery in rural areas of Japan.

Comparing natural farming conditions of Egypt with that of Japan, farmers here are blessed with sufficient sunshine, fertile soil and water from the Nile. Although Japanese farmers seem to have abundant precipitation, droughts occasionally occur during summer. In such cases, all the farmers follow the rules made by Water Users Associations (WUA) on how to distribute the insufficient water supply fairly among them.



**Project Chief Advisor
Eng. Akira Hashimoto**

It is indispensable to establish WUAs and Federations of WUAs in order to succeed in IIP. WMIP has, therefore, emphasized the importance of full scale farmer participation including a series of meetings, preliminary surveys and workshops etc. Also only after getting more than 2/3 of their agreement, should the construction work be started in the project. WMIP provides farmers with substantial training in the proper operation and maintenance of the improved facilities. This kind of proposed methodology and procedure for the implementation of the IIP is being tested in the Kafr El Sheikh Governorate.

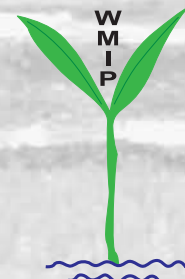
One of the main purposes of this project is to establish sustainable Water Users Associations (WUAs) and a Water Users Federation (WUF). For this goal, we take several processes step by step. Starting from holding a get-together to introduce our project and our staff, we research and analyze the problems and discuss them with farmers, let them elect their leaders after deciding the best way to elect them.



**Counterparts
Eng. Lotfy Bedier El-Shawaf (left)
Eng. Mohamed El-Koddossy (right)**

However, not all the farmers welcome our project, especially those who live in upstream areas enjoying abundant water already. We encourage all the farmers to join our project by distributing leaflets to explain the advantages of our project and show them the areas which have already succeeded. Also we apply penalties on the farmers who pump up water illegally.

Full scale farmer participation is a new idea and also a big challenge, but we believe it's worth making the effort.



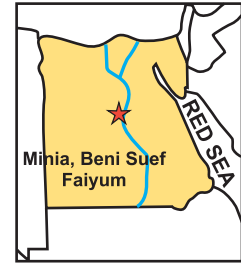
Water Management Improvement Project



(2) Project for the Rehabilitation and Improvement of Delivery Water System on Bahr Yousef Canal

The Bahr Yousef Canal runs along the left bank of the middle reaches of the Nile River. It serves a command area of about 770,000 feddan, which are spread over the Minia, Beni Suef and Faiyum Governorates. In those areas as a whole, maize, cotton, sorghum and vegetables are dominant in summer, and wheat, broad beans, clover and vegetables in winter. However, the deteriorating facilities of the canal, which was constructed at the beginning of the previous century, needed to be refurbished since they caused problems such as a tail water shortage due to over irrigation upstream and inadequate water level control at the branch canal intake or regulator of the principal canal. Five regulators in particular on the canal were urgently in need of modernization.

Project Site



Following a request from the Government of Egypt, Japan implemented a development study from 1991 to 1992. Based on the study, Japan implemented grant aid cooperation to improve the irrigation and drainage system of the areas, focusing on the rehabilitation of the Rahoun Regulator, which was urgent, so that farm production could be increased. In addition, the Mazoura Regulator was also renewed and the Sakoula Regulator was earmarked for renewal to enable easy but precise gate operation so that proper water levels could be maintained for the service area near and downstream from the regulators.



(3) Aid for Increased Food Production (2KR)

It is considered that the food problems of developing countries can be solved only through self-help efforts. In order to assist such self-help efforts, 2KR provides grants for the procurement of production equipment and material, including fertilizers, agrochemicals and agricultural machinery. Since 1981, the Government of Japan has been extending 2KR assistance to Egypt especially for the increase of wheat production. Agricultural machinery procured under 2KR is distributed to the agricultural mechanization centers of the Ministry of Agriculture and lent to farmers for their use. This machinery is well maintained and even twenty year old machinery is still operating.

Project Site



(4) Rice Cultivation Techniques (TCTP)

Rice cultivation is one of the main agricultural industries in Egypt. Its crop yield per unit is the biggest in the world followed by Australia and Greece. This high production rate in Egypt is due to the dry and sunny weather throughout the year, and abundant water from the Nile River. Also the technical cooperation for years given by Japan and other donor countries has improved the efficiency of rice cultivation in Egypt.

Since 1987, Egypt has been transferring rice cultivation techniques to other African countries in cooperation with JICA. The training courses are designed so that they can raise the rice productivity in their own countries. 14 to 17 trainees are invited from African countries such as Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania to Egypt every year to take the training courses which consist of lectures in classrooms and practical instruction in the fields and laboratories for several months. As the rice cultivation training courses are highly appreciated by the participants every year and as there is a large demand from African countries, they have been held from 1987 until the present day.

The rice cultivation training course in 2004 was held from 11th May to 7th October. Fourteen participants have been studying issues such as rice salinity, biological control of rice diseases and insect pests, hybrid rice production, fertilizer calculation and application through lectures in Cairo and field studies in Kafr El Sheikh with the help of Egyptian and Japanese experts.



The top 10 countries for rice crop yields per unit in 2002

	country	amount
1	Egypt	9141
2	Australia	8500
3	Greece	7451
4	USA	7370
5	Spain	7225
6	Peru	6690
7	Japan	6582
8	South Korea	6315
9	Italy	6148
10	Portugal	6042

Source: FAO Production Yearbook
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