

CASE STUDY - EGYPT

Strengthening sustainable food and agriculture (SFA) at policy level

Context and Background

Egypt has shown a strong commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and has a clear vision for 2030 that is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030 takes into consideration the challenges facing the process of development in Egypt. These challenges are represented in the scarcity of natural resources such as energy, land and water (in addition to environmental degradation); human development resources including population, health, and education; the inadequacy of the governance system; and the absence of systems that foster creativity and innovation. In addition, the strategy adopts a number of goals and targets, in order to transform these elements into incentives for development, instead of being major challenges. In this regard, the strategy has adopted the Sustainable Development Concept as a general framework and means of improvement. Furthermore, the strategy is based on the concepts of sustainable and inclusive growth and balanced regional development, ensuring the participation of everyone in the process of building and development for the benefit of all the Egyptians from the outcomes of this development.

In Egypt the Sustainable food and agriculture (SFA) are critically important for the achievement of the SDGs in tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building an inclusive society that leaves no one behind especially the rural communities, and managing natural resources sustainably. FAO has developed the SFA Guidelines - 'Engaging Agriculture Forestry and fisheries in the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development- Guidelines for Policy Makers' to identify the interlinkages and drivers and develop an iterative step-by-step implementation pathway with co-constructed solutions. Moreover, the consistency and coherence between the targets of Egypt's national sustainable development and the universal targets of the United Nations is ensured as Egypt's precedence is integrating the Sustainable Development Concept and targets into the national planning system.

The study conducted by UNFPA, UNDP and Baseera in 2018 entitled "Localizing the Targets of the Sustainable Development Goals at the Governorate Level" indicates that the governorates of Egypt can be classified to 5 groups according to the efforts required to achieve the SDGs targets:

The First Group: Which is considered a critical group which comprise a group of governorates that should be considered as top priority. The improvement in the SDGs indicators of these governorates to an average level will accelerate the improvement of the indicators on the national level. This group includes seven

governorates in Upper Egypt, that are Fayoum, Minya, Assuit, Sohag, Qena, Aswan and Luxor.

The Second Group: Which is considered as the next priority after the governorates of the critical group. The SDGs indicators in this group are at low levels and require focused efforts on issues related to those indicators. This group includes: The Red Sea, New Valley, Giza, Beni Suef and Ismailia.

The Third Group: This group includes governorates that need intermediate efforts to improve its indicators. This group includes Cairo, Suez, Damietta, Sharkia, Kafr El Sheikh , Garbia and Beheira.

The Fourth Group: This group includes the best governorates in terms of indicators, which need limited efforts in some indicators to achieve targets. This group includes Alexandria, Port Said, Dakahlia, Kalioubia and Menoufia.

The Fifth Group: This group includes governorates that suffer from a severe shortage of available data. Therefore, it was difficult to classify or state targets for them. This group includes North Sinai and South Sinai.

Reference to the MAPS process in Egypt

In response to the call of the 2030 Agenda for an integrated approach and country demands for coherent and effective UN support, the UN Development Group (UNDG) adopted 'MAPS' (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support)- a common approach to support the implementation and mainstreaming of the SDGs in national plans, policies, strategies and budgets within the aim to accelerate critical SDG achievements, drawing on skills and expertise held in the UN development system in addressing new and emerging items on the national development agenda.

The MAPS engagement process in Egypt during 2018 had worked on providing the Government with integrated support on policy making, implementation and capacity building for SDG implementation.

Accordingly, the Egyptian Government in cooperation with the FAO is keen to strengthen the capacity of its officials in relevant ministries and other stakeholders to better understand the interlinkages among SDGs indicators and how to draw synergies between various indicators that the FAO is a custodian UN agency, or a contributing UN agency through conducting national workshops. Such exercise will help in having synergies among the newly drafted agriculture and irrigation sections for Egypt's Vision 2030 as well strengthen the capacity of government officials on monitoring and reporting relevant SDGs' indicators.

This is linked to Government Priority 2: Raising the degree of food security in strategic food commodities, Country Outcome 2: Increased degree of food security

on strategic goods (SDG Indicators 1.3.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.3.2, 8.6.1; 8.7.1; 8.8.1, 9.3.2 and 12.3.1). and to FAO Regional Initiative: Small Scale Family Farming Initiative for Inclusive Development in the Near East and North Africa, and Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition in the Near East and North Africa.

Objectives of the workshops:

- Strengthen the technical capacity of government officials in charge of planning and monitoring of SDGs in relevant ministries (Ministry of planning, Moitoring and Administrative Reform, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Health) and other stakeholders to better understand the interlinkages of SDGs related to food and sustainable agriculture that shall help in having a common understanding about synergies in the new drafted sections for agriculture and irrigation that shall be incorportaed in Egypt's Vision 2030; and
- Localization of the SDGs related to food and agriculture systems that would help in strengthening the capacity of government officials to better understand the objectives of the SDGs in order to improve the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through designing and implanting effective multi-stakeholder engagement processes to enable them to better understand interlinkages among various SDGs indicators in relation to food and sustainable agriculture and draw synergies among various indicators.

Approach and Methodology

- Mapping of national stakeholders, and Identification of interlinkages, potential accelerators for the SDGs in particular in relation to sustainable food and agriculture, systematic collaboration including institutional arrangements across multiple ministries and non-state actors;
- Design and conduct a training course of 2 weeks for technical capacity development of national staff of different line ministries that are relevant to the scope of work to demonstrate new and advanced methods and technologies in assessing, implementing, monitoring and reporting of SDGs at national policy level in all the relevant sectors.
- Design and Conduct a 4 – Days Training workshop to the best 16 Trainers to be nominated out of the 25 trainees trained in the ToT training, for further capacity development and mitigating the challenges faced in the ToT training and incorporating all the needed improvements and recommendations;

Strengthening sustainable food and agriculture (SFA) at policy level

- Conduct a national workshops to strengthen the technical capacity of government officials in charge of planning and monitoring of SDGs in relevant ministries (Ministry of planning, Moitoring and Administrative Reform, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Health) and other stakeholders to better understand the interlinkages of SDGs related to food and sustainable agriculture that shall help in having a common understanding about synergies in the new drafted sections for agriculture and irrigation that shall be incorporated in Egypt's Vision 2030.

Activities

- Conduct a thorough needs assessment report on SDGs implementation and monitoring at national level and engagement in all strategies and policies, showcasing challenges and success stories and address appropriate responses to the various challenges and opportunities regarding the SDG achievement at the national level especially the Agricultural sector;
 - an in-depth mapping and analysis of national stakeholders, and Identify the interlinkages, potential accelerators for the SDGs in particular in relation to sustainable food and agriculture and the systematic collaborations including institutional arrangements across multiple ministries and non-state actors;
 - Review of the newly drafted sections for the agriculture and irrigation for Egypt's vision 2030 and identify points of divergence;
 - Identify possible convergence points for both the newly drafted agriculture and irrigation sections for moving towards a sustainable food and agriculture approach;
- Design and conduct a training course of 2 weeks for technical capacity development of national staff of different line ministries that are relevant to the scope of work to demonstrate new and advanced methods and technologies in assessing, implementing, monitoring and reporting of SDGs at national policy level in all the relevant sectors.
 - develop the training course and design a detailed agenda in addition to training materials (a guide book/ training manual/ handouts, etc.) for the trainers that they could use later on in the training workshops;
 - Up to 25 trainees, possibly with 1/3 ratio of women, 10 from the MPMAR, 5 from the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and 10 from different relevant institutions and line Ministries (e.g. CAPMAS, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Environment,

Strengthening sustainable food and agriculture (SFA) at policy level

Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade, etc.) selected for the Training of Trainers (ToTs) teaching modality according to the specific criteria following;

- Technical background and relevance to achieving SDGs;
 - Job title/description and accessibility to influence and benefit from the training;
 - Accessibility to train other governmental staff to achieve a greater understanding and share the knowledge.
- Design and Conduct a 4 – Days Training workshop to the best 16 Trainers to be nominated out of the 25 trainees trained in the ToT training, for further capacity development and mitigating the challenges faced in the ToT training and incorporating all the needed improvements and recommendations;
 - Modify and accommodate all the challenges, recommendations, improvements, etc., requested after the ToT training;
 - Select the best 16 trainees out of the 25 trainees of the ToT to participate in the training workshop.
 - Organize a national consolidation workshop for information sharing and knowledge exchange on assessment, implementation and monitoring of SDGS at the national policy level within the different line Ministries in Egypt;
 - organize a one – day high level national workshop for policy actors, resource partners and strategic developing actors, with the objective to raise awareness on SDG implementation and monitoring at national level and engagement in all strategies and policies with FAO as facilitator, showcasing challenges and success stories by presenting the needs assessment report conducted and address appropriate responses to the various challenges and opportunities regarding the SDG achievement at the national level especially the Agricultural sector