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Ministry of Agriculture & Land Reclamation
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Agriculture Policy Reform Program
Reform Design and Implementation

وزارة الزراعة واستصلاح الأراضي
الوكالة الأمريكية للتنمية الدولية
مشروع إصلاح السياسات الزراعية
وحدة تصميم وتنفيذ السياسات

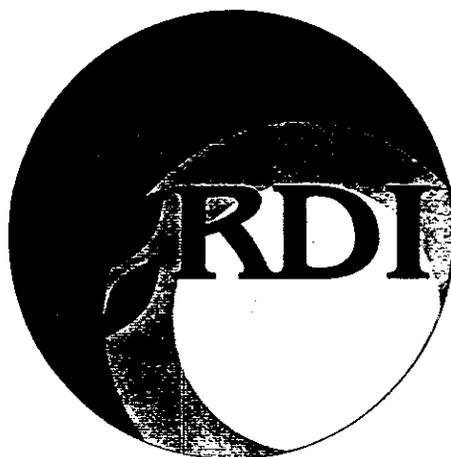
Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

AGRICULTURE POLICY REFORM PROGRAM

Reform Design and Implementation Unit (RDI)

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RDI REPORTS



APRP

Reform Design and Implementation Unit

Development Alternatives Inc. Group: Office for Studies & Finance, National Consulting Firm Development Associates, Cargill Technical Services, The Services Group, Training Resources Group, Purdue Universities, University of Maryland

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Report No. 149

***RDI Public
Awareness Activity
Report***

Steven Joyce
Training Resources Group (TRG)

November 2001

Introduction

This consultant report describes the status of RDI public awareness activities taking place from October 31 –November 20, 2001, as well as preparation steps and required actions for activities scheduled during the November-January time period (see Appendix A, APRP/RDI Upcoming Workshops). These activity areas include:

- *Strengthening Pesticide Associations, Pesticide Dealers Certification and Pesticide Registration*
- *Roundtable for Milk Labeling*
- *Cotton Pest Management Liberalization Program Expansion*
- *Cost of Production Program, New Lands Agricultural Statistics, and National Accounts*
- *Cooperatives Program*
- *Employee Stakeholders Association (ESA) Program for Rice Mills, Transport and Maritime Companies, and Agricultural Companies*
- *Matching Water Supply and Demand*
- *Publications*

Strengthening Pesticide Associations, Pesticide Dealers Certification and Pesticide Registration

Pesticide Dealers Certification Program

- *Pesticide Dealers Training Course--Trainer's Manual*
- *Pesticide Dealers Technical Manual*
- *Pesticide Dealers TOT*

In May 2001, EATSAP, Crop Life Egypt (formerly EAAPA, the Egyptian Association for Agrochemical Producers and Affiliates), RDI and CSPP began the development of the Pesticide Dealers and Applicators Certification and Licensing Program.

This support to pesticide liberalization is an implementation activity of a two-year Tranche III benchmark:

To revise and reissue open and transparent regulations for pesticides and issue regulations to license pesticide companies and applicators.

In meetings held May 14th and 22nd, preliminary agreement was reached that the certification program would first target pesticide dealers. A certification program will:

- Improve the standards of dealer knowledge and skills.
- Result in better service to farmers and others.
- Improve the government's perception of dealers, and treat them as responsible service providers.
- Ensure that pesticides are transported, stored, handled, sold and used safely and effectively.

A series of ten sessions were developed in June-July 2001 (up to 3 hours per session) to be delivered in both classroom settings and at dealer premises. EATSAP, Crop Life Egypt, RDI, and CSPP met on June 11th and 17th to reach agreement on the technical outcomes of each module in the certification program. A preliminary design draft of the manual was completed on June 28th. In the subsequent 3-week period, the GTZ/CSPP pesticide specialist, Tony Treen, completed technical handouts, processing questions, etc., in the draft document. He also completed the participant technical manual for dealers.

On July 26th, Tony Treen, Rich Magnani and Steve Joyce reviewed the 10-session design document session by session, agreeing on changes and improvements. The second draft of the *Pesticide Dealers Training Course--Trainer's Manual* was completed on August 1, 2002, and submitted for review to executive directors of Crop Life Egypt and EATSAP on August 2nd, along with the technical manual for participants, *Pesticide Dealers Manual*.

Crop Life Egypt, EATSAP, RDI and CSPP then met on August 6th to review the manual, and agreed on changes to both manuals leading to final drafts. However, at this meeting the representatives of the two associations requested more time to review in detail both the training guidelines and the technical manual. A follow-up meeting was then held on September 13, 2001. At this meeting, the two associations offered feedback on the technical and training manuals, which was positive and recommended no re-drafting or modifications to either manual. However, association member will have a second opportunity to suggest modifications during the Training of Trainers (TOT) course and the two proposed pilot courses. At the September 13th meeting, the two association also recommended names of 25 people that they wish to nominate as trainers to eventually deliver all or parts of the course.

The technical manual was translated into Arabic and mailed out to the 25 proposed TOT participants in mid-October. The training manual, also translated into Arabic, was provided at the November 7-9th course. The Training-of-Trainers Course was conducted as planned on November 7-9, 2001. In addition to the 25 participants--pesticide distributors and dealers--eight board members the two associations--Crop Life Egypt and EATSAP--also attended (see Appendix B). It is anticipated that many of these trainers will be able to deliver the 10-session course in their home governorates. These sessions are based on experiential methodology: highly interactive, with heavy focus on

application. The TOT course was designed to build experiential training skills -- skills in handling small group tasks, case studies (what-if situations) and role plays. Selection criteria for TOT participants included strong technical understanding of pesticides.

The November 7-9th course was designed by Tony Treen, CSPP, and Richard Magnani and Steve Joyce of RDI. Dr. Ahmed El-Behery and Eng. Atef Abdel-Halim were contracted to help with the preparation and delivery of both courses.

In early January, a TOT refresher will be conducted, followed by two pilot courses, to be held in Upper and Lower Egypt.

Next Steps/Actions

1. *EATSAP and Crop Life Egypt will identify up to fifteen participants for each of the two pilot runs of the Pesticide Dealers Course.*
2. *The two associations will determine sites for the two workshops by December 1, 2001.*
3. *GTZ and RDI will develop an action plan for the refresher TOT and the two pilot courses by December 1, 2001.*
4. *Rich Magnani will oversee revisions to the training manual, to be submitted by the associations (revisions to include Arabic terminology), and by the RDI consultants, Atef Abdel Halim and Ahmed El-Beheiry.*

EATSAP Public Awareness Program

In addition to the certification program, RDI and GTZ/CSPP also provided public awareness support to EATSAP, the pesticide association representing seed and pesticide dealers. In February-June 2001, EATSAP held public awareness workshops in Assuit, Tanta, Alexandria, Mansoura and Zagazig for a total of 277 participants. The purpose of these workshops were to present the vision for registration--training and licensing--for pesticide dealers and applicators that resulted from the series of MALR/RDI and GTZ workshops in April, June and October 2000 on pesticide registration.

A flyer on EATSAP's mission and objectives was developed jointly with RDI and CSPP for distribution at the first round of workshops. In addition, RDI and CSPP have assisted with the development of the first two issues of an association newsletter – March and June 2001.

Rich Magnani, RDI, and Tony Treen, CSPP, coordinate with EATSAP and Crop Life Egypt on the public awareness and dealer's manual activities. Steve Joyce is providing design assistance in the development of the dealer's training manual.

Roundtable for Milk Labeling--November 7, 2001

This roundtable was conducted in direct support of Tranche V Policy Benchmark E1, which states:

The GOE (MSHT) will ensure that all food products are properly labeled for consumer protection.

Specifically, the roundtable on the decree helped meet the second indicator:

E.2.2 Public awareness of new regulations among processors.

The first indicator was already met with the issuing of the decree:

E.12.1 Decree establishing truth in labeling for milk products, as per standard U.S. or EU criteria, to establish the distinction between fresh and reconstituted milk.

Dr. Ahmed Abdel Aziz had the lead RDI role in preparing and conducting the roundtable. Prior to the roundtable, he interviewed a selection of processors to determine the level of awareness re: the decree, and he prepared a power point slide presentation (Arabic) on key points in the decree. The roundtable was held at the APRP conference room, and attended by 20 representatives of the industry.

Dr. Sayed Hussein has lead RDI responsibility for this activity area.

Cotton Pest Management Program Expansion

- *Governorate Review Workshops -- Menofeya, Dakhaleya, Beheira, and Kafr El Sheik.*
- *Cotton Pest Management Services Planning Workshop, November 4, 2001*

Over the past two year, RDI, CSPP/GTZ and senior government MALR staff worked in close cooperation and partnership to transfer pest management services and responsibilities for cotton from the GOE to the private sector and to farmers. MALR staff included: Dr. Reda Ismail, First Undersecretary for Extension; Dr. Khalil El-Malki, Undersecretary, Central Administration for Pest Control; Dr. Sayed Abd el Azeem, General Director for Pest Control; and Eng. Mohamed Raslan, Supervisor for Cotton Production in Lower Egypt and Undersecretary for Menoufeya Governorate.

This activity area is in support of Tranche IV benchmark D6:

The GOE will allow the private sector to provide all cotton pest management services by December 2000. The MALR will be responsible only for inspection and quality control, licensing and provision of extension advisory services.

The first indicator for this benchmark has been exceeded in the 2000 pilot program implemented in sixteen villages in four governorates (indicator called for two governorates). It follows a similar GTZ/CSPP program implemented in 1999 in a smaller number of villages. The 2000 program was evaluated in October 2000 by MALR and GTZ.

To fully accomplish the benchmark, APRP worked closely with Dr. Tantawi, First Undersecretary for Extension, and Dr. Khalil El-Malki to finalize a decree *allowing the private sector to provide all goods and services required for pest management in cotton* (second indicator). The Minister approved the wording for this decree on January 21, 2001.

Although the benchmark is now met, GTZ/CSPP has requested that RDI continue its support in the coming year as the program is expanded. At the November 18, 2000, *Cotton Pest Management Review Workshop*, the participants proposed that this expansion first occur within the same four governorates, and only then should the program be expanded to include other governorates.

Four governorate workshops--Beheira, Menofeya, Dakhleya and Kafr El Sheik--were held before the end of February 2001 to plan for the program expansion, and a second round of workshops will be held in September. These governorate workshops will include participants representing the cooperatives and private pesticide traders from the fifty-one 2001 program villages (including the original pilot villages and the new villages) and MALR Central Administration and Governorate staff. Village workshops to launch the program were held in April in all 51 villages in the four governorates.

The purpose of the village workshops was to assure a clear understand of the program, and farmer responsibilities. An eighteen minute video was co-developed by RDI and CSPP/GTZ (paid for by GTZ) for viewing at the farmer workshops to assure clear and consistent messages about the program. RDI is retaining consultant assistance from Mr. Nasser Hindi, retired from MALR in Dahkaleya, to assist with overall coordination of APRP's role in the program, and in particular the implementation of the village workshops.

In October 2001, MALR, RDI and CSPP conducted *Cotton Pest Management Governorate Review Workshops* in Menofeya, Dakhaleya, Beheira, and Kafr El Sheik:

- Sherbine El Kom, October 13th
- Mansoura, October 14th
- Dahmanhour, October 15th
- Kafr El Shiekh, October 16th

The purpose of these workshops was to review progress of the program, and identify lessons and outstanding issues. Attendance included MALR Central Administrative officials, governorate and district MALR staff, cooperative managers, private sector

dealers and applicators, and farmer leaders. In all, over 400 people attended these workshops. GTZ/CSPP covered workshop expenses.

Then on November 4, 2001, a workshop was held for 51 governorate staff who helped carry out the 2001 activities together with governorate staff for the 2002 expansion program. The purpose of this workshop was to prepare initial governorate-level strategies and action plans for next year's program, to begin in early January 2002.

The RDI TA manager for this activity area is Dr. Lamia El-Fattal.

Cost of Production and Farm Income Program

RDI has supported many enumerator and farmer workshops as part of a two-year-long RDI support program to the Economic Affairs Sector of MALR, headed by Eng. Mohamed El Shahed. The program directly supports implementation of Tranche IV benchmark D7, which states:

The GOE (MALR) will collect, manage and distribute agricultural data and information on farm production and income at the farm and national levels to meet the private and public sector needs.

The Upper Egypt Cost of Production Review Workshop was held on March 17-18th in Aswan, and brought together the key MALR personnel who implemented the farmer survey in 2000 to help summarize the conclusions of the program for the year, and to identify next steps for the 2001 program. The Delta Cost of Production Workshop was held May 9-10th in Alexandria. It included 60 participants from those nine governorates - those participating in the 2000 pilot program, as well as participants from those governorates to be included in the 2001 expansion program. The 2000 program governorates include Ismailia, North Sinai, Garbeya, and Shakeya; and the 2001 expansion governorates include Minya, Beheira, Alexandria, Fayoum, Giza, and Dakhaleya.

Beginning in September 2001, Governorate workshops were held as follows:

- Minya, September 12-13th
- Dakaleya, September 19-20th
- Fayoum, September 26-27th
- Giza, October 2nd
- Beheira/Alexandria, October 10-11th
- Marsa Matrouh, October 19-20th

These workshops included one day of orientation and planning for enumerators from the pilot districts in each new governorate, and one day of pre-testing with farmers in each district represented. A total of 133 participants attended these six workshops.

New Lands Agricultural Statistics Workshops

Last month, enumerator orientation workshops on agricultural statistics for the new lands were held for enumerators in four governorates. These workshops were held May 13th in Fayoum (20 participants), May 15th in Amereya for 70 participants, and May 17th in Ismailia for 30 participants from Ismailia and North Sinai.

The lack of adequate and reliable statistics on the new lands encouraged APRP/MVE Unit to conduct a study on the *Availability and Quality of Agricultural Data for the New Lands in Egypt* (Impact Assessment Report No.12). Among the most important recommendations of this study is that the EAS should expand the duties of the sampling directorate to include collection of yield, area, and production cost data on crops important to the New Lands. The workshops in Fayoum, Nubareya and Ismailia last month were aimed at helping EAS/MALR to implement this key recommendation. Workshop technical handouts and participant lists are located in the RDI public awareness files.

The teams from the four governorates and EAS central administration staff, under the direction of Mohamed El-Shahed, First Undersecretary for Economic Affairs, then came together for a progress review workshop held August 8-9th. In addition to reviewing the data collection activities in four areas--land tenure, cropping patterns, cost of production, and marketing--the workshop also provided an opportunity to plan for the next phase of activities.

A seminar was held on November 14th to present the results, conclusions and next steps outlined in the New Lands Agriculture Statistics Study. Dr. Abdel-Hamid Saad was the key presenter. Over 20 participants attended, primarily from the Economic Affairs Sector of the MALR.

National Accounts

As noted above, the MALR/EAS and the RDI Unit conducted a pilot program in nine governorates during 1999 and 2000 to improve the methods and means of collecting farm budget and income statistics. The EAS has been able to establish a database as a result of this program. The results of the program led to the approval of a Tranche 4 benchmark on improving agricultural statistical data with respect to Tranche IV verification indicators D.7.1 and D.7.2. The excellent results of the pilot program have convinced the MALR/EAS to expand the program nationwide.

Successful expansion of the program is leading to the achievement of the third verification indicator D-7.3 which calls for "The GOE (MALR) will prepare agricultural income statistics at the national level to meet the system of national account 1993 standards" by Dec. 2001. The implementation requires that the UN methodology of national account system of 1993 will be accepted and adopted by the data collection specialists in the Economic Affairs Sector. The RDI Unit will support the application of this system for agricultural sector by employing a professional national account expert to

assist with the process of ensuring that the system of 1993 is instituted correctly by the professionals in the EAS/MALR. The work will focus on two areas:

- preparing the data required for the National Account System of 1993 in the light of the established database of the farm budget and income at governorates level; and
- ensuring that the collected data will be put into a form that will be usable for the National Accounts System.

The DT 2 National Accounts Training Course began June 16th. In January 2002, RDI will conduct the *Workshop on National Accounts Practices for Agricultural Sector*. The result of this program will be that all professionals in the National Income Department of the Economic Affairs Sector of the MALR will be fully aware and will fully understand the importance and implementation of the National Account System of 1993.

Dr. Sayed Hussein has lead responsibility for this activity area.

Cooperatives Program

The agricultural cooperative is the predominant rural organization throughout Egypt. These cooperatives have great potential to meet the expanding service requirements of producers. But the cooperatives must successfully complete their full transition to the private sector.

For much of the last fifty years, the government managed all agricultural input and output markets. Agricultural cooperatives became the government's main tool in implementing development objectives. They became the most important rural organizations in Egypt, but they also lost their voluntary character during this period—their main role was to transmit government orders to the farmer.

However, under the government's successful economic reform program—particularly as the government withdraws from the market in the agricultural sector—the environment in which cooperatives operate is changing. Cooperatives must also change if they are to support Egyptian farmers with the production and marketing services required in the new, more open market environment. They must lose the last characteristics of official organizations and achieve economic, managerial, and financial independence. Doing so will help ensure that they successfully complete the transition to profitable, well-managed, representative organizations, which promote and protect the interests of their members.

The APRP Tranche V policy benchmark (D5) in direct support of the transition of cooperatives to private sector is as follows:

The MALR will ensure the management autonomy of Multipurpose Credit and Specialized Cooperatives.

The indicator for achievement of this benchmark states that:

The MALR will conduct a pilot program in which multi-purpose cooperatives will choose their own Board of Directors without nominations from the MALR and the GOE will withdraw government funded resident technical specialists from MALR. The pilot program will include two cooperatives in each of two governorates.

In support of this benchmark, Eng. Samir Shehata, RDI Institutional Specialist, has initiated activities over the last several months with several cooperatives in the two pilot governorates, and also facilitated the involvement of the Horticultural Export Improvement Association (HEIA). Workshops were held September 26th in Assuit and October 4th in Mansoura with up to five multi-purpose cooperatives in each of the two governorates. The purpose of these workshops was to:

- Assist each cooperative to redefine their leadership and management team now that they will lose the government-paid technical manager.
- Identify ways that they can maintain their technical capability without government-funded resident MALR technical specialists.
- Develop a public awareness plan for communicating their new status as independent, private sector service providers to their constituencies.

The design for these workshops was completed on September 19 in a meeting with Dr. Amr Moussa, Samir Shehata and Mahmoud Nour, Thirty-four participants attended the Assuit workshop, and fifty-two participants attended the Mansoura workshop. See agenda, Appendix C.

Eng. Samir Shehata has lead RDI responsibility for this activity area.

Employee Stakeholder Association Workshops

RDI, in cooperation with the MPE Public Enterprise Office (PEO), had been conducting a series of workshops for employee-owned companies since 1997. They include transportation, maritime, rice milling and other agricultural companies.

The first results of the business activities of three of the rice mill companies are now available, from their last year as publicly held companies and their first year as private companies under employee management (July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2000). According to ADALA, the NGO that provides support to ESAs, two of the three companies reporting went from losses to profits, in spite of reduced activity; while the third achieved a significant reduction in losses. This is an exceptionally good record of achievement for the management and employees who now own these rice mills.

In 1998, RDI assistance was extended to the transport and maritime companies at the request of the Public Enterprise Office (PEO) of the Ministry of Public Enterprise. Transport and maritime companies newly privatized through employee ownership are an important player in the transportation sector, and particularly in the horticulture sub-sector. These employee stakeholder (ESA) companies are affiliated to the Maritime and Transport Holding Company and are involved in activities in support of horticulture and other exports. They include shipping agencies that coordinate product flows between exporters/freight forwarders; sea shipping lines; maritime transport and shipping companies that provide reefer container service; and trucking companies. The transition of these critical service companies to the private sector is particularly challenging because their privatization lagged behind the issuance of law no 1/1998 that ended the monopoly of the public sector and replaced it with increasing market shares for the private sector.

RDI has been providing support in four areas:

- *ESA Orientation Workshops* which are designed to help company employees understand the benefits of employee ownership, the purpose of Employee Stakeholder Associations (ESA), and stake allocation formulas.
- *ESA Corporate Governance Workshops* which help senior and middle company managers explore company governance, particularly the roles and responsibilities of company management versus the company board of directors versus employees.
- *Holding Company Planning Workshops* which bring holding company and affiliated company senior managers together for two days to identify and plan ways to smooth the transition of these companies to the private sector.
- *Organizational Development Workshops*, which bring company senior and middle managers together for two days to build consensus on the company's mission, vision for the future, and organizational improvement objectives.

Throughout this series of workshops, the company employees have the opportunity to voice many concerns. Initially, they are often not clear on many of the basic concepts of private ownership, stake allocation and the administration of their ESA. Research on companies privatized through employee ownership shows that in many cases a tremendous leap in employee productivity occurs in these companies when employees fully understand what their ownership means, and what it could bring them in the future.

Feedback from participants in the RDI workshops highlights the value of each workshop's participatory approach. Using working groups, plenary presentations and debates provides company managers the opportunity to "practice" open communication and transparency, participatory management and empowerment, and consensus-building--all important values to instill in companies making the transition

from government ownership to employee ownership. Company managers also see a critical need for better business planning, improved financial and marketing skills and strategies, as well as other management improvement strategies that will better prepared their companies for a more competitive, liberalized market environment.

Since November 1998, RDI has conducted nineteen *ESA Orientation Workshops*, seventeen *ESA Corporate Governance Workshops*, three *Holding Company Planning Workshops*, eleven *ESA Company Organizational Development Workshops*, and one *ESA OD Follow-Up Workshop*--53 workshops attended by a total of over 1850 company managers and employees. The most recent workshops were as follows:

--September 10-11th *ESA Organizational Development Workshop for the Suez Mechanical Steevadoring Company*

--September 17-18th *Beheira Rice Mills Company ESA Organizational Development Workshop*

Dr. Amr Moussa of RDI manages and facilitates the ESA events, with technical support from RDI Consultant Abdel-Ghani Hassan, and administrative support from Adel Moussa Aly, ADELA, and Nihal El Ganiani of RDI. A total of 60 people attended the two workshops.

The participant lists and proceedings for these workshops are in the public awareness file.

Matching Water Supply and Demand (MISD) Expansion Planning Workshops

These workshops have been in support of a collaborative effort with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI). The program directly supports implementation of Tranche IV benchmark C1, which states:

The GOE (MWRI and MALR jointly) will establish a system that improves the flow of real-time information between the Ministries with respect to irrigation demands and supply.

A system for flow of real-time information was established during 2000 in five pilot districts in Beheira, Sharkeya, Beni Suef, Qena and Luxor. In 2001, the program will be expanded from 5 to 33 districts within the same governorates. A one-day workshop was held March 20th (*Beni Suef MISD Expansion Planning Workshop*). This one-day workshop was attended by 50 people from Beni Suef Governorate and from Cairo. The governorate "pilot district" team attended, plus MALR and MWRI staff covering the seven new districts. This workshop was held at the SIDS Agricultural Research Center just outside Beni Suef on the Minya road. EPIQ paid separately for the MWRI officials attending, and covered half of the cost for coffee breaks and lunch.

A follow-up session was held May 22nd for the MALR team to review progress in the 33 districts. Additional meetings were held June 27th, July 25th and August 7th to reach agreement on next steps to support the program, including resolution of the incentives and computer issues. Moreover, RDI and EPIQ will jointly produce a policy brief (to be published as an RDI Policy Brief) to increase understanding and support for the program.

On September 9th, Dr. Samir Aboulroos, Dr. Lamia Fettal and Steve Joyce of RDI met with Dr. Regab of EPIQ and Dr. Hisham of the MWRI Water Communication Unit to view the video they produced on mismatch. The RDI team liked the video, and suggested only minor changes. The Water Communication Unit also agreed that the changes would be beneficial.

MISD stakeholder meetings were held as follows:

- September 18th in Qena for 60 participants
- September 19th in Luxor for 60 participants
- September 25th in Beheira for 30 participants
- October 30th in Cairo for 73 participants

The RDI TA manager for this activity is Dr. Samir Abdel Wahab Aboulroos. All workshop proceedings can be found in the public awareness files.

Publications

- September 2001 RDI Quarterly Newsletter

Published and delivered to RDI on November 11, 2001. Dissemination to RDI mailing list completed November 20th.

- December 2001 RDI Quarterly Newsletter

Completed and submitted to printer on November 16th, with proof reviewed on November 21st. Abdel-Rahim is currently translating into Arabic. See English version in Appendix D.

- RDI Policy Briefs

Policy brief completed and submitted to printer on November 16th for Matching Water Supply and Demand

- RDI policy briefs identified for development in coming quarter:

- Intellectual Property Management and Technology Commercialization
- Research and Extension
- Cooperatives

APPENDIX A

Upcoming APRP/RDI Workshops

APRP/RDI

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

November 2001 - January 2002

November

- November 4 Cotton Pest Management Services Planning Workshop. Cairo.
- November 7-9 Upper Egypt Training of Trainers--Pesticide Dealers Training Course. Assuit.
- November 11 Roundtable on Decree for Milk Labeling.
- November 14 ACC Fisheries Sub-Committee Workshop.
- November 14 Seminar on the Cotton Marketing and Rice Marketing Websites
- November 14 Seminar on the New Lands Agricultural Statistics Study

January

- January Workshop on National Accounts Practices for Agricultural Sector. Alexandria. MALR/EAS central administration and governorate staff.
- January Upper Egypt Pilot Pesticide Dealers Certification Follow-Up TOT. Assuit.
- January Delta Pilot Pesticide Dealers Certification Follow-Up TOT. Tanta.

APPENDIX B

Pesticide Training Program

Training of Trainers Course

November 7-9, 2001

Assuit

Pesticide Training Program
Training of Trainers Course
November 7-9, 2001
Assuit

November 7th

9:00

Introduction

- Opening remarks--history, collaborating groups, purpose
- TOT Goals and Agenda
- TOT Course Procedures

9:20

Presentation: Key Course Themes and Values

- Good Service = Good Business
- Quality Service and Quality Products
- Integrated Pest Management

9:40

Working Groups: Key Themes and Values

Question: How can you promote these values among pesticide dealers and in the community?

Three working groups, with each including a mix of the 8-10 participants and association members who attend the course as observers.

10:15

Working Groups Report

Each working group reports out.

10:45

Coffee Break

11:05

Overview of Program/Highlights of the 10 Sessions

This presentation is meant to be brief.

- The 10-session *Pesticide Dealers Training Course* agenda is outlined on two flipcharts taped to the wall.

- The presenter first reviews the purpose for the developing the training course, the role of the associations, future courses, and what participants will walk away with.
- The presenter then provides a brief *technical* highlight for each of the ten sessions.
- Finally, the presenter describes the experiential methodology upon which the course is build:
 - Interactive Presentations, with open-ended questions
 - Work groups
 - "What if" Situations
 - Role plays

12:00

Practice Training Round I -- Preparation

Explanation of how the practice sessions will work -- zeroing in on key values/technical messages, and giving selected first-hand experience with new methodology. This practice experience during the TOT will then be reinforced during the pilot course.

Assignments -- 2 person co-trainer teams

- Session One, Procedure 4: *Working Groups--The Problems Affecting Dealers and their Farmer Customers...*
- Session Two, Procedure 3: *Presentation--Why do Dealers Need to Know about Pest Management and IPM*
- Session Two, Procedure 4: *Brainstorming--Pests, Diseases, and Weeds*
- Session Two, Procedure 5: *Table Group Task--Methods of Pest Management, and Definitions for Pest Control, Pest Management and IPM*

Preparation Guidelines

1. With your co-trainer, read through the session--what comes before your assignment and what comes after it.
2. Review with your co-trainer the procedure assigned to you.
3. Agree on how you will divide activities between you.
4. Agree on what preparation you need (e.g., flipchart of the working group task)
5. Do dry runs

1:00 **Coffee Break**

1:30 **Demonstration -- Facilitation Skills**

Presentation and demonstration is made of the facilitating skills of *question-asking, paraphrasing and summarizing.*

1:50 **Practice Training Round One**

Before each practice training, set the stage by going over what the session has provided up to the point of the practice training assignment. Get the audience for the practice training into their role as pesticide dealers who are attending the pilot course. Explain that after each practice training, there will be an opportunity for feedback and suggestions. Each practice training will average 30 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for feedback and suggestions.

- Session One, Procedure 4: *Working Groups--The Problems Affecting Dealers and their Farmer Customers...*
- Session Two, Procedure 3: *Presentation--Why do Dealers Need to Know about Pest Management and IPM*

3:10 **10 minute Stretch Break**

- Session Two, Procedure 4: *Brainstorming--Pests, Diseases, and Weeds*
- Session Two, Procedure 5: *Table Group Task--Methods of Pest Management, and Definitions for Pest Control, Pest Management and IPM*

4:40 **Homework Assignments**

- Complete Self Assessment Form at the end of Session One.
- Assign two co-training teams to prepare a five-minute summary of the highlights for them of Day One. They will present these highlights at the opening for Day Two.
- Preparation for Practice Training Round Two:

Assignments -- 2 person co-trainer teams

- Session Three, Procedure 2: Table Group Task--Review of Homework Assignment
- Session Three, Procedure 3: Interactive Discussion--The Place of Pesticides in IPM
- Session Three, Procedure 4: "What if" Situations--Threshold Levels and Pest Scouting
- Session Four, Procedure 3: Table Group Discussion--Meeting the Legal Requirements

5 p.m.

Closure of Day 1

November 8th

9:00

Introduction of Day Two

- Review of the Previous Day
 - Two Co-Trainer Teams present homework assignment on Summary of Day 1
 - TOT facilitator Reviews Previous Day
- Discussion of Self Assessment Survey Results
- TOT facilitator models "What if" Situation from Session Seven, Procedure 7 -- Disposal and Spills.

9:45

Round Two Practice Training: Preparation

Participants are allowed 30 minutes to make last minute preparation and/or a dry run for their practice training.

10:15

Round Two Practice Training

Explain that as we did yesterday, each practice training will be followed with an opportunity for feedback and suggestions. Each practice training will average 30 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for feedback and suggestions.

- Session Three, Procedure 2: Table Group Task--Review of Homework Assignment

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:20 **Round Two Practice Training Continued**

- Session Three, Procedure 3: Interactive Discussion--The Place of Pesticides in IPM
- Session Three, Procedure 4: "What if" Situations--Threshold Levels and Pest Scouting
- Session Four, Procedure 3: Table Group Discussion--Meeting the Legal Requirements

1:20 **Lunch Break**

1:50 **Round Three Practice Training -- Preparation**

- TOT facilitator models "role playing."
- Preparation for Practice Training Round Two:

Assignments -- 2 person co-trainer teams

- Session Three, Procedure 7: Role Plays -- Causes and Effects of Pest Resistance...
- Session Five, Procedure 4: Presentation -- Pesticide Classification
- Session Six, Procedure 4: Table Group Task -- Toxicity and Pictograms
- Session Seven, Procedure 3: Interactive Discussion -- Transport, Loading and Unloading

2:50 **Round Three Practice Training**

- Same procedure as Rounds One and Two.
- Practice Training 1st Co-Training Team

3:30 **Coffee Break**

3:50

Round Three Practice Training Continued

- Practice Training 2nd Co-Training Team

4:30

Homework Assignments

- Everyone completes Session Seven, Procedure 8 -- Common Tools
- Assign two co-training teams (different people than Day 1) to prepare a five-minute summary of the highlights for them of Day Two. They will present these highlights at the opening for Day Three.

- Preparation for Practice Training Round Four:

Assignments -- 2 person co-trainer teams (only 3 teams -- volunteer)

- Session Eight, Procedure 4: Table Group Discussion -- Pesticide Routes, Harmful Effects...
- Session Nine, Procedure 6: Interactive Discussion -- Pesticide Movement in the Environment...
- Session Ten, Procedure 4, Question 2: As a "What if" Situations
- Session Six, Procedure 3: Table Group Discussion--Pesticide Label Presentation

4:45 p.m.

Closure of Day 2

November 9th

9:00

Introduction to Day Three

- Review of the Previous Day
 - Two Co-Trainer Teams present homework assignment on Summary of Day 1
 - TOT facilitator Reviews Previous Day

- Common tools homework

9:20

Round Three Practice Training Continued

- Practice Training 3rd Co-Training Team
- Practice Training 4st Co-Training Team

10:40

Coffee Break

11:00

Round Four Practice Training

- Same procedure as Rounds One and Two.
- Practice Training 1st Co-Training Team
- Practice Training 2nd Co-Training Team
- Practice Training 3rd Co-Training Team

1:00

Summary of TOT and What is Next

Participant Comments and Evaluation

1:30

TOT Closure

APPENDIX C

Assuit Cooperatives Workshop

ASSUIT COOPERATIVES WORKSHOP

September 26, 2001

Agenda

10:00 Workshop Introduction

*Opening Remarks -- Eng. Samir Shehata
Goals, Agenda, Procedures -- Dr. Amr Moussa*

10:20 Presentation and Plenary Discussion

*What is the mandate of cooperatives (i.e., from your constituency)?
As an active cooperative, what can you provide as paid service?
What are activities needed to fulfill this mandate?*

-- Eng. Samir Shehata

11:00 Cooperatives Working Group Discussion

Participants meet in their cooperatives group (5 groups) to address the following questions:

- How can you best organize yourselves for new activities?
- If you need a full-time manager:
 - What should be the job description of that manager?
 - What should be the role of the Board of Directors?

12:00 Cooperatives Report

Each cooperative reports responses to the above questions.

1:00 Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations

1:30 Closure and Lunch

APPENDIX D

RDI December Newsletter
English

December 2001 Newsletter

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New Directions for Research and Extension

Focus on High-Value Agricultural Products

Egypt has a long and proud history of agricultural research and extension services that have resulted in the highest yields per hectare for several crops. Many countries around the world send their agricultural specialists here to learn from Egypt's success.

Now, as the country's agricultural economy grows, specializes and becomes more export-oriented in this era of market liberalization, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) is in the midst of redefining and focusing the responsibilities of its research and extension staff. Under the leadership of H.E. Prof. Dr. Youssuf Wally, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, the MALR is putting into place new policies to take full advantage of Egypt's potential to export high-value agricultural goods, particularly horticulture, by improving the overall quality of the exported product.

These policies will help expose farmers to new crops and methods of production, improve extension services to farmers, and improve methods of packaging and transporting horticultural produce. They will also enable extension and research institutions and staff to provide the kind of information needed by stakeholders in this new agricultural environment.

Many of these needs -- market information, economic analysis of the returns to investment in specific cropping patterns or equipment, information about processing and storage, etc. -- have not been available in the past from the state services. Wealthier farmers can pay for these services from private agencies and have been doing so in recent years. Many agribusiness companies have in fact hired international consultants when needed, and many more hire expertise from universities, the Agricultural Research Center (ARC) or private sector agricultural service companies. However, medium-scale and small-scale farmers, many of whom provide (or wish to provide) export-grade production to processors, traders, packers and exporters, need these services and support from public sector extension and research services.

Public-Private Partnership Showing Results

Over the last five years, MALR, with RDI support, has been working to redefine the role of the public sector research and extension services to accommodate a private sector led, free market agricultural economy. A major part of this redefinition has been an expanded public-private partnership in high-value horticultural crops. These efforts are showing clear results. The value of horticultural exports has tripled since 1998, making it one of the three strongest agribusiness sub-sectors in terms of investment, export value, and private sector job creation in Egypt. Additionally, according to the Horticultural Export

Improvement Association (HEIA), contract growing arrangements with small-holders account for half of all production for export.

The private sector has been an active participant from the start in identifying the policies that have helped lead to these results. They have been a strong voice in the many workshops sponsored by RDI throughout the country designed to help identify policy changes and plan for implementation. They have been an enthusiastic partner in this policy process with other key stakeholders -- especially the MALR research and extension agencies, farmer organizations and cooperatives, and growers.

This partnership has especially flourished in the two governorates -- Ismailia and Luxor/Qena -- selected as pilots in 1998 for the implementation of new policies. At the request of H.E. Minister Wally, RDI has worked with MALR research and extension agencies, as well as with rural organizations, cooperatives, universities and the private sector to select these two pilot governorates as a first step in introducing new policies and replicating the process throughout the country. The lessons learned in these two governorates are being replicated in Giza, Beni Suef and Behira Governorates.

Successful Partnership in Ismailia and Luxor/Qena -- HEIA, Farmers, Cooperatives and MALR

In implementing the new research and extension policy in Ismailia and Luxor/Qena Governorates, the MALR, with RDI support, focused on the four main areas outlined below.

Training Government Extension Workers

In Ismailia, RDI has worked closely with MALR and HEIA, to select and train twenty MALR extensionists as specialists in export-oriented horticultural cultivation and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for export-quality produce. Seven of these twenty extensionists have been trained in potato cultivation for export, and each is now responsible for 50 feddan of cooperative land. An additional thirty extensionists will be trained in organic agricultural production.

RDI is also working with the Horticultural Cooperative of Ismailia, which has a membership of 3600 farmers, to select a second group of ten recent graduates in agricultural engineering to receive training from HEIA and work exclusively for the packinghouse center to be built by HEIA.

In Luxor/Qena, preparations are under way for a training course for ten agricultural extensionists from Luxor/Qena, selected by MALR and RDI to be trained in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). HEIA will train these extensionists to be specialized in growing varieties with the potential of achieving early exports. For example, cantaloupe grown in Upper Egypt can hit an export window in Europe two-three weeks before cantaloupes from other countries are available.

MALR has also identified sixty additional extension workers in Upper Egypt ready to be trained by HEIA (after the initial training of the ten from Luxor and Qena). They include ten from Aswan, ten from Sohag, and forty from Luxor and Qena.

The Agricultural Technology Utilization and Transfer Project (ATUT) is also participating in extension training. Beginning in 2000, ATUT offered practical training courses on post-harvest and sorting practices of strawberries and green beans in Ismailia. These courses introduced GAP requirements, and recommended practices of producing clean crops to meet international standards of food safety.

Improving Mango and Strawberry Cultivation

The MALR in Ismailia is working closely with the Horticultural Cooperative of Ismailia to change the quality of production of strawberries and mangos for export by training farmers and extension officers in integrated pest management. In the past two years, farmers have established an area of strawberry and mango production that is chemical free. The cooperative has been successful in marketing this produce to exporters.

Contract Farming

The MALR, with RDI support, encourages contract farming arrangements among farmers, farmer groups, and exporters. This encouragement entails establishing and enforcing policies that protect both sides in the contractual relationship. It also includes strengthening the institutions that will represent farmers in negotiations, particularly private grower cooperatives specializing in horticultural production.

Contract agreements have been most successful with potatoes. The Horticultural Cooperative of Ismailia is now in its second year of contracting with potato exporters, and both sides of the partnership are satisfied with the terms of the agreement. The contract is based on the model of a basic contract developed by RDI (and endorsed by the MALR) in 1999. Among other stipulations, it specifies a minimum guaranteed price for potatoes at harvest. The same contract has been renewed for this year (the only change is the price offered to farmers to reflect international market shifts). The new agreement has helped to establish a level of trust between the exporter and growers, and has led to an increase in the cultivation and sales of potatoes. Last year, there were 200 feddan of potatoes dedicated for export, and this year the area is expected to double to 400 feddan.

The Horticultural Cooperative is also now working with growers and exporters to establish contracts for strawberries and mangos.

Potato Exports – How the Terms of Negotiations Changed

When MALR and RDI began the pilot project in Ismailia, farmers emphasized that they were unsatisfied with their business relationships with exporters. MALR and RDI sponsored a series of seminars to discuss the export of potatoes, inviting the Horticultural Cooperative of Ismailia, growers, and exporters.

Using the RDI model contracts, the cooperatives and farmers were able to alter the terms of trade of potatoes with the exporters, by:

- Demonstrating the fairness of the model contract to both parties (approval by the MALR gave the contract added legitimacy).
- Guaranteeing a high quality product due to the contributions of the recently trained extensionists in potato production.
- Involving MALR/Ismailia in the negotiation meetings as a mediator.
- Involving the cooperative in the negotiations.

Previously, small farmers had been unable to exact concessions from exporters due to their limited negotiating power. By working with the cooperative, small and large-scale growers were able to negotiate more equitable terms.

Improving the Cold Chain for Horticultural Exports

Effective post-harvest care and transport of horticultural produce is a critical element of the export chain. MALR, RDI and HEIA are working closely together to establish refrigerated transport, cooling units, and packinghouses in the pilot governorates.

MALR, RDI and the cooperatives have been holding regular meetings with the HEIA Green Beans Council to set up a packinghouse center with a cooling facility in Ismailia. This packinghouse facility will have an agricultural extension center to offer private extension services to growers with export crops. The project's overall aim is to assist growers in getting their products to the global market.

The center will play a key role in working with farmers to follow the right steps in all agricultural operations in accordance with the GAP. Training will also be conducted on document management for extension officers and growers, since well maintained systems to track crops from planting to harvesting are an integral step to receive internationally accredited certificates necessary for exporting local products.

The packinghouse will be designed to serve both growers and exporters. Growers will benefit from up-to-date harvesting and post-harvesting methods as well as contract

negotiations with exporters. Exporters will benefit from receipt of the quantities and varieties needed -- and with the quality requirements -- to meet external market demands.

Formation of Private Commodity-Based Associations

MALR, with RDI support, has also been encouraging the formation of private commodity-based associations and the transition of existing cooperatives from government control. In the future, it is expected that these organizations will take a leading role in research and extension activities.

Linking Farmers to International Markets

Successful elements of the pilot projects in Ismaleya and Luxor/Qena are now being replicated in Giza, Beni Suef, and Beheira. Increasingly, farmers will be directly linked to international markets through the promotion of horticultural production, the improvement of post-harvest packaging and transport facilities, and more focused research and extension activities. These positive changes should lead to benefits for the government, private sector, individual farmers, and the nation as a whole.

RDI's latest policy brief, *Future Directions in Research and Extension*, describes the lessons learned and policy implications from the pilot activities in Ismailia and Luxor/Qena.

Many people have contributed to this activity area, including: Eng. Ali Mosad, Undersecretary of Agriculture, Ismailia; Mustafa Heba, Chairman, Horticulture Cooperative of Ismailia; Eng. Kamel El-Sheikh, Undersecretary of Agriculture, Qena; Eng. Ahmed Soliman, Undersecretary of Agriculture, Aswan; Eng. Said Mansour, Undersecretary of Agriculture, Giza; Eng. Mohamed Rabia, Undersecretary of Agriculture, Beni Suef; Eng. Onsi Gergis, General Director, Extension Services, Qena/Luxor; Eng. Magdi Nekhla, Director, Horticultural Services, Aswan; Hani Kolaly, Executive Director, and Sherif Beltagui, Boardmember, HEIA; Mrs. Samia El-Said, Venus Transport Company; Mr. Sameh Ebeid, Tiba Land; and Eng. Samir Shehata and Eng. Ayaad Thabet, RDI.

New Websites for Cotton and Rice

CATGO

<http://www.egyptcotton-catgo.org/newsite>

Exporters, importers, and processors of Egyptian cotton now have direct Internet access to information on fiber properties for every single lot produced in Egypt. CATGO, the Cotton Arbitration and Testing General Organization, takes samples from every lot (about 20-30 bales) at ginning mills for testing using new HVI (high volume instrumentation) equipment, for such properties as staple length, micronaire, strength, color and trash content.

CATGO's database of those HVI tests is now accessible at the website. Users can search for lots that fulfill specific criteria regarding variety and fiber characteristics. Each lot's data are compared with the average for all lots of that variety during the same season and week. When the owner wishes, the name of the company is also available. Spinners worldwide can now identify specific lots of bales of Egyptian cotton that match their needs most closely. The website provides information only; no actual transactions take place online. CATGO and ALCOTEXA, the Alexandria Cotton Exporters Association, are exploring future prospects of building e-trade capability into the website.

APRP/RDI developed this website at the request of CATGO. It was developed by RDI consultant, Khalid Goma, Dr. Edgar Ariza-Nino and Dr. Ibrahim Siddik have lead RDI responsibility for this activity area.

INSERT 1

Cotton Marketing

www.agpolicy.com/new/cotton

The Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade requested RDI's assistance in building a market information Internet website designed to provide easy access to up-to-date data on market conditions in cotton and rice.

One of the pages of the cotton website reproduced below shows the relative shares of Egyptian cotton and American Pima in the main extra-long staple cotton markets. Other pages provide the most recent information on production, stocks, exports, mill deliveries, remaining stocks, and prices for both Egyptian varieties and its principal competitor, American Pima. Final responsibility for keeping this website up to date will be transferred to ALCOTEXA, the Alexandria Cotton Exporters Association.

INSERT 2

Rice Marketing

www.agpolicy.com/new/rice

This website, also developed at the request of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, provides exporters, traders, and decision-makers with the most up-to-date information about rice, including production, exports, and pricing of rice (domestic and international prices).

In developing the website, the Egyptian Export Promotion Center (EEPC) helped carry out weekly surveys of rice mills and exporters to obtain price information.

INSERT 3

Mr. Hazim Gomaa, RDI website and database specialist, developed the cotton and rice marketing websites under the direction of Dr. Ibrahim Siddik of RDI's Agricultural Marketing Unit. Dr. Edgar Ariza-Nino, RDI's Marketing Unit, and two RDI consultants - Dr. Magdi El-Guindi and Dr. Ragaa El-Amir -- also contributed to this effort.

catgo2.gif

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Location: http://www.egyptcotton-catgo.org/newsite/hvi_lot_index.asp

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المهينة العامة للتحكيم واختبارات القطن Cotton Arbitration & Testing General Organization



SEARCH CATGO DATABASE

Combined Search

Ginning Week
 All lots Only lots ginned between week and week

Variety
 All lots Only lots with this variety

Grade
 All lots Only lots with grade between and

Fiber Length
 All lots Only lots having Length UHM between and mm

Micronaire
 All lots Only lots having Micronaire between and mgm/finch

Order results by

Lot Number Lookup
 Enter lot # to lookup: Season

Alexandria-Egypt

557
Total records in database

Site development sponsored by

APRP
EGYPT

Document: Done

2

cot1.gif (800x600x256 gif)



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APRP Rice Site Index - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Bookmarks Location: http://www.agpolicy.com/new/rice/pr_fob.asp

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Food Balance

RTTC

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APRP HOME

Export Prices of Rice F.O.B.

► Average of This Week (11/8/2001)

Type	Variety	Price (\$/Ton)	Broken %
Camollno	177	213	3-12
Natural	177	210	3-12

► Average of Last Four Weeks

Type	Variety	Price (\$/Ton)	Broken %
Camollno	171	213	3-9
Camollno	177	226	3-12

Document: Done

Pesticide Dealers and Distributors Come Together in Assuit to Launch Certification Program

On November 7-9th in Assuit, thirty-three pesticide dealers and distributors came together in a three-day workshop to help launch the first step of a novel program directed at certification and licensing all pesticide dealers in Egypt. Two associations, Egyptian Traders of Agricultural Seeds and Pesticides (EATSAP) and Crop Life Egypt (CLE) sponsored the workshop, with support from GTZ/Cotton Sector Promotion Program (CSPP) and APRP/RDI.

The goals of the workshop were to introduce and practice training of the ten-session *Pesticide Dealers Training Program*, which was developed in June 2001 by the two associations, with CSPP and RDI assistance. The participants came from governorates throughout Upper, Middle and Lower Egypt. They included staff members of big distribution companies based in Cairo and Tanta, as well as owners of private stores in cities such as Nag Hamadi and Beni Suef. All are in the private sector, but many had past experience in the Ministry of Agriculture. It was very clear that they all shared a belief in the importance of this path-breaking effort to improve the skills and knowledge of pesticide dealers. Local government officials also emphasized the need for the program during the opening ceremonies. They included Eng. Farouk Moussa, MALR Undersecretary of Agriculture in Assuit, Eng. Aly Darawish, Director of Pest Control, and Mr. Saleh Karam of the Water Inspection Police.

During the three-day Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Workshop, the participants were exposed to such experiential learning methodology as interactive presentations, role plays, small group tasks, and "what-if" case situations -- methods that contribute to greater comprehension and retention compared to traditional lectures. Two follow-up TOTs are scheduled for January 2002 in Upper Egypt and the Delta for the same group of participants, each of which will then be followed by a pilot *Pesticide Dealers Training Course*. At each of these two courses, TOT graduates will apply their new training skills and methods to train a group of 15 pesticide dealers, under supervision of EATSAP and CLE. This approach is expected to build a cadre of trainers who can continue to provide dealer training courses in the future, under the auspices of EATSAP and CLE.

Now that the pesticide industry is moving forward to achieve its vision of providing training for dealers and applicators, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) will be able to begin developing the dealer examination and the procedures for issuing licenses. CSPP and RDI are working with MALR to establish this license testing protocol for pesticide dealers.

Many people have contributed to this activity, including Mr. Shabaan Korma, EATSAP Chairman, and Eng. Mohamed Korma, Eng. Nader Allam, and Dr. Mohamad Zaki Gomaa, EATSAP Board members; Mr. Sarwat Sakr, CLE Chairman, and Mr. Sayed Abdulla, Dr. Sherif Afifi, and Dr. Mohamed Hamaki, CLE Board members; Mr. Tony Treen and Eng. Tarek Fahmy of GTZ/CSPP; RDI consultants Dr. Ahmed El-Behery and Eng. Atef Abdel-Halim; and Rich Magnani, Steve Joyce and Mr. Abdel-Rahim Mahdy.

Steps to Broaden Biosafety Regulations and Guidelines

Scientists in both the public and private sectors in Egypt are currently using the techniques of genetic engineering to develop new, improved varieties of crops for eventual use by farmers. These include new insect-resistant types of maize and potatoes and new virus-resistant squashes and melons.

Until now, this work has been restricted to research and contained testing, but soon some of the new transgenic varieties will be ready for commercial release for planting by farmers. Such release will need to be regulated to ensure safety.

Egypt's National Bio-Safety Committee (NBC) uses the official *Biosafety Regulations and Guidelines* to guide its work in regulating the use of genetically engineered plants in Egypt. These *Guidelines* were developed mainly to regulate research and controlled testing activities. The *Guidelines* were not made to specify requirements for approving the release of such plants for commercial purposes.

In April 2001, the National Biosafety Committee decided to broaden the usefulness of the guidelines by incorporating regulations to govern commercial releases. The Secretariat of the NBC, represented by Prof. Dr. Magdy Madkour, Director of AGERI, requested the assistance of RDI/APRP to provide an expert consultant in the field of biosafety regulations. RDI provided the services of Dr. Hector Quemada, who worked with Prof. Dr. Amin El-Nawawy, Lawrence Kent, and key members of the National Biosafety Committee to review international biosafety regulations and propose an updating of Egypt's regulations.

Food and Feed Safety

Dr. Quemada first focussed on developing food and feed safety assessment regulations. He developed draft regulations based on the generally accepted principle, expressed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission that "the safety of foods derived from new plant varieties, including recombinant DNA plants, is assessed relative to a similar product having a history of safe use, taking into account both intended and unintended effects. Rather than trying to identify every hazard associated with a particular food, the intention is to identify new or altered hazards relative to a conventional counterpart."

This approach employs the concept of "substantial equivalence." It assesses whether a new food is substantially equivalent to a comparable food presently being consumed, and is therefore at least as safe as the food to which it is being compared. The areas where substantial equivalence does not exist are then subject to further safety assessment, including study of the potential for toxicity and allergenicity.

The findings and recommendations of Dr. Quemada et. al. were published in *RDI Report 134: Regulating the Commercialization of Transgenic Plants for Food and Feed in Egypt: Food Safety Assessment*. This 110 page report, complete with annexes showing how such assessments are carried out in other countries and how, for example, they could be applied to a genetically-modified potato in Egypt, is available through RDI and the Secretariat of the National Biosafety Committee.

Environmental Safety

In June 2001, at the request of the NBC Secretariat, Dr. Quemada made a second visit to Egypt to develop draft environmental safety assessment guidelines. Working in collaboration with Prof. Dr. El-Naway and others, Dr. Quemada developed guidelines by combining the most useful and practical elements of a number of guidelines used in other countries. In addition, the guidelines are consistent with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, part of the Convention on Biological Diversity to which Egypt is a signatory.

The proposed guidelines also incorporate the most important and specific data requirements used in other countries' risk assessment regulations. They require the applicant to address such issues as the potential for "weediness" of a new transgenic plant and the potential for impact on non-target organisms such as beneficial insects and soil micro flora and fauna.

The findings and recommendations of Dr. Quemada's second trip were published in *RDI Report 139: Regulating the Commercialization of Transgenic Plants for Food and Feed in Egypt: Environmental Safety Assessment*. This 137 page report, complete with annexes showing how environmental safety assessments are carried out in other countries, and how, for example, they could be applied to a genetically-modified potato in Egypt, is also available through the Secretariat of the National Biosafety Committee.

Next Steps

The National Biosafety Committee is currently studying the reports and will consider both sets of proposed guidelines at its next official meeting. If the committee adopts the guidelines, perhaps after making some improvements, they can then be integrated into the official *Biosafety Regulations and Guidelines*. Subsequently, the guidelines will serve to ensure that new and potentially very useful transgenic plants can be introduced in Egypt, but only after systematic assessment of their food and feed and environmental safety.

Mr. Lawrence Kent has lead RDI responsibility for this activity area.

Workshops and Seminars

September

Minya Cost of Production Workshop. Minya. September 12-13th for 25 MALR enumerators from Minya Governorate.

ESA Organizational Development Workshop for the Suez Mechanical Stevedoring Company. Suez. September 10-11th for 24 senior and middle company managers.

ESA Organizational Development Workshop for the Beheira Rice Mills Company. Alexandria. September 17-18th for 36 senior and middle company managers.

Matching Irrigation Supply and Demand Seminar. Qena. September 18th for 60 MALR and MWRI officials.

Dahkaleya Cost of Production Workshop. Mansoura. September 19-20th for 15 MALR enumerators of Dakhleya Governorate.

Matching Irrigation Supply and Demand Seminar. Luxor. September 19th for 60 MALR and MWRI officials.

Matching Irrigation Supply and Demand Seminar. Beheira Governorate. September 25th for 30 MALR and MWRI officials.

Assuit Cooperatives Workshop. Assuit. September 26th for 34 members of four cooperatives in Assuit Governorate -- Mosha Cooperative in Assuit District, Mer Cooperative in Qosiyya District, Abnub Cooperative in Abnub District, and Beni Morr Cooperative in Il-Fith District.

Fayoum Cost of Production Workshop. Fayoum. September 26-27th for 22 MALR enumerators of Fayoum Governorate.

October

Dahkaleya Cooperatives Workshop. Mansoura. October 4th for 52 members of four cooperatives in Dahkaleya Governorate -- Al-Khazindar Cooperative of Talkha District, Mit Al-Aamil Cooperative of Aga District, Mit Ali Cooperative of Mansoura District, Dikirmis Cooperative of Dikirmis District.

Giza Cost of Production Workshop. Giza. October 2nd for 17 MALR enumerators of Giza Governorate.

Beheira/Alexandria Cost of Production Workshop. Amereya Training Center. October 10-11th for 38 MALR enumerators of Beheira and Alexandria Governorates.

Menofeya Governorate Cotton Pest Management Review Workshop. Shebin El Kom. October 13th for 113 MALR Central Administration and governorate officials, extensionists, cooperative and farmer leaders, GTZ/CSPP and APRP/RDI representatives.

Dakhaleya Governorate Cotton Pest Management Review Workshop. Mansoura. October 14th for 84 MALR Central Administration and governorate officials, extensionists, cooperative and farmer leaders GTZ/CSPP and APRP/RDI representatives.

Kafr El Sheikh Governorate Cotton Pest Management Review Workshop. Kafr El Sheikh. October 15th for 114 MALR Central Administration and governorate officials, extensionists, cooperative and farmer leaders, GTZ/CSPP and APRP/RDI representatives.

Beheira Governorate Cotton Pest Management Review Workshop. Dahmanhour. October 16th for 95 MALR Central Administration and governorate officials, extensionists, cooperative and farmer leaders, and GTZ/CSPP and APRP/RDI representatives.

Marsa Matrouh Cost of Production Workshop. Marsa Matrouh. October 19-20th for 16 MALR enumerators of Marsa Matrouh Governorate.

Matching Irrigation Supply and Demand Workshop. Cairo. October 23rd for 73 MALR and MWRI officials.

Agricultural Commodity Council Red Meat Subcommittee Workshop. Cairo. October 23rd for 61 public and private sector representatives.

November

Cotton Pest Management Services Planning Workshop. Cairo. November 4th for 51 Central Administration and governorate officials, and GTZ/CSPP and APRP/RDI representatives.

Roundtable on Decree for Milk Labeling. Cairo. November 7th for 20 participants.

Upper Egypt Training of Trainers--Pesticide Dealers Training Course. Assuit. November 7-9th for 33 pesticide traders from throughout the country, and GTZ/CSPP and APRP/RDI representatives.

Agricultural Commodity Council Fisheries Subcommittee Workshop. Cairo. November 14th for 31 public and private sector representatives.

NEW RDI STUDIES

Report no. 142: Biosafety in Egypt--Combined Guidelines for Food and Feed and Environmental Safety Assessment. Prepared upon the request of the Executive Secretary of the National Biosafety Committee, Prof. Dr. Magdy Madkour. By Dr. Hector Quemada, with Prof. Dr. Amin Sayed El-Nawawy and Mr. Lawrence Kent. (August 2001 -- 52 pages)

Provides a "combined summary" of two previous RDI publications -- guidelines for the assessment of food and feed safety (RDI Publication #134) and environmental safety (RDI Publication #137) of genetically engineered plants. These guidelines describe the data and test results to be supplied by the applicant to the NBC, including information on the recipient plant, the donor organisms and vectors, and the genetically engineered plant and its effect on the receiving environment.

Report no. 143: Biosafety in Egypt--Summary Report on Guidelines for Food and Feed and Environmental Safety Assessment. Prepared upon the request of the Executive Secretary of the National Biosafety Committee, Prof. Dr. Magdy Madkour. By Dr. Hector Quemada, with Prof. Dr. Amin Sayed El-Nawawy and Mr. Lawrence Kent. (August 2001 -- 68 pages)

Provides a short-version, combined summary report of the same two previous RDI publications noted in the previous annotation.

Report no. 147: Cost of Production and Competitiveness of Spinning Yarns in Egypt. Dr. El-Sayed Dahmouh, and Dr. Edgar Ariza-Nino, Dr. Ibrahim Siddik, and Dr. Jane Gleason. (September 2001 -- 88 pages)

Concludes that the sharp rise of the price of Egyptian cotton delivered to the domestic mills during the nineties triggered a mass shift towards the use of polyester; and that further growth of polyester staple consumption is expected to coincide with the expected large scale imports of short staple cotton from the U.S., Greece and Syria in the coming years. Suggests that the age-old controversy about the under-spinning of Egyptian ELS, LS, and MLS cotton lint by the Egyptian spinners will soon come to rest, and that MLS in particular will suffer the most. Predicts that farm-gate prices of MLS will come down to approach the L.D.P. imported short staple cotton.