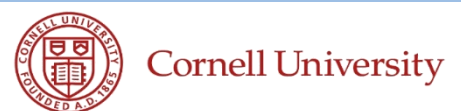




# CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR AGRICULTURE (COEA)

QUARTERLY REPORT #1

Q2FY19



# **CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR AGRICULTURE (COEA)**

**YEAR 1 Q2FY19 PROGRESS REPORT**

**February 20, 2019 – March 31, 2019**

**Cooperative Agreement No. 72026319-CA-00002**

**Submitted to:**  
USAID/Egypt  
Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

**Submitted by**  
COEA  
Cairo University Faculty of Agriculture

**Revised Submission May 1, 2019**





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COMMITTEE FOR EXCHANGE, TRAINING, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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ACRONYMS

AGORA	Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
ARC	Agricultural Research Center
COE	Center of Excellence
COEA	Center of Excellence for Agriculture
COEA Universities	Egyptian universities involved in the COEA
Cornell	Cornell University
COP	Chief of Party
CRP	Council for Research and Policy
CU	Cairo University
CUFA	Cairo University Faculty of Agriculture
HICD	Human and Institutional Capacity Development
HQAR	High Quality Applied Research
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IICD	Instructional Innovation and Curriculum Development
IP-CALS	International Programs, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MOALR	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
MOHESR	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
MSU	Michigan State University
OTTC	Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization
PIPRA	UC Davis International Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture
PPP	Public Private Partnership
Purdue	Purdue University
Sathguru	Sathguru Management Consultants Pvt. Ltd.
TEEAL	The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library
UC Davis	University of California, Davis
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



## I. BACKGROUND

The Centers of Excellence (COE) activity was designed by USAID and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) to support Egypt's economic development by establishing "partnerships for human and institutional capacity building between higher education institutions in the United States and developing countries." The COEs will strengthen the capacity of Egyptian universities to respond to changing public and private sector needs for applied research and skilled graduates in the sectors of agriculture, water and energy. Each COE will form public-private partnerships and interest-specific networks that will bring together the best minds in academia, government and the business community to seek applied research solutions that strengthen the effectiveness of policy-making and drive innovation, competitiveness and economic growth in these key sectors. The COE activity will equip Egyptian universities to provide access to higher education to qualified undergraduate students who are financially needy. The activity will also improve the working relationship between universities and industry to support applied research and to increase the quality of faculty without relying entirely on public or donor financing.

Each Center of Excellence will focus on one of three key sectors – agriculture, energy, and water – to share best practices, conduct joint research, and serve as the hub of a network of experts working and researching in that sector. In this regard:

- Cornell University in New York and Cairo University are establishing a Center of Excellence in Agriculture
- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Ain Shams University are establishing a Center of Excellence in Energy
- The American University in Cairo and Alexandria University are establishing a Center of Excellence in Water.

Other U.S. and Egyptian universities will participate in the initiative, bringing a vast network of institutions and experts to bear on these important issues. Participating Egyptian universities include Benha University, Suez Canal University, Assiut University and Ain Shams



## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Q2FY19 quarterly progress report covers the period from February 20, 2019 through March 31, 2019. It is the first quarterly progress report submitted to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/EGYPT under Cooperative Agreement No. 72026319-CA-00002. Future progress reports will be submitted according to USAID's fiscal year per the guiding regulations.

The focus during this period was about mobilizing the resources of the COEA activity for the startup as well as the hiring of key personnel. Key achievements within the reporting period include:

- Established the hiring procedures and decided on the personnel for the key positions as well as the coordinators.
- Identified the permanent office location for the COEA.
- Held introductory meetings with the US and Egyptian partners to gain a better and shared understanding of the activity.
- Set the timeline for preliminary activities and deliverables that are due upon award.
- Provided training to nineteen beneficiaries, including 16 women, from the library of the Faculty of Agriculture on TEEAL as well as hands-on training to ten of the participants (9 females and one male). Please refer to component 3 on high quality applied research for more details.
- Identified address for the website for the COEA, to be [www.coea.org](http://www.coea.org) (Under development).
- A delegation from Cornell University conducted several meetings in Egypt which aimed at promoting the COEA activity, holding the launch event, completing the hiring process of the key personnel and orienting the team on the activity, its components and objectives.

## III. INTRODUCTION

The Center of Excellence for Agriculture (COEA) activity aims at creating a dynamic COEA with the flexibility to respond to changing agriculture and industry needs across a wide array of stakeholders and evolving socio-economic and political contexts. Drawing on both US and Egyptian higher education expertise and strengths, and in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) and Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MOALR), COEA initiatives will address stakeholder needs while mirroring priorities set forth in the Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030 across its three Strategic Dimensions (Economic, Social, and Environmental).

The establishment of a highly integrative COEA will facilitate meaningful partnerships and collaborations among US and Egyptian universities, industry, and government to: 1) develop innovative, transformative, and industry-validated curricula for undergraduate and graduate students with due consideration of gender equity; and 2) facilitate readily translatable, solutions-based research that addresses the current and emerging needs of Egyptian agriculture centered on the seven priorities of Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy. In doing so, the COEA will develop: 1) workforce-ready students ready to make immediate impact in the Egyptian agricultural economy; 2) research products that transform agricultural businesses and livelihoods; and 3) a sustainable, replicable, and inclusive model, highly valued and financially supported by a wide range of stakeholders throughout Egypt.

Activities of the COEA are organized into five components:





- I. **Governance of the COEA:** The COEA will operate under the principles of consensus, transparency, responsibility, and accountability. The governance structure is designed to ensure that the COEA, its programming, and its successes are under the ownership of MOHESR and CUFA and benefit universities across Egypt. The US universities will play facilitative and advisory roles based on their expertise and experience in higher education systems. The formation and structure of the COEA is designed to facilitate knowledge exchange and networking opportunities that will further the goals of the COEA, while ensuring that all stakeholders' input is integrated throughout the COEA activity.
- II. **Instructional Innovation and Curriculum Development:** All COEA curriculum initiatives will be guided by three cross-cutting principles: 1) active, student-centered learning methods, shown to significantly enhance learning; 2) market-driven course content; and 3) accessibility to all, especially groups traditionally underrepresented in Egyptian higher education.
- III. **High Quality Applied Research:** The COEA will facilitate high impact, translational, lab-to-market technologies giving priority to the seven strategic themes of Egypt Vision 2030 and formulated to meet stakeholders' measured needs. Furthermore, the activity will develop a market-driven research program to cultivate a new approach whereby COEA faculty view their research in the context of solving problems for society and the public good through an entrepreneurial lens.
- IV. **Exchanges, Trainings and Scholarships:** The COEA will organize exchange visits and provide scholarships to different groups of beneficiaries with the objective of shifting the focus of Egyptian faculty towards market-driven, private sector-oriented entrepreneurship. Opportunities will include administrative exchanges, library faculty exchanges, short-term exchanges for faculty, graduate students and young scholars, long term exchanges for faculty and graduate students as well as scholarships/internships for COEA sponsored students.
- V. **Sustainability:** the COEA will look to establish long-term relationships between US and Egyptian universities. Major keys to success will be: 1) building value in the COEA, so it is seen as a dependable resource for the private sector and an attractive educational opportunity for students; 2) adapting to changing stakeholder needs and political contexts; 3) fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship within COEA universities such that the COEA will develop into a results-oriented operation with consistent revenue streams (Annex VI); and 4) establishing strong communication systems both internally among partners and externally among potential future partners in Egypt and the US.

It is important to note that among the components there are significant opportunities for collaborative work and the components will intersect in multiple ways. This collaborative nature of the COEA allows us to tap into the expertise of a broad array of stakeholders, reduce duplication of work and streamline activity management.

The COEA is a partnership between Cornell University, Cairo University, U.S. land grant institutions (Michigan State University, Purdue University, and University of California-Davis), Egyptian universities (Ain Shams University, Assiut University, Benha University, and Suez Canal University) and Sathguru Management Consultants.

Table 1: COEA Partners

US Partners	Egyptian Partners
<b>Prime Partners</b>	
Cornell University (Implementer)	Cairo University – Faculty of Agriculture
<b>Other Partners</b>	
Michigan State University	Ain Sham University
Purdue University	Assiut University
University of California-Davis	Benha University
Sathguru Management Consultants	Suez Canal University

#### IV. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The focus during the first quarter of implementation is on rapid start up and mobilization of resources. The formal award was received towards the end of Q2FY19. The following sections of the report highlight achievements under each of the COEA components. The report then follows to the sections on Communications, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), fact table on achievements, Challenges and responses. The report concludes by the two sections providing the financial summary and the tentative plan for the following quarter.

##### IV.1 COMPONENT 1: GOVERNANCE

*Objective: ensure that the COEA, its programming, and its successes are under the ownership of MOHESR and CUFA and benefit universities across Egypt.*

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##### ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF THE DIFFERENT COMMITTEES

The COEA has seven implementing bodies. An Advisory Board that will provide non-binding advice and suggestions on strategic goals and directions of the COEA. The Steering Committee is the operational body that monitors the outputs of the COEA and ensures that things are happening on schedule. There are three Technical Committees: I) Instructional Innovation and Curriculum Development (IICD), II) High Quality Applied Research (HQAR), and III) Exchanges, Trainings and Scholarships (ETS) largely responsible for implementation. These committees will report to the Steering Committee on their progress. There are two councils: one Council for Research Policy (CRP) and a Council for Public-Private Partnerships and Resource Management (PPP/RM). The CRP will synergize research findings from the HQAR to develop policy positions and recommendations. The PPP/RM will serve as catalyst for matching research outcomes from the COEA with the private sector.

Governance standards for the COEA committees were presented and approved by the Advisory Board. Composition of each committee was discussed and where possible, candidates for each committee position were identified and invited. Additionally, governance guidelines were established to assure smooth operations of each COEA committee. Composition of the Advisory Board and the Steering

Committee was of particular importance and, to date; membership of these two groups is approximately 90% complete.

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## MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Three positions were already identified prior to the official award namely: the Chief of Party, the Technical Advisor, and the Director of Operations. In early March each of the three positions had formal full-time incumbents. As for the fourth position, MEL Advisor, the candidate has been already identified and documents were sent to USAID for approval.

Additionally, the COEA team identified 17 positions that needed be filled. During March 19-20, the COEA team conducted 33 interviews at the Faculty of Agriculture Cairo University. After seeing a diverse field of applicants, the COEA team offered positions to two promising candidates, one for the Communications Coordinator position and one for the Logistics Coordinator position. Four other candidates were identified for the Technical Coordinator positions.

The COEA has eight technical coordinator positions among its four technical subject areas: Innovative and Instructional Curriculum Design, High Quality Applied Research, Exchanges, Trainings, and Scholarships, and Technology Transfer. Each technical subject area has two leads, one from a U.S. university or Sathguru Management Consultants, and one from Cairo University, Faculty of Agriculture. The U.S./Sathguru personnel were already chosen and were in Cairo March 24-29, using this opportunity to meet face-to-face with potential candidates for technical coordinator positions. By March 29, Egyptian personnel for all four technical coordinator positions had been identified and their names submitted to the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture for his knowledge.

**Management of the Activity:** The COEA also procured a robust project management system to effectively operate functions of the COEA activity and for proper and systematic archiving and storing of data.

**Launch of the COEA:** In addition to the launch of the three COEs which took place on March 26, the COEA held its own launch ceremony on March 28 at the Faculty of Agriculture at Cairo University with over 300 attendees. This event was attended by the Minister of Agriculture, the USAID Mission Director, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at Cairo University, the Senior Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, and the Vice President of Cairo University. The launch of the COEA garnered significant coverage in the local media and press releases were issued by Cornell University and Purdue University.

## COEA 7 Implementing Bodies

### 2 Management Boards

- Advisory Board
- Steering Committee

### 3 Technical Committees

- Instructional Innovation and Curriculum Development (IICD)
- High Quality Applied Research (HQAR)
- Exchanges, Trainings and Scholarships (ETS)

### 2 Councils – to facilitate enforcement

- Council for Research Policy (CRP)
- Council for Public-Private Partnerships and Resource Management (PPP/RM)



*Welcome note by H.E. Minister of Agriculture at COEA Launch*



COEA Launch Ceremony at CUFA – March 28, 2019



Partners and Team during the COEA Launch at CUFA



**COEA Team Meetings:** The activity launches brought numerous leaders, COEA key personnel, and Egyptian university leaders to Cairo. The COEA took advantage of this opportunity to host a series of team meetings to begin development of the Annual Work Plan, due within 60 days of award date (April 21). These COEA team meetings took place March 24 – 29 in Cairo at various locations and focused on ensuring alignment and integration of COEA initiatives across the entire activity and clearly defining next steps and responsibilities. The purpose of these meetings was two-fold: 1) to foster inclusiveness and facilitate input from the widest range of experts possible; and 2) to ensure integration of ideas across COEA initiatives.



COEA Team Meeting – March, 2019

Over the course of the week, coordinators for each of the main COEA components (high-quality applied research, innovative instruction and curriculum design, human capital development) provided detailed descriptions of goals, strategies, and intended outcomes.

#### IV.2 COMPONENT 2: INSTRUCTIONAL INNOVATION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

*Objective: develop and implement industry-validated curricula in the partner universities, that is informed by community needs and provides space for youth, women and other disadvantaged groups to be successful.*

The team has initiated the procedures for the needs assessment and the GAP analysis to follow from the initial results of the assessment.

**IV.3 COMPONENT 3: HIGH QUALITY APPLIED RESEARCH**

*Objective: develop a research structure that solves real problems and informs policy, providing the spark needed for stakeholders to see the value in partnering with Egyptian universities.*

As part of the collaboration between Cornell and Cairo University for the COEA activity, patrons of the Cairo University Faculty of Agriculture library now have access to TEEAL (The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library), a library that is valued at over \$1 million.

TEEAL is a fully searchable text database of scientific articles from over 550 high-quality scientific journals. The TEEAL collection was initially conceived in the 1990s by Wallace and Jan Olsen, former Senior Research Associate and Director of Mann Library, respectively. TEEAL was devised as a solution to address the issue of outdated and incomplete agricultural journals in developing countries. Offline and self-contained on a microcomputer, TEEAL functions even in areas with intermittent internet connectivity and takes up less space than a physical catalog. Students can access the library by using any computer connected to the local access network connected to TEEAL. A Research and Global Initiatives Librarian at Albert R. Mann at Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (IP-CALS), worked with Cairo University librarians to install TEEAL on 25 desktop computers at the Faculty of Agriculture – Cairo University.



*On-the-job Training to Librarians of CUFA – March 27, 2019*

In addition to installing TEEAL, two highly qualified international experts from the Mann Library of IP-CALS provided orientation and hands-on training for Cairo University’s librarians and faculty – 16 females and 3 males – in utilizing the software and sharing the knowledge among their peers. Ten out of the 19 trainees (one male and 9 females) received on-the-job training in utilizing the newly setup software. The training aimed at enhancing the research skills of participants and orienting them to the platform. The table below summarizes training achievements.

*Table 2: TEEAL Training*

<b>Training</b>	The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library – TEEAL
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<b>Date of training/Number of Training Days</b>	March 27, 2019 / One training day
<b>Objective of Training</b>	TEEAL orientation and enhancing the research skills of participants
<b>Number of Trainers</b>	2 International Experts
<b>Number of Participants</b>	19 trainees of which 10 received on-the-job training
<b>Male</b>	3 trainees of which 1 received on-the-job training
<b>Female</b>	16 trainees of which 9 received on-the-job training

Mann Library is planning to host librarians from Cairo University for an exchange visit in the summer of 2019; and Mann librarians are planned to travel to Cairo University in fall 2019 to collaborate on specialized research skills training workshops covering topics such as systematic reviews and research data management.

#### IV.4 COMPONENT 4: EXCHANGES, TRAININGS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

*Objective: transform core curricula and student learning outcomes; shift the focus of Egyptian faculty towards market-driven, private sector-oriented entrepreneurship; and ensure access for students of all backgrounds to all COEA initiatives.*

No activities to report under this component for the reporting period other than the initiation of the needs' assessment – please refer to component 2.

#### IV.5 COMPONENT 5: SUSTAINABILITY

*Objective: establish a fully functioning and self-sustainable COEA that can be replicated at other universities throughout Egypt.*

No activities to report under this component for the reporting period other than the initiation of the needs' assessment – please refer to component 2.

## V. COMMUNICATIONS

### MEDIA COVERAGE

Media presence and coverage took place extensively during the reporting period to announce the launch of both the COE initiative and the COEA activity. The table below provides links to the various websites that covered the launching of the initiative

Table 3: Media Links

MEDIA	URL
ELYOMELSA	<a href="https://www.youm7.com/story/2019/3/28/%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%">https://www.youm7.com/story/2019/3/28/%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%</a>





MEDIA	URL
<b>BE</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=11&amp;v=PO07LH-I70k">88-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A9-90-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D9%83%D9%84%D9%81%D8%A9-%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A1-3-%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%83%D8%B2/4188343</a>
<b>YOUTUBE</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=11&amp;v=PO07LH-I70k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=11&amp;v=PO07LH-I70k</a>
<b>EL SHOUROUK</b>	<a href="https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=25022019&amp;id=699f6038-6fb2-477b-b738-dd726105eef2">https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=25022019&amp;id=699f6038-6fb2-477b-b738-dd726105eef2</a>
<b>AKHBAR ALYOM</b>	<a href="https://m.akhbarelyom.com/news/NewDetails/2826734/1/%D8%A3%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%B1%D8%B5-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%A6%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%AA%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A8-%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%83%D8%A9-%D9%82%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%A3%D8%A8%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AB-%D8%AA%D8%B7%D8%A8">https://m.akhbarelyom.com/news/NewDetails/2826734/1/%D8%A3%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%B1%D8%B5-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%A6%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%AA%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A8-%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%83%D8%A9-%D9%82%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%A3%D8%A8%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AB-%D8%AA%D8%B7%D8%A8</a>
<b>ALAHRAM</b>	<a href="http://www.ahram.org.eg/NewsQ/702669.aspx">http://www.ahram.org.eg/NewsQ/702669.aspx</a>
<b>ALZAMAN</b>	<a href="https://www.elzmannews.com/204293">https://www.elzmannews.com/204293</a>
<b>SHABABEEK</b>	<a href="http://shbabek.com/show/147552">http://shbabek.com/show/147552</a>
<b>MKHBAR</b>	<a href="https://mkhbr.com/tag/%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A/amp/">https://mkhbr.com/tag/%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A/amp/</a>
<b>AKHBAR ALYOM</b>	<a href="https://www.akhbarelyaom.com/1713397/%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D9%8A%D9%8F%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%83-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA">https://www.akhbarelyaom.com/1713397/%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D9%8A%D9%8F%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%83-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA</a>
<b>VETO GATE</b>	<a href="https://vetogate.com/3447376">https://vetogate.com/3447376</a>
<b>ELYOMELSA BE</b>	<a href="https://www.youm7.com/amp/2019/2/25/%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%85%D9%89-%D9%81%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85/4152955">https://www.youm7.com/amp/2019/2/25/%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%85%D9%89-%D9%81%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85/4152955</a>
<b>EL WATAN NEWS</b>	<a href="https://www.elwatannews.com/news/details/4087850">https://www.elwatannews.com/news/details/4087850</a>
<b>DMC NEWS</b>	<a href="https://www.dmcnews.org/egypt/5046403/%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85-">https://www.dmcnews.org/egypt/5046403/%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85-</a>



MEDIA	URL
<b>DMC NEWS</b>	<p><a href="https://www.dmcnews.org/breaking_news/5719690/%D8%B1%D8%A6%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A8%D9%80-90-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B1">https://www.dmcnews.org/breaking_news/5719690/%D8%B1%D8%A6%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A8%D9%80-90-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B1</a></p>
<b>EL MWATIN</b>	<p><a href="https://www.elmwatin.com/614428/%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%A8-%D8%B1%D8%A6%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A9%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D9%87%D8%AF%D9%81-%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85-%D8%AE%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%88%D8%B9">https://www.elmwatin.com/614428/%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%A8-%D8%B1%D8%A6%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A9%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D9%87%D8%AF%D9%81-%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85-%D8%AE%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%88%D8%B9</a></p>
<b>MASRAWY</b>	<p><a href="https://www.masrawy.com/news/news_egypt/details/2019/3/28/1540581/-%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D9%8A-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%83-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A">https://www.masrawy.com/news/news_egypt/details/2019/3/28/1540581/-%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D9%8A-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%83-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A</a></p>



Masrawy Announcing the Launch of the COEA with H.E. The Minister of Agriculture



El Watan News Announcing the Launch of the COEA in Cairo University



DIGITAL PRESENCE

The domain: [www.coeag.org](http://www.coeag.org) has been purchased. A full web development cycle with USAID compliance factors will be undertaken in the following quarter to ensure a fully functional website that meets the needs of all stakeholders, both within and outside the COEA. The website will be live during the third quarter of 2019.

SOCIAL MEDIA

A Facebook group and a Twitter account have been initially created for the COEA. Currently, this task is awaiting completion of the Communications Strategy. Other social media might be employed because social media will be a key vehicle in reaching students with announcements regarding grant opportunities, scholarships, internships, and other prospects.

VI. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL)/GENDER

The COEA submitted the application of the MEL Advisor to USAID for approval. Once hired, the MEL Advisor will work on finalizing the MEL plan, select the indicators for monitoring the progress of the COEA towards achieving its objectives, and set the monitoring plan for the COEA activity as a whole.

The Gender Advisor of Cornell University provided an orientation to the COEA team on gender concepts. The team discussed and collaborated on ways for maximizing gender integration across the different components of the COEA activity.

VII. FACT TABLE OF THE COEA ACTIVITY

The following table shows in numbers the key achievements during the reporting period:

Table 4: COEA in Numbers

<b>Number of training workshops</b>	1
<b>Number of trainees</b>	19
<b>Number of female participants (and percentages)</b>	16 females (84%)
<b>Number of main meetings</b>	5

Further details furnished under the respective section of this report.



VIII. CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

This section summarizes the challenges facing the team and the measures taken to address these challenges.

Table 5: Challenges and Measures Taken

Challenge	Taken Measure(s)
Staffing of the COEA activity has not been yet completed.	The team is working to finalize the hiring process for the activity.
The permanent office location for the COEA is still being prepared. Hence, the activity does not yet have a work location.	The Director of Operations is preparing the office location. In the meantime, the team collaborates together with the help of the COP and conducts meetings on the campus of CUFA.
Collaborations with other partner universities have not yet taken place as partners are busy with the wrap up of the semester, the holiday season and the start of the Holy month of Ramadan (in early May).	The COP has however communicated with the heads of partner universities on a limited scale.
Potential disconnect due to language issues	The original plan called for five librarians to come from CUFA to Cornell, however there are only three librarians at CUFA with sufficient English language fluency. The plan has been adjusted accordingly to send the three identified librarians for this first round of training.

IX. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Looking broadly at the COEA, below are some of the activities planned for the next quarter:

- Teams from U.S. partners and Sathguru will meet at Michigan State University to develop the overall needs assessment framework and the specific tools to use for data collection (to take place in Egypt).
- Development of a cohesive, comprehensive communications strategy, including online presences.
- The COP will visit the COEA partner Egyptian universities to share COEA’s scope and mission, and begin building programming partners among these key universities who will help set criteria for potential research projects, trainings and curricula development.
- Submitting the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning plan.
- Technical Committees will hold their initial meetings.

--- End of Report ---