

# CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR AGRICULTURE (COEA)

**QUARTERLY REPORT Q4FY19** 







# CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR AGRICULTURE (COEA)

YEAR 1 Q4FY19 PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019

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## **ACRONYMS**

AGORA Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture

AOR Agreement Officer Representative ARC Agricultural Research Center

ASRT Academy of Scientific Research and Technology
CITI Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative

COE Center of Excellence

COEA Center of Excellence for Agriculture

Cornell University
COP Chief of Party

CRP Council for Research and Policy

CU Cairo University

CUFA Cairo University Faculty of Agriculture

ELC Experiential Leaning Center
ERP Enterprise resource planning

HICD Human and Institutional Capacity Development

HQAR High Quality Applied Research

ICT Information and Communication Technology
IFPRI International Food Policy Research Institute

IICD Instructional Innovation and Curriculum Development

IP Intellectual Property

IP-CALS International Programs, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

IRB Institutional Review Board

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 University

RFA Request for Applications

Sathguru Sathguru Management Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

TEEAL The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library

TICO Technology Innovation Commercialization Office

UC Davis University of California, Davis

USAID United States Agency for International Development



#### BACKGROUND

The Centers of Excellence (COE) are 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 demonstrate financial need. The activity will also improve the working relationship between universities and industry to support applied research and to the capacities of participating faculties 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 established the Center of Excellence in Agriculture
- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Ain Shams University established the Center of Excellence in Energy
- The American University in Cairo and Alexandria University established the Center of Excellence in Water.

Other U.S. and Egyptian universities 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. 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 facilitates 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 develops: 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 operates 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 Cairo University Faculty of Agriculture (CUFA) and benefit universities across Egypt. The US universities 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 are 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 facilitates 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 develops 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 organizes exchange visits and provides scholarships to different groups of beneficiaries with the objective of shifting the focus of Egyptian faculty towards market-driven, private sector-oriented entrepreneurship. Opportunities 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 establishes long-term relationships between US and Egyptian universities. Major keys to success are: 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 develops into a results-oriented operation with consistent revenue streams; 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 that components 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 project 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

0/1			
Participating Universities			
Cornell University (Implementer - Prime)	Cairo University – Faculty of Agriculture		
Other	Partners		
Michigan State University	Ain Sham University		
Purdue University	Assiut University		
University of California-Davis	Benha University		
Sathguru Management Consultants	Suez Canal University		

### III. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Q4FY19 quarterly progress report covers the period from July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019. It is the third 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 on the higher administrative exchange visit as well as the initial meetings for the committees and councils of the COEA activity. Key achievements within the reporting period include:

- Five higher administrative officials headed by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture participated in an exchange visit to the partner US Universities.
- COEA boards, committees and councils held their first meetings in which members were oriented on their roles and the functions of their respective committee/council.
- Identified 35 topics in six priority research areas for competitive funding opportunities. These research priorities were summarized in the Request for Applications (RFA).
- Completed the arrangements for the Grant Writing Workshop including travel plans, announcements, venue selection, participant identification, and training materials.
- Drafted the scholarship manual as well as the research RFA and submitted to USAID for review and approval.
- Drafted the preliminary analysis of the needs' assessment exercise which is critical in advising the interventions under multiple components of the COEA activity.
- Held a meeting with the private sector partners to identify challenges faced by the private sector industries to be used as preliminary areas of scientific research to help develop the sector.
- Representatives of the US partner universities held meetings and orientation sessions with the
  Egyptian stakeholders (including partner universities and private sector partners) to get their
  input and advise them on the specific interventions planned by the COEA activity under each of
  the technical components (IICD, HQAR and ETS).



# IV. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The focus during the fourth quarter of implementation was on sending five higher administrative officials – headed by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture – on a visit to US partner universities. Another major achievement for this quarter was mobilizing the different implementing committees and councils of COEA including the Steering Committee, the Advisory Board, the Councils on CRP and PPP as well as the Technical Committees. The following sections of the report highlight achievements under each of the COEA components. The report then follows to the sections on gender, fact table on achievements, challenges and responses. The report concludes with 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.

### 1.1 OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

COEA Committees: Each of COEA's implementing bodies held at least its initial meeting during Q4FY19 to agree on the functions, roles and responsibilities of its members, schedule and frequency of meetings as well as the flow and organization of work between the different committees. The table below lists the main meetings that took place during Q4FY19

Committee	# Members	Date	# Attendees	Venue
Standing Committee	21M 3F	5-6 August 2019	17M 2F	Cornell
Steering Committee				University
		22 September 2019	18M 1F	Virtual online
Advisory Board	14M 3F	5 September 2019	8M 3F	CUFA
IICD Technical Committee	4 M	16 July 2019	4M	CUFA
HQAR Technical	5M 2 F	2 F 18 July 2019		CHEA
Committee		18 July 2019	5M 1F	CUFA
ETS Technical Committee	5M 1F	15 July 2019	5M 0F	CUFA
E13 reclinical committee		24 September 2019	4M 1F	CUFA
Council for Research Policy (CRP) & PPP	12M 2F	4 September 2019	7M 2F	CUFA

<sup>\*</sup>M: Male Members

<sup>\*</sup>F: Female Members









Steering Committee Meeting – August 2019



ETS Technical Committee Meeting – July 2019



HQAR Technical Committee Meeting – July 2019



IICD Technical Committee Meeting – July 2019



CRP & PPP Meeting – September 2019

The initial meetings were successful in orienting members of the different committees to their roles and responsibilities within COEA and within their respective committees. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for each of the committees per the guiding principles in the governance framework.



# Meetings' Highlights:

- In the first Steering Committee Meeting, the full governance framework was circulated among members of the committee for revision and feedback. The framework underwent several revisions between the Egyptian and US partners and is still in the review phase. COEA expects to finalize the governance framework by Q3FY20.
- Private sector's attendance on the different committees was limited given the fact that the time between meetings was limited. However, the attending private sector representatives expressed their buy-in and interest in the work that the COEA is doing as well as their willingness to cooperate and take part in activities.
- Membership of the different committees is also undergoing some revision to increase the representation of the Government of Egypt representatives while remaining consistent with the award approved structure—specifically the Council for Public Private Partnership and Resource Mobilization (PPP/RM) and the Advisory Board. Suggested membership changes for the advisory board include adding H.E. the Minister of Agriculture, governors as well as presidents of each partner university in Egypt. As for the PPP, suggested revision revolves around adding more representatives from the private sector.
- In the first Advisory Board Meeting, the 3 COEs discussed mechanisms of cooperation especially for running a joint research project.
- It has been agreed that given the overlap in membership and roles/responsibilities of the councils on PPP/CRP, the two councils will be held jointly going forward.

Management and Operations: After appointing the Technical Coordinators, the Technical Coordinator for Instructional Innovation and Curriculum Development (IICD) resigned his position. COEA Top Management announced the vacancy in Q4FY19 and started the proper HR procedure for filling this position. In the meantime, the Technical Advisor is assuming the responsibilities of the IICD Technical Coordinator.

Office Space: The Operations Team continued the preparation of the space for the office location at CUFA. The office is equipped with a training room for in-country trainings to take place at the COEA premises; trainings will start taking place at the COEA premises in FY2020.

Management of the Activity: After using the ZOHO Project Management System for a trial period of three months, the COEA team decided to shift to the G Suite for project management and documentation. The team made this decision because the G Suite (as a google package) is easy to use and adapt to serve project purposes; it allows a high level of flexibility to add more applications and connect with the different management systems. Furthermore, the application is more user friendly and people can get acquainted with it easily; it is also a cheaper project management system that has a bigger storage capacity.

### 1.2 COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Strategy: A draft version of the COEA communications strategy was created and the Communications Team met in Cairo in September 2019 to further develop the strategy. The



communications strategy will create messaging specific to various categories of audience including students, professors, government agencies, among others. Having an overall strategy guides communication efforts and helps deploy resources (both people and communication tools) in the most efficient way possible. COEA team will continually re-examine the strategy to gauge which methods are working and where methods are not reaching expectations. The communications strategy will facilitate communication by allowing for rapid dissemination of the COEA's message and identity; by being able to quickly react to any external need or request. Internally, it will aid communication by standardizing methods and communication tools. This will allow for a smooth transition in case of any personnel changes. Having a strong communications strategy will also aid in long-term sustainability of the COEA as it will create legacy of standards and best practices.

COEA Newsletter: COEA Communications Team put together a framework for issuing a quarterly newsletter targeted at internal partners, private sector stakeholders, students (graduate and post-graduate), and faculty members, agricultural NGOs working in Egypt, government ministries, and USAID. Key contents include COEA activities, upcoming opportunities (i.e. scholarship calls, workshops), a message from the COEA, updates on results from previous workshops, and other content that is relevant to stakeholders. The newsletter will be useful as a tool to keep stakeholders informed and also keep the COEA in the conversation regarding agriculture in Egypt. This will establish COEA as an important player in the agricultural sector and will aid in long-term sustainability. The newsletter will be distributed quarterly with the first one coming out in December 2019.

COEA Website: The COEA website (www.coeag.org) is currently under review by USAID. Upon receiving feedback, the COEA Communications Team will work quickly to incorporate any changes and edits suggested by USAID and will launch the website soon afterwards. The team added a security encryption certificate to the website to ensure the safety and confidentiality of data. The website has been hosted on Microsoft Azure Cloud Computing Platform and Services to add more flexibility for bandwidth expansion and to account for unexpected traffic.

Media Coverage: Media presence and coverage on the on the higher administrative exchange visit to the USA is summarized in the table below – please also refer to activity 4.1 for more details on the visit. The media coverage report is annexed to this report.

Table 2: Media Links

MEDIA	URL
EL WEKALA NEWS	https://eg.elwekalanews.com/%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%A8%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%AC-
	%D8%AA%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE/
<b>EL WATAN NEWS</b>	https://www.elwatannews.com/news/details/4276150
AL FALLAH AL YOUM	https://alfallahalyoum.news/%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-
	%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A3%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%83%D8%A7-
	%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%82%D8%AF-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7.html/
<b>AL MASRY AL YOUM</b>	https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/1415670
AL RAEES NEWS	http://www.alraeesnews.com/32113



https://www.albawabhnews.com/3676517
YOUM 7  https://www.youm7.com/story/2019/8/4/%D9%88%D9%81%D8%AF-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%8A%D8%AAP-%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9-%B8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9-%B8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9-%B8%AD9%83%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D9%86%D9%81%D9%8A%D9%83%D8%A7-%D8%AAMD9%86%D9%81%D9%8AMD9%83%D8%A7-%D8%AAMD9%86%D9%81%D9%8AMD8%B0/4361665  EL WATAN NEWS  AGRI2DAY  https://www.agri2day.com/2019/07/27/%D8%AAMD9%81%D8%A7%D8%B5%D9%88%D9%84-%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A9-%D9%88%D9%84-%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%8AMD8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7  ARAB YOUM  https://www.arabyoum.com/business/11387401/%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%84MD9%88-2%D9%8AMD8%B1-%D9%84MD9%85%D9%83%D8%ABMD9%81-%D9%84MD9%88MD8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84MD8%B2MD9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84MD8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84MD8%B2MD9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84MD8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84MD8%B2MD9%8B1-%D8%A7%D9%84MD8%B2MD8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%AF%D9%84MD8%B2MD8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84MD8%B2MD8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84MD8%B2MD8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84MD8%B2MD8%AF%D8%AF%D8%AP-%D8%AF%D9%84MD8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84MD8%B2MD8%AF%D8%AF%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%AF%D9%84MD8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84MD8%B2MD8%AF%D8%AF%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%AF%D9%84MD8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%AF%D8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%AF%D8%AF%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%AF%D9%8AMD8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%AF-%D8%AF%D9%AF-%D8%AF%D9%AF-%D8%AF%D9%AF-%D8%AF%D9%AF-%D8%AF%D9%AF-%D8%AF%D9%AF-%D8%AF-%D9%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D9%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF-%D8%AF
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egyptian-agriculture/



## 1.3 INTEGRATION OF THE AGRICULTURE, WATER AND ENERGY COE

The COPs and the Technical Advisors of the three COEs held a joint meeting on September 2 at the premises of the COE Water in the American University in Cairo to further collaborate on reaching out for the private sector to identify ideas for the joint research project that are in line with the sustainable development goals for Egypt 2030. The COPs agreed that the COEA should take the lead on such a mega project as the other COEs will serve the purposes of agricultural projects (under COEA's management). Consequently, a follow up meeting with H.E. the Minister of Agriculture took place on September 19 (pursuant to the COPs meeting) to discuss ideas for such a joint research project.

Per the membership and the governing procedures outlined in the governance framework, the three COEs attended COEA's first Advisory Board Meeting on September 5, 2019. The three COPs are members on the Advisory Board for each COE. At the COEA's first Advisory Board Meeting, the COPs discussed possible approaches towards the joint research project that will serve the research objectives of all three COEs with equal amounts of funding granted by each COE. The idea is still under study and is pending USAID approval of a detailed technical proposal.



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

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

## 2.1 INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF MARKET NEEDS

Led by the IICD Technical Lead from Purdue University, the COEA team continued administering the questionnaires developed in Q3FY19 to target stakeholders including students and professors of partner universities in Egypt as well as potential employers. A total of 1,466 questionnaires were received. Of the 1,466 questionnaires collected, 973 were collected from students (66% female; 34% male; 100% digital), 405 were collected from faculty (36% female; 64% male; 58% digital, 42% hard-copy response), and 88 were collected from private sector agencies (18% female; 82% male; 18% digital; 82% hard copy). Additional information is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Representation of Universities in Needs Assessment

	Students <sup>1</sup>		Faculty Members <sup>1</sup>		Total nor University 1	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total per University 1	
Cairo University	99	226	42	21	395	
Ain Shams University	0	0	41	39	104	
Suez Canal University	14	27	62	21	124	
Assiut University	83	109	39	15	246	
Benha University	11	14	8	0	33	
Total per Stakeholder Group	207	376	192	107	1,378	
	973		405			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As per the IRB approved protocol, respondents were not required to answer any question and could skip any question without penalty. e.g., respondents may have selected to not identify their gender or university affiliation. As such, columns and rows will not sum to meet the totals in the final columns and rows or the total number of questionnaires collected.

Table 4: Representation of Potential Employers in Needs Assessment

Private Sector Representation*	Male	Female	Gender not Specified*	Row Total
Owners	27	3	7	37
Managers	33	10	8	51
Column Total	60	13	15	88

<sup>\*</sup> As per the IRB approved protocol, respondents were not required to answer any question and could skip any question without penalty. e.g., respondents may have selected to not identify their gender.

Preliminary analysis of collected data: The needs assessment measured the skills gap in agriculture labor market as they pertain to recent agriculture university graduates, and assessed the potential barriers to adopting student-centered learning and other proposed curricular revisions and initiatives. A preliminary report on skills gaps in Egyptian agriculture university graduates and potential barriers to IICD initiatives was delivered to the Steering Committee and other COEA members.





Students at Cairo University completing the needs' assessment students' questionnaire



Faculty Member at Ain Shams University completing the needs' assessment questionnaire



## Preliminary data analysis shows that<sup>1</sup>:

- For both professors and employers, sectors related to horticulture, especially protected cultivation, fertilizers/pest management, fruit production, and animal production, especially poultry production, received strongest ratings for job growth.
- In terms of skills most valued in new employees, 80% of employers' answers related to behavioral competencies, with major themes of integrative/creative thinking, analytical skills, interpersonal skills, and communication skills. Likewise, 68% of employers' responses regarding the three skills most often missing in new university graduates focused on these same competencies.
- From the employers' perspective, the largest skill gaps are related to: conflict management, knowledge of employer, time management, familiarity with the latest technologies, and ability to plan and organize
- The largest percentage of students (45%) reported that they plan to pursue an advanced degree following graduation. This was true for a higher percentage of female respondents (52%) than male respondents (37%). A smaller percentage of students (36%) reported they planned to pursue jobs or careers in their field of study (male: 37%; female: 32%). Most striking, 19% of male students indicated they plan to start their own business, while only 4% of female students indicated they would do the same.

# Insights from the preliminary findings of the needs assessment exercise imply the following

- The assessment findings (as well as less-formal discussions with employers), indicate that there is significant support for IICD initiatives that can produce graduates will skills (both technical and behavioral) needed in agriculture businesses. Employers have also expressed quantified interest in helping to both develop and deliver new curricula that are more relevant to current challenges in Egyptian agriculture.
- Employers indicated that they are ready to hire more students with skills relevant to their industries and they
  would be willing to offer internship or summer-work opportunities allowing students to learn those skills.
  Additionally, professors felt that industry input to their classes was relevant and they would welcome
  industry input in the design of new courses.
- As most of skills noted as valuable and/or missing in new graduates related to behavioral competencies and application of academic knowledge to real scenarios, how new curricula are delivered will be as important as the course content. Employers already believe university education is "too theoretical". Thus, new curricula should employ learning strategies that better ensure learning extends and is applicable well-outside the classroom. Experiential learning should be a focus as means of transferring course content, but also allowing students to apply that new knowledge to new scenarios and practice the skills such as team-work and integrative-thinking that are highlighted by employers as most valuable in new employees.
- Higher percentages of female students plan to pursue advanced degrees (rather than finding employment in their field of study) and very few female students expressed interest in pursuing their own business. Egyptian employers (private sector) are less likely to hire female graduates than male graduates. Taken together, these data indicate that too much focus on creating workforce-ready or entrepreneurial students has the real risk of further marginalizing female students, based both on their post-graduation aspirations and their real employment opportunities. The numerous COEA initiatives geared towards entrepreneurship will likely require extra effort to recruit and maintain female participation. The inclusion of undergraduates in COEA-funded research projects is especially critical for female students as research experience is now almost obligatory for students pursuing graduate degrees in most countries. It should also be acknowledged that the lower percentage of students planning to pursue jobs in their field of study may be related to students' discordant perceptions of what types of jobs are available in agriculture. Greater interaction with private sector partners during their undergraduate careers could expose students, including female students, to different opportunities available to them in agriculture beyond what many students perceive as "agriculture jobs" (i.e., field work, manual labor, etc.).
- There are significant opportunities to improve students' employability as large percentages of students are
  not engaged in activities shown to be clear determinants in securing meaningful employment following
  graduation (e.g., summer work, resume development, etc.). Thus, it is imperative that the COEA also develop
  career services-related programs that better prepare students for the transition from undergraduate student
  to employee, entrepreneur, or graduate student.



## 2.2 DEVELOPMENT OF NEW DEGREES

Following the initial results of the needs assessment, an RFA for the new master's level degree was developed. Using data collected from activity 2.1, the RFA was designed to solicit applications from Faculties of Agriculture to develop a new master's level degree program that is workforce-oriented, market-driven, developed in collaboration with industry partners, develops graduates with technical skills most needed in Egyptian agriculture, and contains a business/management component. Initial estimates indicate that MS students will enroll starting September 2021 while BS students will enroll starting September 2022.

### 2.3 REVISION OF EXISTING COURSES

Following the initial results of the needs assessment, an RFA for course revision applications was developed. Using data collected in Activity 2.1, the RFA was designed to solicit applications from teams of junior (assistant professor with 5 years or less experience in rank) and senior professors who are committed to: 1) revising an existing course to more effectively incorporate industry input; and 2) incorporating experiential and student-centered learning practices when delivering the revised courses. Revised courses will be delivered FY2020 or 2021.

## 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.

### 3.1 COMPETITIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Establish Priorities for High Quality Applied Research: Literature reviews completed in the prior quarter (Q3FY19) and needs assessment visits conducted in early Q4FY19 (July 2019) laid the foundation for identification of research priorities for the HQAR grants program. COEA leadership held preliminary meetings with key stakeholders in Egypt in June 2019 and facilitated visits of US partners in July 2019 to Egyptian universities, private sector businesses and farms, as well as meetings and discussions at ARC. Four UC Davis faculty and staff members traveled to Egypt in July 2019 in the course of the HQAR Needs Assessment and Grants Program Framework development. UC Davis Professor and Director of Feed-the-Future Horticulture Innovation Lab provided sectorial expertise for identification of research topics in the area of horticulture. The HQAR team was ably assisted in this needs assessment and research priority setting activities by the Chairs of Horticulture at CUFA along with the Cairo-based HQAR Coordinator and the full COEA Cairo team. Continuing discussion and refinements in August 2019 and September 2019 resulted in identification of 35 topics in six priority research areas.

Establish Grants Program Framework: The grants program framework was outlined and refined over the course of multiple discussions during face-to-face meetings in Cairo in July 2019. UC Davis faculty and staff members devoted a considerable portion of the July 2019 visit to Egypt to the development of the grants program framework. The HQAR team was vitally supported by the Cairo-based HQAR coordinator. As a result of such efforts, the Grants Program Framework (including program goals, draft outline of the RFA, research categories, proposed grants calendar, etc.) was drafted. The HQAR team (from both the Egyptian and the US sides) met virtually on a weekly basis throughout August and September 2019 and exchanged more than 12 drafts of the RFA. The team announced the Grants Manager vacancy which will be



responsible for managing the process of awarding grants; the position description was developed and the vacancy was posted. The Grants Program Framework and process was presented to the HQAR Committee in July 2019 at Cairo University and to the COEA Steering Committee in August 2019 at Cornell University. The proposed grants process and framework were well received by both the HQAR Committee and the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee supported the increase of grant size from the original maximum of \$100,000 to a maximum of \$200,000 (Pending the submission of an official request for modification from the COEA and approval from USAID). Provisional approval for a nexus research project concept has been provided. The concept is still under USAID consideration pending the submission of a full proposal by the COEs.

*Proposal Writing Workshops:* An expert professor from UC Davis prepared and shared multiple drafts of the grant writing workshop training and evaluation materials with the HQAR team in preparation for the Grant Writing Workshops to be conducted in Egypt in early FY2020. Cairo team facilitated implementation via program announcements, participant selection, venue identification and other logistics.

### 3.2 INTEGRATING TEACHING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH

Multiple discussions were held with IICD component leader and COEA staff on the integration of HQAR and IICD goals for the establishment of Pilot Labs/Experiential Learning Centres. The team discussed during the Steering Committee meeting in August 2019 and within the HQAR team on methods for finalizing the themes for the pilot labs to be established as learning centres as well as the criteria for the successful establishment of such centres/labs. An important decision was made to redefine Pilot Labs as Experiential Learning Centres (ELC). One ELC to be associated with the new B.Sc. degree (in Animal Science); another ELC to be associated with the new professional masters degree; while the remaining four ELC themes are to be identified via open letter/call to Deans at each partner university.

## 3.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF OTTC

During Q42019, substantial part of needs assessment for the Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization (OTTC) was completed. During Q2 and Q3 of FY2019, Sathguru team had engaged in substantive secondary research on Intellectual Property (IP) filings in Egypt and current legal framework/industry landscape. In addition, Egyptian COEA leadership had held preliminary meetings with key stakeholders in Egypt such as TICO office in ASRT. During Q4 2019, representative from American University partners with Sathguru technology transfer experts were on-site in Egypt for further stakeholder consultations and along with COEA leadership team met with researchers and Deans at Partner Universities, technology transfer personnel, researchers and leadership at ARC, various segments of industry, incubators at partner institutions and entrepreneurship support groups involved in implementing ongoing entrepreneurship programs. Additional strategic inputs were also obtained during the Steering Committee and Advisory Board meetings.

Technology Transfer: Primary objective during the quarter was to understand current legal and policy framework for technology transfer, capacity & level of current engagement in partner institutions and applied agriculture research institutions such as the ARC, areas of technology need across segments of industry that are economically critical for Egyptian agriculture. The team had interactions with several researchers at partner institutions to obtain preliminary understanding of areas of applied research, avenues for invention disclosure, level of IP protection or technology transfer support, current practices for industry collaborations and partnership structure commonly followed. Similar interactions were held



in ARC as well where a more active Technology Transfer Office has been nurtured recently. During needs assessment meetings at Partner Universities and ARC, the team also inquired on current policy framework if any for IP ownership/protection, commercialization and benefit sharing with inventors. A questionnaire was developed for confirming Partner University policies on IP and technology transfer and obtaining a formal listing of applied research projects with near term commercialization potential. Interactions were held with various segments of industry – poultry, horticulture, dairy and seed companies. The team discussed current research engagement, source of research deployed in current commercial operations, near term technology need and potential for Partner Institutions and COEA to support industry.

High potential was noted for COEA to play an active role in strengthening technology transfer capacity in partner institutions and ARC (that explicitly expressed keenness to partner with COEA to enhance their own internal capacity in technology transfer). While some partner institutions have an active technology transfer office, active support for agriculture innovations was not noted. Need was also noted for increasing level of researcher awareness of practical elements of technology protection and commercialization. A structured approach involving training, practical exposure, policy advocacy and strong academia-industry convergence could have substantial impact in the current landscape. The findings from needs assessment will inform the implementation plan for OTTC.

Research Incentives Act (Law 23 of 2018) and by-laws (Decree 1186 of 2019): HQAR Coordinator and Sathguru technology transfer experts reviewed the English version of the Act and by-laws for implications for COEA's activities. Specifically, few provisions of the Act were found to be critical for COEA's objectives. The Act provides tax incentives to companies for research investments, a provision that COEA can leverage while seeking and structuring private sector collaborations. Additionally, the Act also encourages university spin-outs and provides a structured framework for incubators to be created and nurtured in Universities. The Act symbolizes the Egyptian Government's commitment to expand base on entrepreneurship and university driven innovation, elements core to COEA's objectives.

Entrepreneurship: Substantial secondary research was conducted by COEA team on Venture Capital funds active in Egypt and potential partners (including NGOs) for the OTTC's entrepreneurship programs. The team met with incubators at partner institutions (Cairo University and Assiut) to understand current incubation programs, funding and mentorship support provided and level of engagement with agribusiness ventures. The team also met with Practiq and Enroot, two Egyptian professional service firms involved in implementing currently active startup support programs. Overall, the interactions and secondary research provided preliminary understanding of current landscape for agricultural startups in Egypt.

The quarter also included critical presentations to the Steering Committee and the Advisory Board. The Steering Committee and the Advisory Board both acknowledged criticality of building capacity in the technology transfer function so that applied research from partner institutions have greater prospect of moving to industry. Entrepreneurship was also acknowledged as a key pillar given the current momentum in Egyptian startup landscape and potential to strengthen it for agribusiness ventures. The new Research Incentives Act of 2018 also creates a more fertile environment for universities to emerge as strong hubs for entrepreneurship.



## 3.5 INFORMATION/LIBRARY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT

Workshops in Scholarly Communication and Critical Thinking: Plans for four workshops discussed and reviewed:

- Workshop 1: Critical Thinking & Basics of Scholarly Communication
- Workshop 2: Basics of Scholarly Communication 2
- Workshop 3: Advanced Scholarly Communication 1
- Workshop 4: Scholarly Communication 2

In Q4FY19, the team completed the travel plans, workshop announcements, venue selection, participant identification, training materials for first two workshops which are scheduled to take place in October 2019.

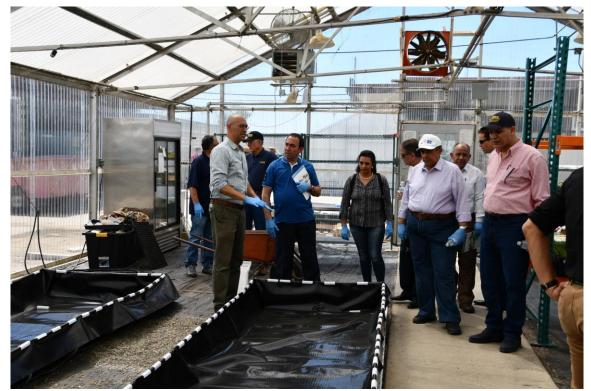
# IV.4 COMPONENT 4: EXCHANGES, TRAININGS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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.

### 4.1 ADMINISTRATION EXCHANGES

Five higher administration officials participated in an exchange visit through COEA in Q4FY19. The visit spanned the period July 29 to August 2, 2019. The five officials were H.E. the Minister of Agriculture, the Dean of Cairo University Faculty of Agriculture, the Dean of Ain Shams University Faculty of Agriculture, the Dean of Benha University Faculty of Agriculture and the Dean of Assiut University Faculty of Agriculture. Throughout the study tour the team visited the University of California, Davis and the University of Cornell. The team was exposed to the various teaching methods and facilities present at each university to learn of the advanced teaching methods and facilities employed at the partner universities. Representatives at each site gave presentations on the different departments and sections at the faculties of agriculture, how the teaching staff utilizes the facilities available to them to produce an educated workforce that responds to the market needs. At Davis and following a general orientation on the UC Davis, the team visited the California Crop Improvement Association, the Genome center, the Foundation for Plant Services, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Olive Center, the Poultry Innovation Lab, the Postharvest Technology Center, the Center for Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture and the UC Davis Wolfskill experimental Orchards and USDA Clonal Germplasm Repository. The team interacted with the presenters and the representatives at UC Davis to learn about the technicalities involved at the various facilities, sources of income that keep such facilities up and running while continuously upgrading the technologies in place, the opportunities that can be made available to Egyptian fellow students through such facilities, as well as other means of collaboration and cooperation with the Egyptian side.





Higher Administrative Exchange Visit in California

The Egyptian team headed by H.E the Minister of Agriculture met with Executive Dean of CALS, the Vice-Provost and the President at the main campus in Ithaca, New York. Through the meetings, the team discussed ideas for collaboration through the COEA activity. The team also visited the Food Incubator where they observed the latest technologies in place at Cornell. The visit concluded at New York City where the delegation visited the Cornell University Cooperative Extension as well as the Learning Labs at the Food and Finance High School.

This study tour was useful in raising the awareness of the visiting officials towards shifting the focus of Egyptian faculty towards market-driven, private sector oriented educational systems. Additionally, the visit contributed to increasing the buy-in of the high-level administrators into the COEA; this is critical for COEA's functionality and sustainability.





Dean of Faculty of Agriculture Assiut University visiting UC Davis Aquaculture Farm

# DEAN OF FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, ASSIUT UNIVERSITY

"I was amazed with the agricultural systems in California specifically the peach and apple farms as well as the equipment and the labs. I look forward to advancing the agricultural systems in Assiut to resemble what I witnessed in California"

# 4.5 SCHOLARSHIPS

The team discussed and prepared a draft of the application selection process for COEA scholarships. Draft evaluation criteria and application forms have been developed. ETS Technical Coordinators held an online meeting with partner universities in which they explained the formats and criteria for selecting applicants for the four COEA scholarships. It was agreed that applications for two of the four scholarships, i.e., for "Support Scholarships" and "Internship, Research and Entrepreneurship" should be in both Arabic and English, and the other two "four-year Undergraduate scholarship" and "Female post-doc award" should be in English only. The team thoroughly reviewed the different sections of the manual and the means by which to disseminate calls in order to ensure the calls reach the underserved areas of Egypt. The team also discussed means of assessing the financial needs of applicants in a fair and measurable way that would ensure that scholarships are granted in the most effective and efficient way.



The ETS team also discussed means of submitting scholarship applications via an online platform that facilitates application, review and selection processes. The platform is being developed by COEA team and it incorporates high levels of safety and confidentiality of applicants. In this sense, reviewers will only have access to those documents that they will be asked to review including student essays, letters of recommendation, but not the applicant personal information. COEA in-house team is in the process of reviewing, finalizing and testing the deployment of such a platform before it is open for public.

ETS team drafted a complete manual on COEA scholarships including the call and guidelines for scholarships as well as the specifics for each type of scholarship including the announcement, the application form, the evaluation criteria<sup>1</sup>, and the agreement. The manual also includes the details of the interview process which outlines the interview committee members, a checklist to examine attitudes and personal attributes of short-listed candidates in addition to the interview evaluation sheet (for four-year undergraduate students). The final section of the manual provides guidelines on submitting scholarship applications.

### IV.5 COMPONENT 5: SUSTAINABILITY

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

### 5.1 MEL

Pursuant to submitting the initial draft of the COEA MEL plan, a revised submission of the document was submitted to USAID. The table below shows COEA's achievement on each of the nine performance indicators included in the revised version of the MEL plan.

Table 5: MEL Indicators' Achievement in FY2019

#	Indicator	Baseline	FY2019
ES.2-1	Number of host country tertiary education institutions receiving capacity development support with USG assistance	0	1
ES.2-2	Number of individuals attending tertiary education institutions with USG scholarship or financial assistance	0	5
CC1	Number of trainees at COEA pilot labs	0	0
CC2	Number of private sector agencies utilizing research findings commercialized by COEA's Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization	0	0
C2.1	Number of students enrolled in new degree programs developed by COEA	0	0
C2.2	Number of courses for which instructors are evaluated using the new teaching evaluation system developed by COEA	0	0
C3.1	Number of research grants funded through USG-assistance	0	0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The evaluation criteria are included in the manual for internal purposes only and will not be included in the application package.



#	Indicator	Baseline	FY2019
C4.1	Number of individuals who successfully complete scholarships and/or exchanges	0	NA
C5.1	Number of private sector partners partnering with COEA	0	9

# ES.2-1: Number of host country tertiary education institutions receiving capacity development support with USG assistance

COEA extended capacity development support to CUFA in FY2019. This effort included:

- Establishing a partnership with CUFA to establish the COEA office.
- Training to CUFA librarians in TEEAL.

# ES.2-2: Number of individuals attending tertiary education institutions with USG scholarship or financial assistance

COEA sponsored 5 higher administrative officials on an exchange visit in FY2019. These included H.E. the Minister of Agriculture, the Dean of Cairo University Faculty of Agriculture, the Dean of Ain Shams University Faculty of Agriculture, the Dean of Benha University Faculty of Agriculture and the Dean of Assiut University Faculty of Agriculture. Please refer to activity 4.1 for further details.

# C5.1: Number of private sector partners partnering with COEA

Nine private sector agencies partnered with COEA in FY2019. These agencies, however, have not signed MOUs yet since the form is still under development and it has to be approved by the Steering Committee before sharing it with the private sector agencies. Nevertheless, since 9 agencies are already members on COEA's different committees, they have been counted towards this indicator for FY2019 and will be asked to sign MOUs later after the form is finalized and approved by the respective committee. The table below shows details, breakdown and disaggregation:

Table 6: Details and Breakdown of Indicator C5.1 in FY2019

#	Name of Private Sector Agency	Industry	Type of Engagement with COEA
1	Daltex Group	Horticulture	Member of the Advisory Board
2	Shoura Group	Agrochemicals Pesticides Seedlings	Member of the Advisory Board
3	Pepsico	Food Processing	Member of the Advisory Board
4	Cairo Poultry Company (Koki)	Poultry Production Slaughterhouse	Member of the Steering Committee
5	Dakahleya Group (Tamery)	Horticulture Poultry Production Slaughterhouse	Member of the Advisory Board
6	Pico	Horticulture Seedlings	Member of the Steering Committee
7	El Samman Group	Agricultural NGO	Member of the Steering Committee



#	Name of Private Sector Agency	Industry	Type of Engagement with COEA
8	Misr El Arabeya Poultry	Poultry Production	Member of the IICD Technical
	Company	Slaughterhouse	Committee
9	Heliopolis University (affiliated	Private University	Member of the IICD Technical
	with Sekem)	specialized in organic	Committee
		agriculture	

## 5.2 DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

COEA held the first meeting of the Council on Public Private Partnership at CUFA on September 5. It has been decided to hold this council concurrently with the council on research policy given the overlap in membership as well as the roles and responsibilities of the two councils.

COEA also held a meeting with private sector agencies on September 28 at CUFA in which more than 10 agencies sent their representatives to attend the meeting. The meeting was successful in:

- Identifying the major problems facing the private sector agencies which COEA can help address through its initiatives and research priorities.
- Identifying opportunities for collaboration between COEA and the private sector agencies.

Expand and build on network opportunities between the different agencies and industries in the agricultural sector in Egypt.

The meeting was well received by attendee private sector agencies who requested repeating the meeting regularly to expand on existing collaborations.





COEA PPP Workshop - September 2019

## V. GENDER

A Cairo-based Gender Coordinator was appointed in Q4FY19 who works hand-in-hand with the International Gender Consultant at MSU to maximize gender integration on all COEA initiatives. The gender team carried out an in-depth literature review on gender integration in Egypt — reviewed materials focused on gender and disability inclusion, as well as the legal framework governing gender and disability integration in Egypt (including the new constitutional law of PWD). Based on the resources reviewed, the team drafted a Gender Inclusive Strategy to sensitize COEA team and stakeholders, partner universities about gender and disability issues in Egypt and also to ensure maximizing gender integration across all COEA components and interventions.

The Cairo-based gender coordinator attended all technical meetings pertaining to HQAR, ETS and IICD to provide insight on gender inclusion and integration. Furthermore, the gender team reviewed HQAR RFA to ensure gender integration. The gender team also reviewed the evaluation criteria of concept notes to be proposed under the HQAR component of the project to assess the level of gender integration (levels of gender integration include gender-blind, gender-aware, gender-sensitive, gender-transformative) in submitted concept notes and proposals. The team suggested that the evaluation team put some weight on the level of gender integration in submitted applications; applications with higher levels of gender integration receive higher scores in this aspect.



The Cairo-based gender coordinator reached out for NGOS and centers concerned with gender and disability to introduce COEA and its gender prospective and to schedule meetings to discuss areas of potential collaborations. Further collaborations and scheduled follow up will take place in FY2020.

# VI. COEA FACT TABLE

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

Table 7: COEA in Numbers

Number of individuals in exchanges	5
Number of High-Level meetings	8

# VII. CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

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

Table 8: Challenges and Measures Taken

Challenge	Taken Measure(s)
A few times it took longer than expected to get field data, for example from partner universities.	COEA team had to follow up with faculty more frequently. The team also agreed to request university focal faculty for prompt response.
It is taking longer than expected to complete student selection process for granting scholarships.	Increased zoom meetings, increased contact with focal faculty at partner universities. Agreed to hire Scholarship Manager. Plans to mobilize him/her for this purpose too.
Governance Framework not ratified. Since the document is complex, its revision would be an iterative process and it will take time to get to everyone's satisfaction.	Steering Committee members had a chance to review the document and they suggested changes. Current version with suggested changes will be circulated to stakeholders with a final call for changes/edits.
Advisory Board initial meeting did not have a quorum because many people were traveling at the time, and private sector members were not sensitized enough to the importance of the Board.	Agreed to announce date of next Advisory Board meeting earlier to give more time for people to fit it on their calendar. Additionally, a move has been initiated to increase the size of the Board was presented but no decision made yet.
Councils' initial meetings did not have quorums as many people were traveling at the time.	Call made to concurrently hold the meetings of the two councils because of overlap of their missions. It is expected to be easier to schedule just one meeting and get better attendance.
Size of grant: Difficult to reach agreement on size of grants especially with the lack of hard data on typical and workable size of grants in Egypt to inform discussions.	It has been decided that grants for the first year will be up to \$100K and that grants for subsequent years may increase to up to \$250K (including joint research between the 3 COEs). The matter is being discussed with USAID to seek their guidance and approval.



Taken Measure(s)

After appointing the Technical Coordinators, the IICD Technical Coordinator resigned his position.

COEA Top Management announced the vacancy in Q4FY19 and started the proper HR procedure for filling this position. In the meantime, the Technical Advisor is assuming the responsibilities of the IICD Technical Coordinator.

# VIII. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The FY2020 Work Plan for the COEA is still underway. The document provides detailed plans of interventions by component up until September 30, 2020.

Looking broadly at the COEA, below are some of the activities planned for Q1FY20:

- Continue analyzing needs assessment data and identify and prioritize areas for capacity building/development.
- Grant writing workshop to faculty members in CUFA and partner universities.
- Provide gender sensitization workshops.
- Organize and deliver workshops in critical thinking and scholarly communication.
- Deliver training to librarians in basics of scholarly communication and critical thinking.
- Announcement of scholarships (4-year undergraduate support for English BSc programs; and one-year BSc Arabic programs); and review of the scholarship applications.



# IX. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES PLANNED FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER

The table below provides a status update on activities planned from the previous quarter:

Table 9: Status Update of Previously Planned Activities

Planned Activity	Status	Comment/ Justification
Technical Committees, Advisory Board and	Completed	
Steering Committee will hold their initial meetings.		
Announcement of scholarships (4-year undergraduate support); review of the scholarship applications; select candidates and offer scholarships.	Delayed to Q1FY20	Scholarship package and website still under development.
Identify Egyptian professors to participate in 12-month course revision program.	Delayed to Q2FY20	COEA expects to release the call in Q1FY20 and to identify the candidates in the following quarter.



# ANNEX: MEDIA COVERAGE REPORT

This media report highlights the higher administrative exchange visit of five government officials headed by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture during the visit to the University of California Davis and Cornell University in the United States.

## AGRI2DAY

The Minister of Agriculture participates in the Higher Admin Exchange Program in the United States.





# AKHBAR EL YOUM

H.E. the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Dr. Ezz El-Deen Abou-Sitt, participated with a delegation of Egyptian universities in a visit to the University of California Davis and Cornell University, USA, within the activities of the project of establishing the Center of Agricultural Excellence at Cairo University Faulty of Agriculture in cooperation with the Egyptian universities .During the meeting, they discussed joint cooperation opportunities through the USAID- funded project, whose activities include developing laboratories, financing research projects, training opportunities and exchanging visit to experts, researchers and students.





## AL BAWABH NEWS

H.E. the Minister of Agriculture pointed out that the Center of Excellence in Agriculture at Cairo University would provide practical solutions in the agricultural field, and contribute to the development of the educational process to prepare graduates ready for the labor market and job-makers and not just students, through their ability to provide work or a project that serves the purposes of sustainable development. H.E. also pointed out that the Ministry of Agriculture will provide all the necessary support to contribute to the success of the work of the Center.





# AL FALLAH AL YOUM

H.E. Dr. Ezz ElDin Abu Steit, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation visits The Research Institutes during his exchange visit to the universities in the United States





# AL MASRY AL YOUM

H.E Dr. Ezz Eldin Abu Steit participated in the Higher Administrative Exchange Visit organized by the Center of Excellence for Agriculture





# AL RAEES NEWS

H.E. the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation visits the United Sates examines areas of mutual collaboration in Agriculture during the Higher Administrative Exchange visit sponsored by the Center of Excellence for Agriculture.





# ARAB YOUM

# Intensive activity for H.E. the Minister of Agriculture during his visit to the USA





## CORNELL CALS

An Egyptian delegation headed by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture gathered on campus in early August as part of the Cornell-led Center of Excellence for Agriculture in Egypt higher administrative exchange visit. The picture shows the Egyptian delegation and Cornell representatives. From the left:

- Wendy Wolford, vice provost for international affairs
- Amr Moustafa, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University
- Mahmoud Maghraby, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Benha University
- H.E. Dr.Ezz El Din Abu Steit, Egyptian Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation;
- Martha E. Pollack, President of Cornell University
- K.V. Raman, Associate Director of International Programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Naglaa Abdallah, Chief Of Party, Center of Excellence for Agriculture
- Mohamed Hamam, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Assuit University
- Ahmed Galal, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University.

Photo by Jason Koski/Cornell University





## **DOSTOR**

Intensive activity of the delegation of agriculture and Egyptian universities in the United States

H.E. the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation participated with a delegation of Egyptian universities in a visit to the University of California Davis and Cornell University, USA, within the activities of the Center of Excellence for Agriculture at Cairo University Faculty of Agriculture, in cooperation with some Egyptian universities. Cooperation opportunities were discussed through the USAID-funded project, whose activities include the development of laboratories, funding for the implementation of research projects and opportunities for training and exchange of visits to experts, researchers and students.





## **EL WATAN NEWS**

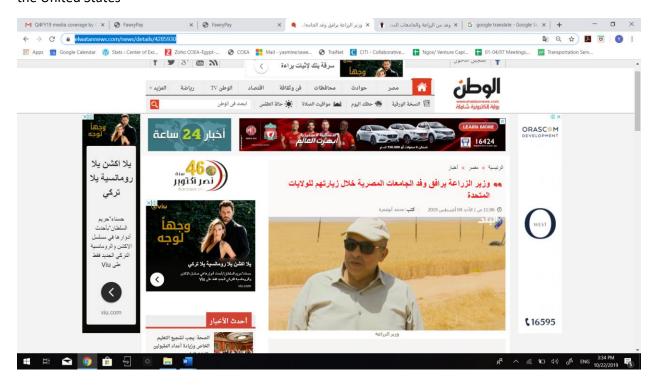
H.E. the Minister of Agriculture Participates in the Higher Administrative Exchange Orientation program in the United States Land Grant Universities.





# **EL WATAN NEWS**

H.E. the Minister of Agriculture accompanies the delegation of Egyptian universities during their visit to the United States





# EL WEKALA NEWS

H.E. Dr. Ezz ElDin Abu Steit , Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation participates in the Higher Admin Exchange Program with the US Universities.





# YOUM 7

A delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation participated with a delegation from the Egyptian universities in a visit to the University of California Davis and Cornell University, USA, within the activities of the Center of Excellence for Agriculture at University Faculty of Agriculture, in which the Agricultural Research Center and the Desert Research Center, in cooperation with some Egyptian universities. Joint cooperation opportunities were discussed through the USAID-funded project, whose activities include the development of laboratories, funding of research projects, training opportunities and exchange of visits by experts, researchers and students.





# MEDIA LINKS OF THE HIGHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXCHANGE VISIT

MEDIA	URL
AGRI2DAY	https://www.agri2day.com/2019/07/27/%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B5%
AGMIZDAT	D9%8A%D9%84-%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A9-
	%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-
	<u>%D9%81%D9%8A-</u>
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AA-
ALCUDAD EL VONA	<u>%D8%A7/</u>
AKHBAR EL YOM	https://m.akhbarelyom.com/news/newdetails/2891603/1/%D9%86%D8%B4
	%D8%A7%D8%B7-%D9%85%D9%83%D8%AB%D9%81-
	%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-
	<u>%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-</u>
	<u>%D8%AE%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%84-</u>
	<u>%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%87-</u>
	<u>%D9%84%D9%84%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AA-</u>
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	<u>A9</u>
AL BAWABH NEWS	https://www.albawabhnews.com/3676517
<b>AL FALLAH AL YOUM</b>	https://alfallahalyoum.news/%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-
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AL MASRY AL YOUM	https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/1415670
AL RAEES NEWS	http://www.alraeesnews.com/32113
ARAB YOUM	https://www.arabyoum.com/business/11387401/%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%A7
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	<u>A9</u>
CORNELL CALS	https://cals.cornell.edu/news/global-partnership-plots-path-forward-
	egyptian-agriculture/
DOSTOR	https://www.dostor.org/2750811
EL WATAN NEWS	https://www.elwatannews.com/news/details/4276150
EL WATAN NEWS	https://www.elwatannews.com/news/details/4285930
EL WEKALA NEWS	https://eg.elwekalanews.com/%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-
LE VILIALA IVLVVJ	%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-
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MEDIA	URL
YOUM 7	https://www.youm7.com/story/2019/8/4/%D9%88%D9%81%D8%AF-
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