



13 VILLAGES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Newsletter for May & June 2020

What is 13 Villages Project?

By Mohammed Anwar

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is considered as the new paradigm of education that could prepare alumni in order to face sustainable development challenges. One major components of the ESD is the Community-Based Learning (CBL). CBL is an intended pedagogy that takes learners out of classes to the community in order to link what they learn theoretically to real life experiences. It is a step further from academia to the field in order to achieve positive changes and development to the community and to the students reciprocally.

This is what we intend to implement in the target area of the 13 Villages in Belbeis, Sharkia. The 5 faculties of HUSD, Core Program, The Alumni Association, Research Department, SEKM Schools and SEKEM Medical Center are collaborating together to achieve this promising goal. The project started officially in October, 2019 by conducting baseline study through different methods such as questionnaires, focus groups, direct observations and secondary data. The results of these data will figure out the backbone of the action plan that would be collaborated with different stakeholders in order to be into an active state.

HUSD student are the main core of the project as all efforts done will be implemented by them as a part of their study and activities, in the sense of collecting and analyzing data, drawing up the action plan and engaging in the projects' activities in the target areas. In each faculty, a group of students were selected to help in the coordination of the 13 village project and the Center of Education for Sustainable Development (CESD) is the entity that coordinates the project's work from Heliopolis University side.

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HU Students in the 13 villages

Sekem Bedaya, Microcredit Initiative in the 13 Villages

By Saly Samir

SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF) is providing microcredit opportunities for 13 villages' residents. SDF will support various projects such as cheese making, sewing, chicken breeding, selling animal feed, compost formationetc. The projects will be implemented according to SEKEM vision for sustainable development. The microloan starts with 10.000 EGP and up to 25.000 EGP. Meanwhile, SDF received many projects' ideas after running several info sessions in the 13 villages. The team of the project met people and young entrepreneurs; males & females in Ali Kamel, Ezbet Maher, Galfeena 1 & 2, Ezbet El Eslah, and Tahaweya. One of these ideas is to provide sewing machines for small workshop owners and experienced women in the sewing craft to scale up their businesses. Also establishing cooperation with NatureTex in order to train females who lost their jobs after marriage on the different types of sewing crafts. After that, the company will assist those who were trained with sewing machines and they will be outsourced by NatureTEX in order to have enough income and pay their credit monthly instalment. The 2nd idea is to open a small outlet for Lotus Company, as it will support the village with low price organic vegetables and food. SDF will support as well the young entrepreneurs in the compost industry and will provide them with the know-how and marketing advice.

Soil Analysis Laboratory & Faculty of Organic Agriculture in the 13 Villages

By Hend El Sawy

The team of soil analysis lab started at Faculty of Organic Agriculture start collecting soil samples from different fields in the 13 villages. This is part of a long-term plan for promoting organic agriculture in the 13 villages. The first field visit took place on June 29, 2020 and the team from faculty of organic agriculture have been met by 5 farmers in Tahaweya; one of the 13 villages. The team provided technical support for taking a soil sample protocol to enhance the farmers' competencies in this regard. Subsequently, the farmers will take soil samples to be sent to the soil lab in the faculty premises and then get training on the actions they have to take based on such results. Dr. Mohammed Salah from faculty of Organic Agriculture discussed with the farmers the impact of conventional agriculture on the soil structure and its fertility. Based on the results of these samples, plans will be prepared with farmers to encourage and support them to convert their farms into organic farming instead of conventional farming.



SEKEM DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION



Soil salinity in the fields of the 13 villages



Dr. Mohammed Salah showing the farmers how to take soil samples

For more information about
faculty of Organic Agriculture.
<https://www.hu.edu.eg/faculties/organic-agriculture/anic-agriculture/>

Wastewater Treatment Unit in Ali Kamel Metwaly Village in cooperation with Faculty of Engineering

By Anas Azzam

One of the major problems in the 13 villages based on the situational analysis study done by CESD was the lack of a sewage network. All villages complained about the high cost of eliminating the wastewater and the pollution of the groundwater of the Bayara (waste water tank). In this regard, the water department in Faculty of Engineering took the chance to support one of the villages to establish a wastewater treatment unit. The team from the water department conducted many field visits to the location proposed for the unit in Ali Kamel village. This location is given as a public ownership by the villagers. The team has been met by all stakeholders in the village and collected all primary data needed for the design. More investigation will be done soon for completing the design and getting the fund for the project. This project will be continuous collaboration between faculty of Engineering and the DeVilag Service office to overcome this real problem. Meanwhile, the team is investigating funding opportunities for this unit based on the design that they will finalize soon.



The team of Engineering checking the proposed location for the waste water treatment unit in Ali Kamel



CESD team meeting with people from Ali Kamel Villages for more investigation regarding the unit

Physical Therapy & Integrative Health in 13 villages

By Doaa Tamam

The Faculty of Physical Therapy is approaching an integrative health program to be implemented in the 13 villages. This program will be offered for schools' students and teachers, workers, farmers and all stakeholders in the 13 villages. Due to COVID-19 the faculty will do a pilot phase for this program only for SEKEM and Heliopolis University employees. The first phase of the program started on July 9, 2020. The main purpose of this phase is to discuss work-related problems such as the muscular system, obesity, and the effect of the working environment on body weight, and the importance of organic food as a healthy food. The program is not only revolving around on theoretical awareness, but also providing practical activities out of the work space for the employees. Hence, they could be able to revitalize their body and to keep safe from the different types of diseases. The program was developed by the community service committee members. There will be an annual plan in cooperation with SEKEM Medical Centre to work on updating the working environment such as the work place furniture, as it has a great effect on the employees' health. As such, also there will be an invite for a walk for all the employees to help them improve their health and also to break the borders of the routine work day.



HU & SEKEM employees doing different types of exercises guided by Physical therapy team

People from the 13 Village

Mr. Ahmed Shehata; Ali Kamel School's Principal

By Mohammed Anwar

"School and university have to be connected directly to the community and vice versa" says Mr. Ahmed Shehata in the beginning of our meeting with him. Mr. Shehata was born in Galfeena 2 and lived there until now. He graduated from the Faculty of Education, Zagazig University, 1995 and joined Ali Kamel School directly after his graduation as an Arabic teacher. He stayed in the school till the present day and became the school principal 2 years ago. For him, managing primary school with 600 students is a huge challenge, but he liked it. He is a key person in Ali Kamel village for our community development project as he is facilitating the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) training with CESD in the 6 schools of the 13 Villages. He also supported the dissemination of the microcredit project initiated by SDF in Ali Kamel and Galfeena 2. Additionally, he is facilitating the field visits of the water department in the village. "I feel grateful for all stakeholders of the 13 villages' project and we will continue supporting this promising initiative" Mr. Ahmed concluded his meeting with us.



Mr. Ahmed Shehata in his office as Ali Kamel School Principal



Photo from different field visits to the 13 villages

