

**This report is a summary of the several field visits with different farmers from Wady el Nokra in Aswan Governorate and Sylla at Al Faioum Governorate.**

As an initiative to improve the desert land reclamation in Egypt and facilitate the sustainable use of the different natural resources concerning the agricultural sector, 10 field visits have been conducted including interviews and general questions aiming at extracting the main challenges facing the farmers during their daily lives and cultivating their lands whether rented or owned acreage.

The results of the interviews that have been conducted can be summarized in the following points:

- 1) The main cash crops the farmers propagate are Peppermint – Wheat – sorghum – Clover – Faba Bean – Green onion – Mango – Barley – Cow pea – Tomatoes – Squash – Felugreek.
- 2) The highest return crops are Felugreek - Faba Bean – Wheat – Tomatoes – Peppermint - Cow pea – Mango.
- 3) The main challenges that face the farmers on the previously mentioned places are the following:
  - I. weed plants (Galingal plant)
  - II. The roads are not paved
  - III. the farmers are far away from the market
  - IV. High quality products are missing – There is no reliable source for farm related products not authentic products.
  - V. The government is no longer supporting the farmers with guidance and consultancy.
  - VI. The subsidised products are not always available in the governmental agencies.
  - VII. There is no place that you can complain at in case something went wrong with a contract with a company.
- 4) The main technological solutions for the mentioned problems from the farmers' perspective are the following:
  - I. Mechanised agriculture
  - II. Subsidised products ex. seeds and fertilizers

- 5) The main irrigation source is Nile, type is flood irrigation and the farmer rarely use the underground water.
- 6) The average owned land for most farmers is 5 feddans.
- 7) The majority of the farmers do employ workers mainly during planting and harvesting seasons.
- 8) The main energy source used for irrigation is petrol and rarely solar energy due to its high price to construct and maintain.
- 9) The majority of the farmers lack knowledge of sustainability
- 10) The majority of the farmers did not contract with any company or contracted once which was not very successful.

There will be a detailed questionnaire and budgeting of the mentioned visits to be submitted before the end of this week.