

EGYPT

Summary of Bankable Investment Project Profile – Volume V of V

Integrated Water Management for Community Settlement in Farafra Oasis

Estimated Cost: US\$8.71 m

Project Duration: 4 years

Rationale. The Farafra depression is the second largest of five main depressions of the large fresh water-bearing body of the Nubian Sand Stone system of the Western desert extending over a total of some 10,000 km². With an immigrant population limited in their knowledge of irrigation and water management or of agricultural and/or alternative development strategies based on the comparative advantage of the area, per capita income at below US\$400 and health and other social services are low.

Project Objectives. The proposed project aims at improving the sustainable livelihood of the communities in the Farafra oasis through (i) increasing production per unit of supplied/consumed water through improved/appropriate desert agriculture and increased water use efficiency including encouraging transfer towards non-conventional uses (less water and lower water quality and re-use), and (ii) improving the capacity of local communities to manage water and introduce participatory water management, and diversify economic activities.

Project Components and Main Activities:

- Rehabilitation of Water Well Infrastructures including Conveyance Systems: This would include an inventory of existing water points, natural springs and native wells; design and implementation of measures that would include new infrastructure developments in two villages (Abu Minqar and El Sheikh Manzouq) and improvements in two others (Farafra and Abul Noss) and introduction of measures that encourage transfer and development towards non conventional uses (less water and lower water quality including reuse, provision of equipments and transport;
- Training and Development of Water Users Associations: Formation and development of 8–10 water users associations and the establishment of a district Water Board for Farafra, and training in different aspects of water use practice, requirements and drainage; and
- Market Development and introduction of alternative economic activities.

Implementation Arrangements. The *Ground Water Sector* of the *Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation* will be responsible for overall implementation with devolution of responsibilities down to the local levels.