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PROJECT FACT SHEET

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR AGRICULTURE

Agriculture requires the sustained, collective efforts of the education and research communities working in partnership with the private sector and policymakers. The Center of Excellence for Agriculture will capitalize on Egypt's strengths in agriculture to inform national agricultural policy formation and develop innovative applied research solutions to challenges related to agricultural economics, animal husbandry, and veterinary science, among others. Internationally recognized leaders in agricultural research implement the Center of Excellence for Agriculture, including Cornell University and Center host Cairo University.

Through the establishment of the Center, USAID, in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, will strengthen the capacity of Cairo University's Faculty of Agriculture to create linkages between research and public and private sector needs. It will also support research that is vital to Egypt's economic growth and job creation; create scholarship opportunities for students to pursue studies in agriculture-related fields; and support development of curricula that includes new courses, degree programs, and teaching methods.

Implementing Partners: Cornell University and Cairo University (with Ain Shams University, Assiut University, Benha University, and Suez Canal University in Egypt and Michigan State University, Purdue University, and the University of California, Davis in the U.S.); Life of Project: February 2019 – February 2024; Total Estimated Cost: \$30 million; Governorates: Nationwide

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MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Create lasting partnerships and linkages among Egyptian and American universities and bring together Egyptian and American agricultural experts from academia, the government, and the private sector to exchange innovative ideas, share best practices in education, and collaborate on cutting-edge research
- Update university curricula and teaching methods to align Egyptian university education with the needs of industry and government; strengthen the capacity of Egyptian universities to produce high-quality, applied research that is responsive to Egypt's needs in its agricultural sector
- Facilitate joint research projects and visiting scholar residencies for Egyptian and American faculty as well as applied research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students
- Establish undergraduate- and graduate-level degrees and scholarship programs that emphasize market-driven course content, student-centered learning, and cross-border exchanges. Scholarships will focus on women, financially disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities
- Foster innovations in lab-to-market technologies for agriculture that may be suitable for commercialization

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Provide academic training that aligns with the current needs of the Egyptian agricultural commercial and public sectors, allowing workforce-ready students to make immediate impacts in the Egyptian agricultural economy and improve private- and public-sector performance
- Increase the quality and quantity of applied research projects that transform agricultural businesses and livelihoods in Egypt, support entrepreneurial thinking, and foster the potential for wider international application
- Increase the government's capacity for effective policy-making informed by high caliber and collaborative research