

27/10/85

Bid to expand New Valley farming

THIRTY experts from 27 foreign companies affirmed that agricultural expansion in the land of the New Valley is of prime importance to the national economy. They said that the subterranean water reservoir under the valley is a natural one which according to research, will never dry up.

These experts who are employed by the Egyptian government are from Africa, Asia and Latin American. The experts, led by the Egyptian agronomist Mr Magdi Abdul Samad, visited the new agricultural projects in the New Valley and obtained first-hand information on the

problems of underground water, and sand-dunes, which hamper the development of new communities in the area.

The Governor, Mr Faruk el Telwai issued directives to study the research of the work team and consider their points of view so as to use them to advantage in agricultural development.

Mr Abdul Samad who is the Director of the Soil Improvement Programme at the International Egyptian Centre for Agriculture, said that extensive studies have been conducted on obstacles impeding the execution of the agricultural strategy.

These studies pinpointed the salinity of the soil as the main factor in the deteriorated standard of the output. They also revealed that the non-efficient use of the underground water and the low population density are also responsible for the poor output.

An Argentinian expert in the project said that infrastructure projects are very important in attracting citizens. Another expert from Ghana opposed the idea of extending Nile water to this area because it is not feasible from the economic point of view. GSS

22/10/85

Study on irrigation water pricing

A STUDY on ways of applying a pricing system for irrigation water in Egypt is currently being conducted by a team of researchers at the Irrigation Engineering Department of the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University.

The study, which is the first to be conducted in Egypt is supervised by Dr. Ibrahim el-Assiuti, Head of the Department, who says that an irrigation water pricing system is applied in several countries with the aim of rationalising water consumption, and using the revenue to finance the regular maintenance of water-courses.

"The pricing system will also help determine the value

of water when evaluating new land reclamation projects and profits resulting from the Various agricultural projects", said Dr. el-Assiuti. He added that the pricing system will help distribute water consumption costs between the government and the farmer, taking into consideration not to increase the burdens of the farmers.

He, moreover, said that the study will not prepare a pricing policy for irrigation water, but will work out a new system for water distribution according to the actual requirements of land, depending on the type of soil, crops, fertilizer and crop formation.

The price of irrigation water in certain areas is

determined according to the costs of digging canals, maintenance of these canals, and the volume of manpower required on maintenance, said Dr. el-Assiuti, adding that the expected economic profits from the projects implemented in each area is also an important factor in determining water prices.

"How to collect water charges from farmers is a point which still needs more study and in which experts of agriculture and irrigation will participate," said Dr. el-Assiuti. He pointed out that the average cost of irrigation water in Egypt is LE 2.25 per 1,000 cubic metres whereas for certain crops this cost rises to LE 39 per 1,000 cubic of water as in the case of sugar-cane. GSS

20/10/85

2 new drainage stations opened in Suez

TWO drainage pumping stations were inaugurated yesterday in Suez Governate by the Minister of Irrigation, Mr. Essma Radi and the Governor of Suez, Mr. Bekir Mohamed Bakir.

Mr. Radi pointed out that the two pumping stations have been established within the framework of the strategy of the Ministry of Irrigation to provide efficient drainage for land which lacks this facility in a bid to increase productivity.

He added that the total cost of setting up the stations is LE 1,710,000. GSS

23/10/85

German experts to study Fayyum water problems

A GROUP of German Consultative Bureaus specialised in implementing potable water and sewerage projects will start, early next week, conducting studies to work out a comprehensive plan to determine the needs of Fayyum villages and towns of potable water networks.

The planning, which will be valid up to the year 2100 is expected to offer a radical solution to the problem of drinkable water. The experts will also devise a plan according to which sewerage networks will be executed so that they would not be subject to renovation or replacement until 2100.

- GSS