

02/09/85

National scheme to develop irrigation

THE Ministry of Irrigation is implementing a national plan to develop irrigation with a view to rationalising the consumption of water, making available additional water for the irrigation new land and thus increasing agricultural production. The plan will be carried out in two main stages; the first for developing the main irrigation network and the distribution network and the second for modernising minor irrigation networks and raising the efficiency of field irrigation.

Dr Mahmoud Abu Zeid, Chairman of the Water Research centre said that the first stage of the plan is to be carried out over 125,000 feddans for which irrigation will be developed over five years at a total cost of LE 24 million. A sum of LE 300 will be allocated for each feddan, he said.

The main targets of the development strategy is to irrigate at suitable times using sufficient amounts of water for the plants as well as the soil, without waste.

Intensifying services for the farmers and working out laws to govern their use of water are also among such aims, said Dr Abdu Zeid.

He pointed out that the current system of irrigation (surface irrigation) will remain as it is on the old agricultural land because the irrigation system in Egypt is strongly related to the distribution of land ownership. He said that about 94.5 per cent of landowners possess parcels of land of less than five feddans. However as regards newly reclaimed land, development must include the use of advanced irrigation methods, he added.

Dr Abu Zeid further stated that the Centre's studies on the development of irrigation affirmed that national development programmes should cover the whole irrigation network, starting with the main canals and continuing to the level of the field according to the priority of areas. A comprehensive study should be conducted on each separately to select the best solutions, said Dr Abu Zeid. GSS

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American snails to combat bilharzia

A TYPE of snail that grows in the southern part of the United States has been successfully used by scientists at Theodor Bilharz Institute at Imbaba, Cairo, to combat bilharzia worms in irrigation canals, according to Dr. Fuad Youssef, of the Institute.

He said that the use of this American type of snail comes within the framework of the biological techniques applied to combat bilharzia worms because it breaks the life-cycle of the parasite by eating the bilharzia larvae which enter the snails due to the similarity with the snails which accommodate the larvae.

Dr. Youssef moreover said that Institute is currently conducting field experiments at the Institute's farm in the Barrages area of determine the best environmental conditions which help accelerate the growth of the American snails. GSS

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2 solar lakes underway in Alexandria

WORK is currently under way for the establishment of two solar lakes in el-Maks region, Alexandria. The aim of the project is to generate power and pump subterranean water required for land reclamation. Experts of the Power Sector and Cairo university professors are conducting technical tests to guarantee the validity of the project, said Chairman of the New Energy Organisation, Dr. Tait el-Tablawi.

He also pointed out that a project for the establishment of a maritime solar lake on an area of 10,000 square metres is currently the subject of study.

Dr. el-Tablawi said that other similar lakes will be established in Wadi Rayan, Fayyum and along the coasts of the Red Sea and Sinai to desalinate sea water and use extracted salts in increasing the concentration in the lower layer of the lake.

Experts are also conducting a comprehensive survey to locate other sites in the country. Dr. el-Tablawi stated that these projects come within the framework of the Ministry of Power's plan for making the best use of the available energy resources to provide at least 50 per cent of the total volume of the country's requirements of energy. GSS



FRANZ Burbach in Cologne wants to cross the "Channel" with this modified car. The car is pictured here during first watering tests at Cologne, last weekend. Franz Burbach wants to put his name down the "Guinness Book Records". — AP Photo.