

EGYPT

WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES ANALYZED

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 23 Oct 86 p 8

[Article: "Measures to Compensate for Water Shortage with High Dam Reserves"]

[Text] Mr 'Isam Radi, minister of irrigation, declared that several measures will be taken to compensate for this season's Nile water shortage, estimated at 6.5 billion cubic meters. This will be with water from the High Dam reserves, in addition to complying fully with the nighttime irrigation scheme, increasing the use of underground and tributary waters for irrigation, decreasing water waste, improving and maintaining waterways and industrial uses thereof, and building the Isna al-Jadidah and Huways Jadid aqueducts in Naja' Hammadi.

In a press conference he held yesterday, the irrigation minister added that, in order to conserve water, it has been decided that rice planting areas will be limited and no planting will be permitted in unauthorized areas. A statement will be issued that will indicate fields and areas where rice may be planted thus informing farmers sufficiently ahead of time.

It was also decided that irrigation activities be regulated and controlled so as to ensure against waste, that established agricultural schedules be followed, that water waste during winter be decreased, and that irrigation improvement programs be developed in order to decrease waste.

The irrigation minister said that his ministry has a plan to make better use of water in the cane fields that consume large quantities of water without reducing the cultivated area. The plan includes clearing water channels, especially in Qina province, at the farmers' expense, completing the Shanhuriyah irrigation station, complying with schedules, and avoiding water wastage during compensatory irrigation.

The minister called upon all citizens to conserve water be it in agriculture, drinking, industry, or irrigation during the indicted period, to prepare lands and agricultural installations to accommodate water as soon as it is released from irrigation channels, and to strictly comply with crop rotation rules.

At the end of his press conference, the minister assured the public that with these measures in place, water resources will be sufficient to fulfill the needs of agriculture, drinking, and industry this year.

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