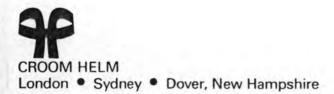
## AGRARIAN CHANGE in EGYPT AN ANATOMY OF RUBAL POVERTY

Samir Radwan and Eddy Lee

A study prepared for the International Labour Office within the framework of the World Employment Programme



786 A8 R33 1986

Copyright <sup>®</sup> International Labour Organisation 1986 Croom Helm Ltd, Provident House, Burrell Row, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1AT Croom Helm Australia Pty Ltd, Suite 4, 6th Floor, 64-76 Kippax Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010, Australia

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Radwan, Samir Agrarian change in Egypt: an anatomy of rural poverty. 1. Egypt-Rural conditions 2. Egypt-Economic conditions-1962-I. Title II. Lee, Eddy III. International Labour Office IV. World Employment Programme 330.962 HC830 Croom Helm, 51, Washington Street, Dover, New Hampshire 03820, USA

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Radwan, Samir Muhammad Agrarian change in Egypt A study prepared for the International Labour Office within the framework of the World Employment Programme. includes index. 1. Egypt-Rural Conditions 2. Poor-Egypt 3. Agriculture-Economic aspects-Egypt I. Lee, Eddy II. World Employment Programme III. Title. HN786.A8R33 1985 305.6'69'0962 85-11356 ISBN 0-7099-4214-1

The responsibility for opinions expressed in studies and other contributions rests solely with their authors, and publication does not constitute an endorsement by the International Labour Office of the opinions expressed in them.

The designations employed and the presentation of material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Labour Office concerning the legal status of any country, area or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Mackays of Chatham Ltd, Kent



Contents

SB35025 RHS

L	st of Figures	1X
Li	st of Tables	x
A	cknowledgements	xiii
1.	Introduction	1
	Notes	4
2.	Background and Methodology	6
	Introduction	6
	The Evolution of Egypt's Agrarian System: a Brief Historical Background	6
	The Agrarian Question in the 1970s	14
	Methodology	17
	Appendix: Sampling Procedure, Concepts and Definitions	21
	Notes	28
3.	The Generation and Distribution of Income	30
	Sources of Income	30
	Source of Income by Income Group	36
	The Size-distribution of Income	41
	Notes	50
4.	The Structure of Asset Ownership	51
	Characteristics of Various Categories of Asset-owning Households	58
	Land and Income	60
	Tenancy	66
	Land Movements	69
	Farm Production	. 76
5.	Poverty, Consumption and Basic Needs	80
	The Nature and Extent of Rural Poverty	80
	Profile of Poverty in Rural Egypt	91
	Appendix: Basic Needs in an Egyptian Village: the Case of Kamalia	120
	Notes	130

6. Employment and the Labour Market	133
Introduction	133
Features of the Rural Labour Market	139
Rural Wages	144
Education	147
Concluding Remarks	148
Notes	148
7. Efficiency and Equity in the 1980s	150
Performance Indicators	150
Factors Affecting Agricultural Performance	153
Elements of the Agrarian Question	154
Some Concluding Remarks	158
Notes	160
Index	167

Figures

2.1Villages Chosen for the Survey165.1The Calorie Gap of the Poor Population94

Tables

	2.1	Growth Performance of Egyptian Agriculture	10
	2.2	Rural Household Expenditure	12
	2.3	An Estimate of the Rural Poor in Egypt, 1958/9, 1964/ 5 and 1974/5	13
	2.4	Distribution of the Household Sample by Governorate and Village	18
	A2.1	Total Population and Households in Sample Governorates	21
	A2.2	Number of Villages in Sample by Size	22
	A2.3	The Sample Frame	23
	3.1	Distribution of Total Income by Source	30
	3.2	Distribution of Household 'Income Claims' by Source	32
	3.3	Employment Structure	33
	3.4	Average Value of Each 'Income Claim' by Source of Income	34
	3.5	Average Daily Earnings by Activity	34
	3.6	Percentage of Total Income from Outside Village Sources	36
	3.7	Sources of Income	38
ł	3.8	Distribution of 'Income Claims' by Source of Income	44
1	3.9	Asset Ownership by Income Class	48
Ċ	4.1	The Structure of Assets	52
	4.2	The Size-distribution of Assets	53
	4.3	The Structure of Assets by Asset Class	54
	4.4	The Structure of Assets for Households with Land Ownership and Those without	56
	4.5	Sources of Income for Households with Landholdings and Those without	57
	4.6	Sources of Income of Households Owning 'Establishment', 'Transport Equipment' and 'Other Productive Equipment'	59
	4.7	Distribution of Land Ownership	60
	4.8	Value of Farm Production by Size of Landholding	61
	4.9	Incidence of Poverty by Type of Household	63
	4.10	Incidence of Poverty by Occupation of Household Head	64
	4.11	Land Tenancy	67

1	ist of Tables		xi
		1.4	

		1	
4.12	Tenancy Arrangements	70	
4.13	Land Lost: by Size of Land Ownership	73	
4.14	Land Purchased by Size of Land Ownership	74	
4.15	Land Purchases by Income Class	75	
4.16	Land Lost by Income Class	76	
4.17	Aspects of Farm Production	77	
5.1	Value of Diet Satisfying Minimum Calorie Require- ments in Rural Egypt	83	
5.2	The Poor and the Non-poor in Rural Egypt	86	
5.3	Income Shortfall from the Poverty Line for Different Poverty Groups	90	
5.4	Estimates of Poverty in Rural Egypt	91	
5.5	The Calorie Gap of the Poor Population	93	
5.6	Percentage Expenditure on Food Items Relative to Household Total Expenditure, 1977	96	
5.7	Percentage Expenditure on Food Items Relative to Household Total Expenditure, 1958/9 and 1964/5	96	
5.8	Relative Cost of a 100 Calorie Equivalent of Some Food Commodities	97	
5.9	Consumption Patterns: Percentage Distribution of Consumption Expenditure	98	
5.10	Housing Conditions in Rural Egypt	100	
5.11	Educational Status by Income Group	103	
5.12	Distribution of Land Ownership and Landholding	106	
5.13	Sources of Income for Landless Households	107	
5.14	Ownership of Productive Assets	109	
5.15	Relationship between Assets and Income	110	
5.16	Age Structure	111	
5.17	Dependency Ratio by Occupation of Household Head	112	
5.18	Relationship between Household Size and Income	113	
5.19	Labour Force Indices	114	
5.20	Distribution of Labour Force by the Occupation of Household Head	114	
5.21	Average Income by Occupation of Household Head	116	
5.22	Sources of Income	118	
A5.1	Kamalia: Distribution of Land	122	
A5.2	Kamalia: Distribution of Income	122	
A5.3	Kamalia: Main Characteristics of Poverty	123	
A5.4	Kamalia: Sources of Income by Income Class	124	$\dot{\mathbf{x}}$
6.1	Some Labour Force Indices	134	
6.2	Structure of Rural Employment	135	
	and the second of the second		

x

## xii List of Tables

6.3	Distribution of Rural Income by Source	135
6.4	Average Income by Occupation of Household Head	136
6.5	Occupation of Household Members by Occupation of Head	138
6.6	Employment, Days per Year, in ILO Sample Population 12-65 Years, Not Including Wives and Conscripts	141
6.7	Seasonality of Farm Employment	143
6.8	Average Earnings by Rural Labour	144
7.1	Demand and Supply Developments for Principal Agricultural Commodities	151
7.2	Trade Performance and Self-sufficiency for Principal Agricultural Commodities	152
7.3	Area of Major Crops: 1960-3, 1970-3 and 1978-81	156

Acknowledgements

This work was only possible through the collaboration and help of numerous individuals and institutes. Our thanks go primarily to the team of the Institute of National Planning in Cairo under the competent leadership of Dr M.A. Mongy. This team shouldered the major responsibility of carrying out the field survey, and Dr Mongy was closely associated with the writing up of the manuscript. Dr Ismail Sabry Abdullah, then Minister of Planning and Director of the INP, gave unfailing support to the project.

We would like to extend our thanks to the Federal Republic of Germany, who financed the survey work under their multi-bilateral programme with the ILO.

At the ILO Messrs Dharam Ghai, A. R. Khan, Gerry Rodgers, Peter Richards, William Keddeman and Guy Standing commented on various versions of the manuscript. Our special thanks go to Mr A. Wagner, whose help in data processing and tabulation was invaluable. Mrs Kristina Boudjenane gave generously of her time in the processing and tabulation of data.

In finalising the manuscript Mr Adel Sadek of the University of Oxford was most helpful in providing counter arguments and material for updating the last chapter. His assistance is warmly acknowledged. Dr. Hamid Tabatabai was most helpful in revising the draft.

Finally, thanks to Sandra Deacon, Lesley Brooks, Geraldine Ople and Terry Powell for typing successive versions of this manuscript with unfailing care and dedication.

Samir Radwan and Eddy Lee