

## US team to aid in measuring water levels

PROJECTS for increasing Nile water resources and their implementation stages during the coming phase will be the main topics of discussion at the coming joint meeting of the Technical Authority between Egypt and the Sudan. The meeting is due to be held in Khartoum at the end of September, said Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Irrigation and Chairman of the Comprehensive Plan for Promoting Water Resources Sector, Dr Tharwat Fahmi.

A U.S. delegation of experts representing a U.S. authority specialised in the fields of applying advanced scientific methods in measuring water levels is due in Cairo on Saturday. The delegation will make a comprehensive survey of the sites GSS.

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## USAID funds for Nile flow regulation plan

THE US Agency for International Development (AID) has allocated 4,300,000 dollars to finance a project to regulate the flow of Nile water in Egypt within the coming two years. The project mainly aims at realising complete automatic control over the apportionment of irrigation water.

In this respect, computers will be used to measure the level of Nile water through electronic stations all along the Nile banks to guarantee a just and complete distribution of water.

The project thus includes the erection of 255 transmission stations to record the required data concerning the level of Nile water, temperature, earthquakes, as well as the level of water in drainage and irrigation pumping stations. — GSS.

## Plan to recycle drainage water

THE Ministry of Irrigation has prepared a plan to recycle 10,000 million cubic metres of drainage water yearly out of the total quantity which is estimated at 14,000 million cubic metres, according to Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid, Director of the Water Research Centre.

Dr. Abu Zeid said that agriculture requires more than 90 per cent of the total quantity of water provided by the Nile, followed by industry and domestic users.

Recycling of drainage water is an important factor in covering requirements of water for agricultural purposes, said Dr. Abu Zeid, adding that in order to fulfill

this target certain measures should be applied to avoid pollution of drainage canals and watercourses related to factories and industrial projects in the various governorates.

The Ministry of Irrigation has already started a number of projects that aim at covering watercourses which run through residential districts or using pipes to substitute such canals in a bid to avoid pollution, said Dr. Abu Zeid.

Studies are currently being conducted on the effects of recycling drainage water to irrigate newly reclaimed land in the various governorates, as such land has not been exposed to pollution sources

and ought to be kept this way, he added.

"In order to provide more water for agricultural purposes the Ministry of Irrigation will carry out projects that aim to expand the use of subterranean water either as a separate source, or as an additional source in areas where Nile water is not sufficient to cover agricultural needs, Dr. Abu Zeid pointed out.

He added that, applying modern irrigation techniques such as the sprinkling and drip methods can help save a big quantity of water, especially in desert areas that can be cultivated with crops which need little water. — GSS

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## Projects to reclaim 124,000 feddans

A TEAM of agricultural experts and university professors has already started field studies that aim at reclaiming and cultivating 74,000 feddans between El-Alamein and El-Hamam, depending on the recycling of sewage for irrigation, an official source at the Ministry of Agriculture said.

The results of these studies will be discussed by the Higher Committee for Policies together with recommendations of the Local Council of Alexandria Governorate and the Comprehensive Planning Authority as regards getting rid of Alexandria's sewage into the Western Desert to avoid pollution of the governorate's coasts.

The project includes the establishment of a number of

stations to treat sewage with chemicals in order to render it suitable for irrigation of this area of land, which is known to be fertile, said the source.

Meanwhile, the National Democratic Party (NDP) is currently probing a project that aims at reclaiming and cultivating 50,000 feddans at Siwa Oasis. The Minister of Agriculture and Food Sufficiency, Dr. Youssef Wali, has decided to form a committee comprising experts of Agrarian Reform to select areas which are suitable for the project. The committee will depend on results of studies which were conducted by American and Dutch consultative offices on the best way to exploit the subterranean

reservoir at the oasis. The reservoir has three springs which provide more than one million cubic metres of water daily, according to Mr. Mohamed Allam, Director of Land Reclamation in Matruh Governorate, who pointed out that such a huge quantity of water is not utilised as it should be.

Mr. Allam, moreover, said that the American consultative office has recommended the use of this water for the cultivation of 50,000 feddans with tropical crops and non-traditional products. He added that a group of Egyptian and foreign experts will visit the area soon to conduct a study on the establishment of a new community there. GSS