



Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
Desert Research Center

Achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030 in the Arab Republic of Egypt

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Governmental high-level note of measures to achieve the national LDN targets

In general, Egypt's land resources have been vulnerable to depletion and deterioration in quantity and quality during the last decades due to the natural processes and human activities. Therefore, Egypt's NAP (2014-2024) and Egypt's vision (2030) are in line with the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and any controlling or remedial measures taken are on the bases of "Sustainable Land Development", supporting the achievements of the desired gains.

Land Degradation Neutrality is supposed to provide multiple environmental and societal benefits that help in addressing crucial issues in Egypt such as food security, income equality, poverty, and resource availability. Actually, the Neutrality of Land Degradation is not an autonomous process, but is supposed to be integrated into the political development processes at the national level. In addition, the strong involvement of the State and all stakeholders from all sectors with an impact on the natural capital and its management is a must to enable real development based on better sustainable land management.

There is a general agreement that the realization of land degradation neutrality target should be coupled with the implementation of specific key policy and technical measures through which desired gains will balance any expected losses. At the same time, LDN measures, addressing policy or technical issues that would be implemented in the form of programmes or projects, should be tailored to a specific area at a given geographical and temporal scale.

Reviewing and interpreting "default tier 1 data" indicated that land cover trend, in Egypt, remained unchanged over the period 1998 to 2002 and 2008 to 2012. Where, in all Land Cover classes, 0.4% of total surface areas had a declining Land Productivity Dynamics (LPD), 0.1% early signs of decline and 0.3 % stable but stressed LPD.

The estimation of soil organic carbon (SOC) in the agro-ecological zone of Nile Delta and Valley is 53.2 ton/ha SOC. This zone has old fertile and good cultivated soils, and often had sustainable crop rotations. Most of the soils in other parts of Egypt contain relatively lower SOC levels.

Land Degradation Neutrality target setting, within a proposed timeline has been identified at different levels.

At the national scale, LDN aims to achieve (no net loss) by 2030 as compared to 2015. Additionally, LDN aspires to achieve (net gain) of about 10% of the national territory.

At the sub- national scale, LDN would be achieved in the land degradation Hotspots: Kafr El Sheikh Governorate, Demiata Gov., Rasheed area, El Minia Gov., Sohag Gov., Al Fayoum Gov., Matrouh Gov. (Fuka – El Sallum), El Khattara area, El Tina Plain area, El Farafra Oasis, and North Sinai in Egypt by 2030 as compared to 2015 (no net loss).

LDN planned to be achieved in the land degradation Hotspots: Kafr El Sheikh Governorate, Demiata Gov., Rasheed area, El Minia Gov., Sohag Gov., Al Fayoum Gov., Matrouh Gov. (Fuka – El Sallum), El Khattara area, El Tina Plain area, El Farafra Oasis and North Sinai in Egypt by 2030 as compared to 2015 and an additional 10% of the degraded Hotspot areas has improved (net gain).

In order to effectively combat land degradation at the country level, the government is committed to achieve the neutrality of land degradation by 2030 **with the following specific targets:**

Improving productivity and carbon stocks of about 3342 sq km (802080 feddan) of cultivated **areas by 2030;**

Restoring and increasing the productivity of 11666 sq km (2800000 feddan) of cropland using the modern agricultural techniques included on farm irrigation development and Sustainable Land

Management (SLM) practices in the northern areas, western and eastern fringes of reclaimed lands of Nile Delta and El Tina Plain area by 2030;

Rehabilitating and increasing the productivity of 8000 sq km (1920000 feddan) of rangeland and rainfed areas using SLM practices in the north coastal areas (Range lands and Rain-fed farming areas) by 2030.

Regarding the reclaimed areas in the western desert fringes of the middle and upper Egypt the government is committed to rehabilitate and increase the productivity of 7500 sq km (1800000 feddan) of cropland using SLM practices by 2030, in addition to reclamation and cultivation of 6300 sq km (1.5 million feddan) of virgin land in **reclaimed desert soils at different locations in the western desert of Egypt** by 2030.

Increasing land productivity and SOC stocks for about 8333 Km²area of cropland in **reclaimed desert lands at different location (Cultivated areas)** by 2030 as compared to 2015.


Furthermore, great considerations have been focused on rationalizing water consumption by growing drought-tolerant crops and adopting modern irrigation systems for around 1000 square km in some oases in the western desert of Egypt by 2030; halting the conversion of crop land to other different cover classes by 2030; controlling or alleviating soil erosion by runoff rainfall water, construction of cemented dykes and development of watershed areas for water harvesting to be utilized for agricultural activities for an area of about 2500 sq km in the north western coastal zone of Egypt by 2030; increasing the tree cover/ forest cover by 25%, through agro-forestry and SLM in the existing forests by 2030 as compared to 2015.

In relation to the LDN-related policy measures, some presidential decrees pertaining policy measures have recently been outlined through a national campaign to the various encroachments on the arable lands to restore and rehabilitate its productivity through putting the long standing legislations into effect, the case meaning that actions will be taken by a high level authority designated to enforce such measures in order to achieve LDN targets.

A UNCCD National Coordination Committee was reformulated and activated by decree from the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation to undertake well defined tasks, namely; following up policies, programs, projects in terms of their priority in achieving combating desertification/ LDN targets ; approving and following up the regional and international agreements and coordinated projects towards combating Land Degradation (LD) and its implementation at national and sub-national levels; developing coordinated mechanisms for local and international funding and realizing active coordination and exchange of experiences, data and outcomes among ministries institutions at the national level.


With regard to the contribution of stakeholders, the Egyptian government has taken several steps to achieve LDN in the form of transformative projects and policies so that stakeholders can take part in a broad participation in design, implementation and monitoring the programs and projects related to LDN; to enable the country to achieve the LDN targets defined.

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