

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Egypt

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## Nile Nuggets for February 2014

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### **Report Highlights:**

News on developments in agriculture and food in Egypt.

# *Nile Nuggets*

*News on Developments in Agriculture and Food in Egypt*

*February 2014*

**EGYPT'S NEW CONSTITUTION AND AGRICULTURE:** Egypt's new constitution considers agricultural as fundamental to the national economy. The constitution, approved by 98.1 percent of those who voted states for the first time that the state is committed to purchase basic agricultural crops at a reasonable price so as to achieve a fair return for the farmer, based on agreement with agricultural unions and associations. The state is also committed to allocating a proportion of reclaimed lands to small farmers and young graduates, and to protecting the farmer and agricultural worker from exploitation, and these are regulated by the law. Egypt's new charter also states that the state is committed to protecting and increasing farm area and criminalizes any assault against agricultural land, and is also committed to rural development, raising the rural standard of living and protecting the countryside from environmental hazards. Finally, the new constitution also commits the country to work on the development of agricultural and livestock production and to encourage industries based on it.

**UH OH!: EGYPT'S FOOD AMONG THE UNHEALTHIEST IN THE WORLD, OXFAM SAYS:** According to a new study released by Oxfam, Egypt's food is among the unhealthiest in the world and Egyptians are among the fattest in the Middle East. Egypt scores 80th out over 100 countries on the Oxfam Global Index which measures food quality, affordability, alongside obesity and diabetes rates. The study revealed that we rank behind other Middle Eastern countries including Jordan, 51st, and Saudi Arabia, 71st, in terms of diet diversity and food quality while the Netherlands, Switzerland and France have scored the best. Egypt also scored a whopping 33.1 on the obesity scale which indicates that Egyptians are among the most overweight populations in the Middle East.

**EGYPT'S NEW STRATEGY FOR MARKETING WHEAT:** A new strategy for marketing wheat domestically has been developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) with the participation of the Principal Bank for Development and Agricultural Credit (PBDAC) and agriculture cooperative associations. The strategy stipulates that PBDAC will finance agriculture cooperative associations to allow them to access funding before the 2014 wheat crop comes in. After that, the associations will refund the granted amount after marketing their harvested wheat. MALR said the new system will make it easier for Egyptian farmers to market their crops and improve their conditions.

**WHAT DO FEED THOSE FISH?!** In mid-February, the U.S. Soybean Export Council conducted a Cairo seminar on fish feed production which was attended by more than 50 participants including fish feed producers and from aquaculture. Presentations included those of three experts on value of using soy-based meals, optimization of nutrient utilization with feed cost reduction and new technologies in storage, drying, handling and sampling of fish feed. Attendees were very receptive to the new concepts in feeding and related technologies. Egypt is the largest fish producer in Africa and the 2nd largest Tilapia fish producer worldwide.