

Land fragmentation in Egypt

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The agriculture sector plays a significant role in Egypt's economy

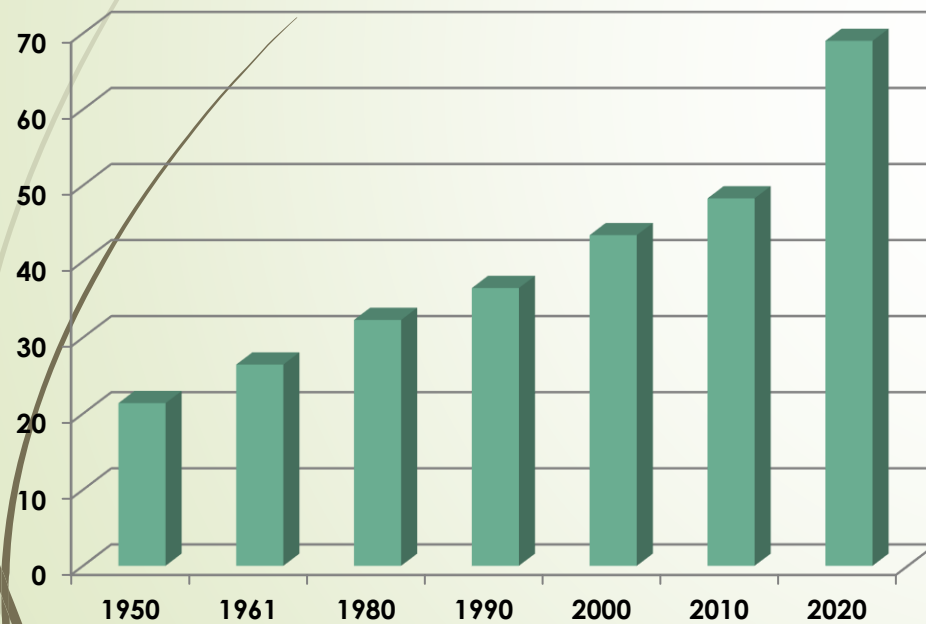
- its annual GDP value was 11.05% in 2019.
- Provides more than 50% of job opportunities in country
- Egypt's population is about 100 million citizens, who derive their food from the cultivation of nearly 9 million acres, which indicates the limited agricultural land available to provide food. Therefore, Egypt imports about 60% of the essential crops from abroad. The farmland share per capita is less than 0.08 acres.

The cause of land fragmentation:

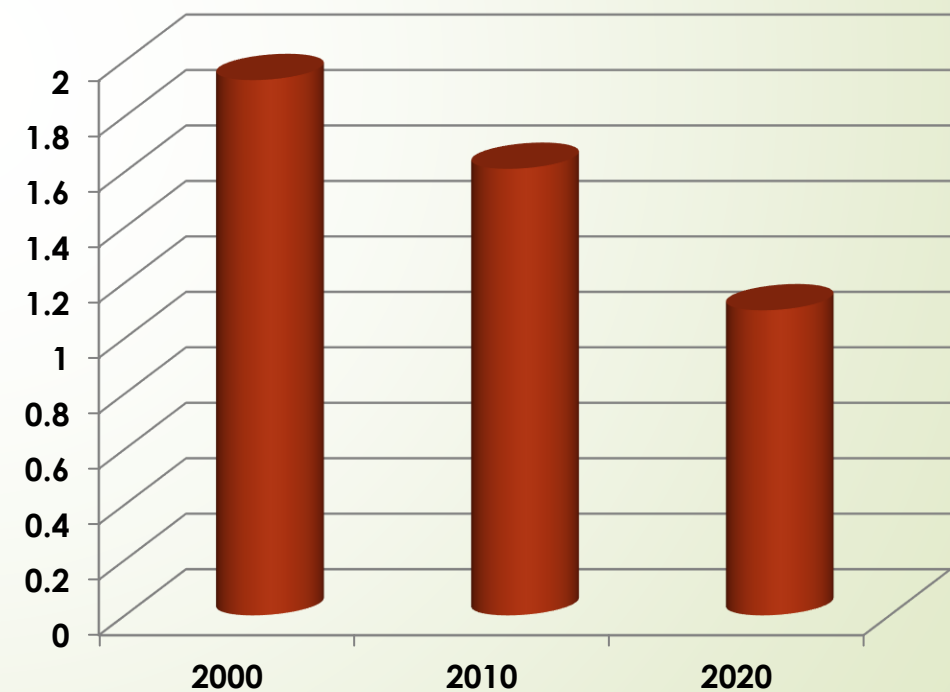
- After the 1952 revolution, the government dispossessed the rich agricultural lands of large areas and donated them to poor farmers, withholding five acres by the Agrarian Reform Law.
- According to the family inheritance laws, the owners of the smallholdings divided them over the years into smaller holdings.
- The disproportion between the annual population increase and the limited agricultural land



(2)
**Number of holders of
agricultural land less than an
acre (%)**



(1)
**Average agricultural land
ownership in Egypt in ancient
lands (acres)**



Egypt's experience of land consolidation

Building the resilience of food security systems in Upper Egypt is a project jointly executed during 2014-2020 by the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP.

- The project objective was to encourage the smallholder farmers to consolidate their lands into a cooperative corporation of 70 members.
- Activities begin with awareness sessions for smallholder farmers to aware them to the negative effects of land fragmentation and the benefits of land consolidation
- The project's role was to subsidize each cooperative corporation to sustain its establishment during the first three successive years to become self-generated.
- The project subsidized laser land leveling costs, purchase of selected seeds and fertilizers in addition to extension service.
- A board of each consolidated farm was elected democratically by the members and headed by one of them.
- Each board was responsible for all farm decisions



The impact assessment of the project indicated its success rate of 70-80% in :

- **Overcoming** land fragmentation by replacing it with land consolidation in a cooperative corporation.
- **Consolidating** about **9187 acres** cultivated by wheat and sorghum during the project span.
- **Increasing** crop productivity per acre by 20% despite adverse environmental conditions of unprecedented heat waves during the project span.
- The abandonment or churn rate did not exceed 20-30 %.

