



ssnup

Smallholder Sustainability
Upscaling Programme



SCALING SUSTAINABLE CERTIFICATION FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN EGYPT



Africa



Latin America



Asia



Financial services delivery



Capacity building for end
beneficiaries



Market access and
product development



Management systems
improvement

CONTEXT

Egypt's agricultural sector is a vital part of the national economy and a key source of livelihood for millions. However, it faces growing challenges that threaten its sustainability and productivity. Agriculture consumes over 80% of Egypt's water resources, yet inefficient irrigation systems and widespread salinisation—impacting more than 35% of arable land—are severely limiting yields. Climate change compounds these issues, with staple crops like wheat and maize projected to suffer yield losses of up to 11%. Smallholder farmers, who form the backbone of the sector, are particularly vulnerable. They often lack access to affordable inputs, infrastructure, and markets, making it difficult to adopt sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Lotus for Organic Products (Lotus) was the first company established under the SEKEM initiative in 1977. It laid the foundation for the group's commitment to organic and biodynamic agriculture. Today, Lotus processes a wide range of organic herbs and spices from biodynamically cultivated plants. It produces, imports, and exports organic and biodynamic herbs, spices, seeds, dehydrated vegetables, cereals, and dried legumes, supplying sister companies as well as international markets. As a pioneer in the Middle East, Lotus has set the benchmark for high-quality, chemical-free products and continues to lead in sustainable agricultural practices.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The project aims to strengthen and scale the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) which enables farmer-led certification at lower costs, making organic certification more accessible and inclusive.

The expected results of the project are:

- Enable the compliance of the PGS framework with Egypt's organic law.
- Train 3,500 smallholder farmers on PGS principles, regenerative practices, and financial literacy.
- Certify 3,500 smallholder farmers under the PGS framework.

PRIORITY TOPICS

- Environment and climate change
- Food security and improved nutrition
- Gender equality
- Fair agrifood systems

IMPACT INVESTOR



BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Lotus for Organic Products (agri-SME), Egypt

TARGET

3,500 smallholder farmers

AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

Multiple

STARTING DATE

February 2026

DURATION

24 months

TOTAL TA BUDGET

€199,641
Including €130,419 (65%)
contribution from SSNUP

