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SEKEM to the World Day to Combat Desertification

SEKEM published a comparative study on the true cost of organic and conventional food production and shows how the initiative is combating desertification with its approach

In the past 39 years, the SEKEM initiative has cultivated about 680 hectares of desert soil. On this fertile land, SEKEM is doing Biodynamic agriculture, promoting a sustainable way of dealing with the precious land. In addition, SEKEM cooperates with approximately 400 contracted farmers who produce Organic crops on more than 840 hectares of land all over Egypt.

More than 250 million people are affected by desertification and one third of the surface of the Earth is threatened to dry out. A shortage of food is expected to come and 135 million people are currently in danger of becoming refugees by desertification.

Combating desertification in ecology, society and economy

Biodynamic agriculture increases the water efficiency up to 20%, the higher carbon sequestration in soil slows down the climate change, the application of compost makes the reclamation of desert soils more sustainable and by not using chemical fertilizers, energy is saved and hence, used more efficiently.

The progressive desertification is affecting human, society and the economy. Therefore, in those sections we must take action against the increasing soil erosion.

On the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification the SEKEM initiative shows what and how problems in Egypt are linked to the loss of fertile land and how SEKEM strives to proceed against them in the four dimensions of ecology, economy, social and cultural life.

[Every Desert Hides a Well](#) – Series of articles about SEKEM combating desertification.

Organic farming is more cost-effective

Apart from the advantages which have Biodynamic and Organic agriculture on soil fertility, Organic food production is actually cheaper if expenditure on, for example, the pollution of soil, air and water are taken into account, which, sooner or later, has to be paid by someone. In this regard, SEKEM & Heliopolis University recently published a comparative study about the actual cost of Organic and conventional agricultural products in Egypt. The study clearly shows that Organically grown foods are actually cheaper than conventionally produced.

[The Future of Agriculture in Egypt – Comparative Study on the true costs of Organic and Conventional Food Production](#)

[Article about the study on news.sekem.com](#)

About SEKEM:

The SEKEM Group of Companies is a part of the SEKEM Initiative founded in 1977 by Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish to strengthen Sustainable Development in Egypt by producing, processing, and marketing Organic and Biodynamic foodstuff, textiles, and phyto-pharmaceuticals in Egypt, the Arab World, and on international markets. SEKEM has been widely praised as an “Egyptian organic pioneer” and has received the 2003 Right Livelihood Award (“Alternative Nobel Prize”) as a „Business Model for the 21th Century” and an “economy of love”. With part of their profits the SEKEM companies co-finance the social and cultural activities of the SEKEM Development Foundation that runs, among others, schools and a Medical Centre. In 2012 Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development have been opened under the umbrella of SEKEM Initiative.

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