



SEKEM DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION



Heliopolis University
Rural Development
Center



جَامِعَةُ هَلِيبُولِيسِ

Heliopolis University

for Sustainable Development

13 Villages Community Development

Project

Newsletter for September & October 2021

What is the 13 Villages project?

By Mohammed Anwar

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**"A real university for
sustainable development
should be from the
community and to the
community"**

In 2004, Prof. Ibrahim Abouleish, SEKEM's founder had initiated a project to develop the villages surrounding SEKEM Farm. The project was in action for three years, during which the 13 villages received campaigns and actions for their development.

The project included gathering, separating, and recycling waste, building sanitary rooms, raising awareness on health through medical convoys, trainings on Biodynamic agriculture and composting, restorations and maintenance of buildings, illiteracy classes, scholarships and employment for children with special needs, and supporting small projects.

Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development (HUSD) with SEKEM group of companies decided to reinstate the project in October 2019 with the students, teachers, professors, and SEKEM staff, building on the first project's experience and knowledge of the area and in line with SEKEM Vision 2057, Egypt vision 2030 and SDGs 2015-2030 that covers the four dimensions of sustainable development; ecology, economy, society, and culture.

The project will cover an area of 45,000 kilometers squares with around 35,000 residents in 13 villages: Abu Shair, Ali Kamel Metwally, Galfina 1, 2, 3, Nabih, Karama, Kamal Nakhla, Maher, Tahaweya, Dahar, Basateen Barakat, and new Manshiyya.

Heliopolis University Rural Development Centre (HU-RDC) at HUSD is leading this ongoing initiative in order to support HUSD students, staff, and alumni to face the sustainable development challenges in these villages. It is a step further from academia to the field in order to achieve positive change and development in the community and to the students reciprocally.

HU-RDC is the coordinator entity of this project with the 5 faculties (Pharmacy, Engineering, Business and Economics, Physical Therapy and Organic Agriculture), the Alumni Association, Research Department, SEKEM Schools, and SEKEM Medical Center to achieve the promising goal of the 13 villages community development project.

The project is an opportunity for the 13 villages to improve their living conditions and to create job opportunities; but it is also a chance for the students to get involved in community work, to find ways through their fields of studies to serve people and their country.

Health on Wheels / Medical Convoys in the 13 Villages

By Sohila Mohammed

As part of community service, Heliopolis University Centre for Integrative Health started a new health program in the 13 villages called "Health on Wheels" The program includes workshops, home visits to sick, old and underprivileged people and visits to public schools. It offers examinations to children and adults, as well as prescriptions issued for medical or physiotherapeutic treatment. Additionally, the program aims to raising the awareness of the underprivileged communities on their medical rights and help them to getting papers issued so they can benefit from the governmental insurance. Health convoys are taking place regularly in the area of the 13 villades.



Start of the sports academy on the SEKEM

By Lion Nebelung

The sports academy of SEKEM started in the month of September 2021. The Academy is very happy to welcome and host around 30 children from the 13 villages twice a week for two and a half hours of football practice. Football practice takes place on the football soccer field in the SEKEM Farm. The age of the kids ranges from 7 to 13 years and they come from the 13 villages.

The academy wants to continuously increase and diversify its sports offer while it is growing in order to give access to sport to more boys and girls from the surrounding villages and to increase the inter-community exchange.

The football team is supposed to be the starting point of creating an official sports club which participates in various sport activities of the governorate of Sharkia and which goes actively into the villages to initiate sport games with children of the schools from the 13 villages.



Two weeks teacher's training for two schools from the 13 villages

By Amin Abdallah

In September 2021, 38 teachers from Tahaweya primary school 1 & 2 joined a two weeks teachers' training program organized by the HUC-RD and carried out by the SEKEM schools' trainers.

The two weeks training where the first of three training phases and regarded the introduction to education for sustainable development. The training took place at the SEKEM School and was facilitated by Mr. Mohammad Anwar, Mr. Amin Abdalla Mrs. Amira Baday & Mrs. Howeida Mosalam.

All participating teachers received a certificate of attendance which qualifies them to attend the following rounds of training which will include the Education for sustainable development in depth and subject matter training (Science training, Arabic training and more).



Participants during the training events at SEKEM farm Oct. 2021

NextFood incubation program for young entrepreneurs from 13 Villages

By Lion Nebelung

During October 2021, 8 young entrepreneurs (4 females, 4 males) joined the first two of three incubation cycles which support the development and growth of start-up in agribusiness and agroindustry. Graduating start-ups will be able to develop their own Minimum Viable Product (MVP), learn how to manage their finances, learn how to market their products as well as reaching customers, and how to develop their sales competencies.

The first cycle has its focus on business topics such as marketing, business modeling, finance, and feasibility studies. In the second cycle the participants developed a prototype of their ideas using the fab lab. The ideas of the 8 young entrepreneurs were in the direction of cattle and chicken breeding and mushroom and organic orange cultivation.

Link to the NextFood webpage:

<https://www.nextfood-project.eu>

A closer look.. People from the 13 Villages

By Mohammed Anwar

"I was growing up in the village and learned in its schools and currently working in these schools and feel responsible towards my community" said Mr. Mohamed Kamal; social worker in the Salem Allam school which is one of the 13 villages' schools.

Mr. Kamal was born in Galfeena close to SEKEM, and currently supporting various projects in SEKEM and around the 13 villages. He used to work at SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF) as a social worker and community service activities coordinator from 2005 to 2013. Now he is one of the young entrepreneurs in the 13 villages and has his own cattle breeding project.

Besides that, he engages in community work surrounding activities which support the 13 villages' field work. Currently he is actively involved in the cooperation between Heliopolis University Rural Development Centre (HU-RDC) and schools from the 13 villages.

It is people like Mr. Kamal who make activities of HU-RDC and the 13 villages possible and who carry the sustainable development idea of SEKEM into the 13 villages and by that into the other villages in Egypt.

Thank you for your work Mr. Kamal!
We are looking forward to a long lasting cooperation.



Mr. Mohamed Kamal during his participation in workshop at SEKEM Sep. 2021

For more information about the 13 villages project

<https://www.hu.edu.eg/rural-development/>

Facebook page for the project

<https://www.facebook.com/13-Villages-Community-Development-Project-103660154719592/>