Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Activity: Water Footprint in Action (26-0000309)

Id	26-0000309
Date	15-07-2026
SAP application number	

Contents

Key data **4**

Activity basics 4

Activity details 5

Accounting data 5

Policy data **6**

Beneficiary location **7**

Policy Appraisal **8**

Policy relevance 8

Rationale 8

Contextual analysis 9

Rationale; **9**

Added value 9

Lessons learned 10

Durability 10

Gender 10

Climate change 11

Cooperation, harmonisation and alignment 11

Digitalisation 12

Additional remarks (if applicable) 12

Results **13**

Water 13

Food and Nutrition Security 14

Monitoring and evaluation **15**

Monitoring 15

Summary of Project Governance, Monitoring, and Field Tracking **15**

Evaluation **16**

Finance **17**

Budget breakdown 17

Earmarking 19

Prepayments 19

Available resources 20

Grant with a repayment obligation, loans, equity investment or guarantee 20

Audit opinions 20

Key data

Activity basics

Type	Standard
Short name	Water Footprint in Action
Contract party	Stichting Wageningen Research Wageningen Environmental Research (30212750)
ODA	Yes
Amount EUR	4999915
Start date	15-08-2026
End date	14-08-2030
Full name	Water Footprint in Action A science-based and private sector driven initiative to promote water-smart agriculture in Egypt’s horticulture sector
Summary	The Water Footprint in Action (WFiA) is a science-based, private sector-driven program designed to address the critical water scarcity and land degradation challenges facing Egypt’s horticulture sector, which currently consumes over 80% of the country’s freshwater. The project operates through three interlinked work packages: establishing a "Water Footprint Knowledge Platform" to provide detailed evidence-based assessments, developing "Water-Smart Rural Advisory Services" to train extension officers and farmers, and fostering "Private Sector Development" through an Innovation Fund and the creation of a water credit standard. By integrating scientific research with practical on-farm applications and private investment, the program aims to enhance resilience, increase productivity, and significantly reduce the pressure on Egypt's vulnerable water resources. The core activities focus on transforming theoretical knowledge into measurable field improvements through "Crystallization Points," which serve as real world hubs for testing and refining innovative water-smart practices. These activities are supported by a competency-based capacity development program that scales up the expertise of both public and private advisory providers. Desired results include the creation of a centralized digital hub for water footprint data, the mobilization of small farmers and SMEs through targeted capacity building, and the implementation of a novel water credit system to reward verified water-saving solutions. Ultimately, the project seeks to create a sustainable ecosystem where water-smart agriculture is driven by data-driven policy and market-based incentives. The project anticipates several key outcomes based on its integrated approach: - Training & Capacity Building: Hundreds of extension officers across the public and private sectors will be trained in water-smart advisory services. - Water Efficiency: A meaningful reduction in the pressure on Egypt's freshwater resources by improving irrigation efficiency and water management. -Knowledge Integration: Establishing a centralized digital hub and a knowledge exchange program between Egyptian and Dutch research institutions.

- Economic Impact: Increased productivity and enhanced resilience across Egypt's horticultural value chains to support exports and rural livelihoods.
- Innovation and Finance: Mobilization of investment through an Innovation Fund and the development of a novel water credit standard to incentivize water savings.

Activity details

Date of receipt of proposal	23-04-2026
Proposal's reference number	18706 23/4/26
Budget holder	Ambassade Caïro (8251KAI)
Limit access	No
Related activity	

Accounting data

SAP application number	
Main funds center	Water deleg: integrated water management (1702U0203)

Policy data

Cooperation modality	Project support
Technical assistance	Between 10% (inclusive.) and 25% (exclusive) of the activity budget
CRS code	14015 Water resources conservation (including data collection)
Policy Keywords	
Refugees & host communities	No
Team Europe Initiative	No
Policy Markers	
__Trade & The Economy	Significant
_Security & Stability	Principal
Biodiversity	Significant
Climate change: adaptation	Significant
Climate change: mitigation	Significant
Desertification	Significant
Equality between men & women	Significant
Migration	Significant
Food security	Principal
Integrated water management	Principal
Private sector development	Significant
Skills development	Principal
Explain your choices	WFA project strongly aligns with multi-dimensional policy goals. Regarding Trade and Economy, it leverages the "Aid to Trade" narrative by helping Egyptian exporters meet EU standards through water footprint (WF) accounting, securing market access and fostering Private Sector Development. The project drives Climate Change Adaptation and Integrated Water Management by optimizing "Blue Water" usage and reducing "Grey Water" pollution, which directly combats Desertification and ensures Food Security in a water-scarce region. Climate Change Mitigation and Biodiversity are addressed through sustainable on-farm practices that lower environmental impact. Socially, it promotes Equality between Men and Women via inclusive training and addresses Migration by professionalizing the sector to create stable rural employment. Finally, Skills Development is central, utilizing competency-based programs to modernize advisory services for long-term resilience.

Beneficiary location

Beneficiary location	Country
Country	Egypt
Location type	District
Specific location	Nile Delta, Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road, Minya, Ismailia / Wadi el Molak

Policy Appraisal

Policy relevance

What policy objectives, as set out in the annual plan, policy notes etc., will this activity contribute to?

WFiA project aligns directly with the Dutch government's strategic shift toward "Water and Food Security" as a primary pillar of its international development agenda. By promoting water-smart agriculture in Egypt's horticulture sector, the project addresses the core objective of the **Multi-Annual Country Strategy (MACS) 2026-2029**, which emphasizes increasing Egypt's resilience to water scarcity and climate change while fostering sustainable economic growth. The project's focus on science based, private-sector-driven solutions mirrors the policy requirement to link international development more explicitly to Dutch interests and expertise, particularly in the fields of water management and high-tech agriculture. Also, it explicitly translates the thematic priorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding **SDG 6.4 (sustainable water withdrawals) and SDG 2 (doubling smallholder productivity and climate resilience)** into concrete field-level actions.

Also, WFiA contributes to the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature** policy of promoting "sustainable food systems over the border". It does this by implementing climate smart agricultural methods and reducing the water footprint of export-oriented crops, which supports the Dutch goal of ensuring global food security through efficient resource use. The **2026 Annual Plan** for Egypt specifically notes an increased budget for water-related activities and food security, prioritizing projects that move away from stand-alone activities toward integrated, private-sector-led partnerships like WFiA.

Finally, the project fulfills the operational objectives set out in the **2025 Policy Letter on International Development**, which calls for more focused and less fragmented aid. By targeting the horticulture sector a key trade link between Egypt and the Netherlands WFiA creates a "two-way trade relationship" that supports both Egyptian development and Dutch private sector involvement. This approach is strategically designed as a cornerstone of the **"Combi-track"** approach, which is a central theme in the **2025 Policy Letter on International Development**. This "Combi-track" seeks to leverage development cooperation to create market opportunities for Dutch businesses while simultaneously addressing local development challenges. By utilizing Dutch expertise in water footprints and precision horticulture to improve Egyptian farming, WFiA transitions the bilateral relationship from traditional aid toward a sustainable economic partnership. This alignment ensures that the project not only supports Egyptian farmers but also positions Dutch technology providers as preferred partners in the region's agricultural transformation.

Rationale

- **What issue/problem will be addressed by the activity?**

WFiA addresses the critical challenge of extreme water scarcity in Egypt, where the agricultural sector consumes approximately 80% of the country's freshwater resources. This issue is compounded by inefficient irrigation practices, a lack of data-driven water management at the farm level, and the increasing pressure of climate change on food systems. These factors threaten the long-term sustainability and export competitiveness of Egypt's high-value horticulture sector. Without immediate intervention, groundwater depletion in the "New Lands" and rising soil salinity in the Nile Delta will permanently compromise the performance, sustainability, and resilience of the entire Egyptian food production system.

- **Why does the activity help to address the issue/problem?**

The project addresses these problems by introducing science-based tools and private-sector-led advisory services to optimize water use. Specifically, it implements "water footprint" monitoring and precision irrigation technologies that allow farmers to maintain or increase yields while significantly reducing water consumption. By demonstrating the business case for water-smart agriculture, the project encourages private investment and shifts the sector away from unsustainable resource extraction toward resource-efficient growth which aligned with dutch policy.

For ODA activities over EUR 250.000, please explain the Theory of Change

The **Theory of Change for** WFiA project is structured around the following logic and key points:

- **Inputs & Activities**: The project invests in the creation of a "Water Footprint Knowledge Platform" and trains rural advisory services to provide technical support to farmers. It also fosters partnerships between Dutch technology providers and Egyptian horticultural companies.
- **Outputs**: Key outputs include the establishment of a localized water footprint database, the training of agronomists in precision irrigation, and the implementation of pilot "water-smart" demonstration plots.
- **Outcomes**: These outputs lead to increased adoption of water-saving technologies by medium and large-scale growers and improved data availability for policymakers. This results in a measurable reduction in the water footprint of targeted horticultural crops.

- **Impact**: The long-term impact is a more resilient and sustainable Egyptian food system that contributes to national water security and strengthens the economic "Combi-track" relationship between Egypt and the Netherlands.

Contextual analysis

- **Who is/are the target group(s) and why?**

Egyptian Horticultural Growers: Specifically, medium and large-scale commercial growers in the export-oriented horticulture sector. They are targeted because they are the largest consumers of water and have the greatest potential to adopt high-tech, water-saving technologies.
Smallholder Farmers: While the focus is on commercial scale, the project aims to include smallholders through "outgrower" schemes connected to larger exporters, ensuring they also benefit from improved water management and market access.
Rural Advisory Services (RAS): Private and public **agronomists and consultants** are targeted to be trained as "Water-Smart" advisors to ensure the long-term sustainability of the technical solutions provided.

- **Who are the other main stakeholders?**

Knowledge Institutions: Dutch and Egyptian universities and research centers (WUR) that provide the science-based "water footprint" data.
Private Sector Partners: Dutch technology providers specializing in irrigation and precision farming, as well as Egyptian agribusinesses and exporters..
Governmental Bodies: The Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, which are essential for policy alignment and scaling.
Financial Institutions: Banks and investors that can provide the necessary capital for farmers to transition to modern irrigation systems.

- **To what extent have stakeholders been involved in formulating the proposal?**

Stakeholders have been heavily involved in the formulation of the proposal to ensure local ownership and feasibility:

- **Lessons Learned Integration**: The proposal states it uses lessons from previous joint Dutch-Egyptian projects, such as the "Water Footprint Analysis of the horticultural sector".
- **Consultative Design**: The project approach (Work Packages 1-3) was designed in consultation with key local partners to ensure the "Water Footprint Knowledge Platform" meets the actual needs of Egyptian growers and policymakers.

- **Is the intervention aimed at a specific geographical location, and if so, why?**

The project will focus on reclaimed desert areas and the Nile Delta.

Rationale;

- **Key Production area**: These regions represent the core of Egypt's horticultural sector, which is the primary focus of the proposal due to its high water consumption and export potential.
- **Water Scarcity Extremes in New Lands**: In the reclaimed desert areas, farmers rely almost exclusively on groundwater or expensive piped water from the Nile. This makes the adoption of "water-smart" precision technologies an importantt necessity rather than just an efficiency improvement.
- **Delta Infrastructure Challenges**: In the Nile Delta, the project addresses the "tail-end" issues of irrigation canals where water availability is unpredictable and soil salinity is increasing.
- **Economic Hubs**: These areas host the medium and large-scale commercial growers who have the capacity to invest in Dutch technology, directly supporting the "Combi-track" (Aid and Trade) objective of fostering bilateral economic ties.

Added value

- **What is the added value of the Dutch government being involved in relation to other donors, the EU, NGOs and local authorities?**

The added value of the Dutch government's involvement lies in its unique ability to integrate world-class technical expertise with a strategic economic model that transcends traditional aid. By leveraging the Netherlands' position as a global leader in water management and high-tech horticulture, the project facilitates the transfer of specialized, science-based tools—such as "Water Footprint" monitoring and precision irrigation that are often beyond the scope of standard NGO or local authority programs. This technical leadership is motivated by the involvement of Dutch knowledge institutions like Wageningen University, which provide Egyptian policymakers with data-driven insights and international standards. This science-based policy support enables more informed national decisions on water allocation, ensuring that high-level sustainability goals are translated into practical, farm-level applications.
Also, the Dutch government adds significant value through the "Combi-track" approach, which accelerate a sustainable "two-way trade relationship" rather than a one-sided aid dependency. By acting as a neutral knowledge broker between the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and the private sector, the Netherlands ensures the intervention creates lasting business links that strengthen Egypt's export capacity while opening new markets for Dutch innovation. This approach is strategically aligned with larger multilateral efforts, such as the Land at Scale program, ensuring that the WFiA initiative scales

effectively within the broader ecosystem. Ultimately, this involvement ensures that the project serves as a sustainable investment in both Egyptian resource resilience and Dutch economic interests.

- **Are the recipients making an own contribution or co-participating in the activity, and if so, to what extent?**
  The project is structured as a collaborative program where beneficiaries and partners contribute through both financial co-funding and active participation:
  - Private Sector Co-funding: The proposal is a private-sector-driven initiative that expects commercial partners and horticultural growers to contribute to the costs of implementing water-saving technologies on their farms.
  - Knowledge and Data Sharing: Key stakeholders, including Egyptian and Dutch knowledge institutions, contribute their expertise and existing data to the "Water Footprint Knowledge Platform".
  - In-Kind Contributions: Local partners, such as Egyptian Rural Advisory Services and agribusinesses, participate by providing staff time, facilities for demonstration plots, and logistical support for training activities.
  - Institutional Participation: Egyptian governmental bodies, including the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, co-participate by aligning the project's data outputs with national policy frameworks and providing the necessary regulatory environment for the "Water Footprint" standards.
  - Scalability Commitment: A significant part of the co-participation involves the commitment from Egyptian exporters to integrate "water-smart" practices across their entire supply chains (outgrowers), ensuring the project's impact extends beyond the initial pilot phase.

Lessons learned

- **What lessons learned (from previous or comparable activities, published evaluations, relevant publications) will be addressed by the activity?**
  The project builds upon lessons learned from three key previous studies/projects:
  - Water Footprint Analysis study in Egypt: A main lesson addressed is that simply calculating a "water footprint" is insufficient for change; it must be translated into actionable "Water-Smart" strategies at the farm level to be effective.
  - Assessing Impact of Irrigation Modernization: Previous evaluations showed that modernization efforts often lack a clear monitoring framework to prove actual water savings. WFiA addresses this by implementing a science-based monitoring platform to validate the real-world impact of technical interventions.
  - The Farm of the Future tool: The project incorporates lessons on the importance of user friendly, data driven tools for farmers. WFiA addresses the need for localized data by tailoring these existing tools to the specific soil, crop, and climate conditions found in Egypt's New Lands and Nile Delta.
  - Private Sector Engagement: Reflecting broader Dutch policy lessons, the proposal addresses the fact that stand-alone aid activities often lack sustainability. By integrating the "Combi-track" of aid and trade, WFiA ensures that the activity is market-driven and creates long-term business linkages that survive beyond the project's funding cycle.
  - Avoidance of Fragmented Efforts: The activity addresses the policy lesson that international development has often been too fragmented. It does this by explicitly aligning with the Land at Scale program and the MACS 2026-2029, ensuring the intervention is part of inclusive national strategy for water security in Egypt.

Durability

- **How will the results of the activity be sustained after its end date? What is the exit-strategy?**
  The sustainability of the WFiA program is rooted in its market driven design and the institutionalization of its technical tools. By training a network of Water-Smart Rural Advisory Services (RAS), the project ensures that technical expertise remains available locally as a paid professional service after the funding ends. The Water Footprint Knowledge Platform is designed to be hosted by a local Egyptian entity or integrated into national agricultural policy, ensuring that the science-based data continues to inform decision-making for both growers and the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation.
  The **exit** strategy focuses on the transition from donor-funded pilots to private-sector ownership. As the "Combi-track" approach demonstrates the clear business case for water efficiency namely higher export quality and lower input costs—Egyptian agribusinesses are expected to take over the financing and scaling of these technologies within their own supply chains. This shift from "aid to trade" ensures that the intervention becomes a self-sustaining economic activity, where Dutch technology providers and Egyptian exporters maintain a direct commercial relationship independent of government subsidies.

Gender

- **Does the proposal include a gender analysis? If yes, what are the main outcomes? If no, why not?**

The proposal does not include a dedicated gender analysis section however; it incorporates gender considerations into its broader social impact strategy. The proposal highlights that the transition to "water-smart" agriculture provides an opportunity to improve the working conditions and technical skills of the female workforce, which is heavily represented in the horticultural harvesting and processing stages.

- The main intended outcome is to ensure that the new theme is inclusive, aiming to train female agronomists and ensure that women in the supply chain have access to the same data and technology as their male colleagues.

- **Does the proposal justify the target group's gender-specific interests and needs (and why)? Please explain.**
The proposal justifies the focus on gender by identifying the specific role women play in the Egyptian horticulture value chain:
  - It acknowledges that women perform a significant portion of the labor in high-value crop production but often lack access to technical training and decision-making tools.
  - By targeting Rural Advisory Services (RAS), the project addresses the need for gender-sensitive extension services that can reach female farmers and laborers who might otherwise be excluded from traditional, male-dominated technical networks.
- **Have women and young people been included in the stakeholder analysis? Please explain.**
Women and young people are included in the stakeholder analysis, primarily through their roles in the private sector and academic institutions. The analysis identifies **young professionals** and **students** from Egyptian universities as key stakeholders who will engage with the "Water Footprint Knowledge Platform". This is intended to build a new generation of "water-smart" agronomists. **Women** are represented in the stakeholder analysis through their roles in knowledge institutions (like Wageningen University and local partners) and as technical staff within the horticultural export companies. The project emphasizes that high-tech horticulture is a sector attractive to young **entrepreneurs** and skilled workers, thereby positioning the project as a catalyst for youth employment in a modernized agricultural economy.

Climate change

- **Does the proposal include an analysis of the possible effects of climate change on the activity or its results?**
The WFiA proposal outlines how climate change presents as threat to Egypt's food and water security by exacerbating extreme **water scarcity,** particularly in the "New Lands" where agriculture relies on finite resources. Rising temperatures and **unpredictable weather** patterns create heat stress that threatens the yield and quality of vital horticultural exports, while rising sea levels contribute to soil salinization in the Nile Delta. Together, these climate-induced pressures compromise the long-term viability of Egypt's agricultural system, necessitating the urgent adoption of water-smart technologies.
- **Does the proposal include any interventions to combat these effects (adaptation/mitigation)?**
The project itself is an intervention focused on **climate adaptation**, with secondary benefits for **mitigation**:
  - Precision Irrigation (Adaptation): The core intervention is the introduction of "Water-Smart" technologies, such as drip and sensor-based irrigation, which allow the sector to adapt to lower water availability without losing productivity.
  - Water Footprint Knowledge Platform (Adaptation): By providing science-based data through the "Knowledge Platform," the project enables farmers and policymakers to make climate-informed decisions and optimize resource allocation in real-time.
  - Resource Efficiency (Mitigation): While primarily an adaptation project, the focus on "Water-Smart" agriculture contributes to mitigation by reducing the energy required for water pumping and transport, thereby lowering the carbon footprint of the horticultural supply chain.

Cooperation, harmonisation and alignment

- **Does the activity involve cooperation with Dutch organisations, the EU or other donors (including delegated cooperation), local organisations or other parties?**
The Project is a collaborative initiative involving a diverse range of partners:
  - **Dutch Organizations**: The project involves Dutch knowledge institutions (such as **Wageningen University & Research, Advance Consulting, University of Twente and Water Footprint Network)** to provide science-based data and Dutch private sector technology providers to implement "water-smart" solutions.
  - **Local Organizations:** Cooperation is central with Egyptian entities, including the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI), the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR), and local agribusinesses/exporters.

- **How does the activity contribute to harmonisation and/or multi-donor financing?**

The project contributes to international harmonization by moving away from fragmented, stand-alone projects toward integrated sectoral approaches:

- Knowledge Platform: By creating a centralized "Water Footprint Knowledge Platform," the project match technical standards and data that can be used by various donors and local authorities, reducing duplication of efforts.
- Combi-Track Model: The project utilizes the "Combi-track" of aid and trade, which harmonizes development goals with private sector investment, a model increasingly favored by the EU and other bilateral donors to ensure financial sustainability.
- Leveraging Existing Programs: By explicitly aligning with and building upon the Land at Scale program, WFiA ensures that Dutch funding acts as a catalyst for larger, multidonor strategic objectives in Egypt.

- **What is the degree of (policy and financial) alignment?**

There is a high degree of alignment between the proposal and current Dutch policy mandates as follow:

- Policy Alignment: The activity is directly aligned with the Multi-Annual Country Strategy (MACS) 2026-2029 for Egypt, which prioritizes water security and climate resilience. It also fulfills the 2025 Policy Letter's requirement to link international development more explicitly to Dutch interests and expertise.
- Financial Alignment: The proposal reflects the shift toward "focused and less fragmented" spending by targeting a high-impact sector (horticulture) where the Netherlands has a clear comparative advantage. The inclusion of private sector co-funding further aligns with the policy objective of reducing long-term donor dependency through market-based solutions.

Digitalisation

- **Have proposed digital technologies been developed or chosen in collaboration with end-users?**

The proposed digital technologies have been chosen based on existing user needs and are developed in close collaboration with the main beneficiaries. Specifically, the **"Farm of the Future" tool** and the **Knowledge Platform** are tailored to the specific operational requirements of Egyptian horticultural growers and Rural Advisory Services (RAS). The proposal highlights that the choice of high-tech sensors and satellite-based monitoring was informed by previous interactions with these growers to ensure the data provided is actionable for daily farm management.

- **Does the proposal include an analysis of the local digital ecosystem?**

The proposal includes an analysis of the local ecosystem, particularly focusing on the technical capacity of the Egyptian horticulture sector. It notes the contrast between the high-tech potential of the **New Lands** and the infrastructure challenges in the Nile Delta. The project recognizes that while commercial growers have the hardware capacity, there is a gap in the local availability of science-based water footprint data and integrated digital advisory services, which this project aims to fill.

- **Is data security guaranteed?**

The proposal addresses data security by ensuring that the Water Footprint Knowledge Platform provides a secure environment for growers to benchmark their performance. The project emphasizes a neutral brokerage role, where data is handled with professional standards to maintain the trust of private sector partners and government authorities.

- **Are digital solutions locally sustainable/relevant?**

The digital solutions are designed to be locally sustainable by focusing on financial viability. Instead of providing free software indefinitely, the project trains local Rural Advisory Services to incorporate these digital tools into their business models as a value-added service for farmers. By grounding the technology in the "Combi-track" approach (Aid and Trade), the tools remain relevant because they directly contribute to the farmers' ability to meet international export standards and reduce water costs.

- **Is duplication avoided?**

Duplication is avoided by building upon existing Dutch and international tools rather than starting from scratch. The activity explicitly mentions integrating the "Farm of the Future" tool and aligning with the data frameworks of the Land at Scale program. Furthermore, by centralizing data in a single "Knowledge Platform" shared with the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and Ministry of Agriculture and Land Resources, the project prevents the creation of fragmented, stand-alone databases.

Additional remarks (if applicable)

Results

Water

IWRM, water efficiency in agriculture and water governance

Indicators
2.B. Number of hectares reached with physical interventions aimed at river basins and deltas with good water quality and quantity, as a result of Dutch support
Measurements: Target: 12000

2.F. Number of people reached with water management services aimed at river basins and deltas with good water quality and quantity, as a result of Dutch support
Measurements: Target: 150000

3.3. Knowledge development and research (knowledge for policy)

Learning questions
What have we learned from this activity for knowledge development and research?
Measurements: Water-related research is most effective when translated into practical advisory tools and linked to farm productivity, cost reduction, and export-market requirements, enabling stronger uptake by farmers and the private sector

Indicators
3.3. What has been achieved by this activity on knowledge development and research?
Measurements: Localized and applied the Water Footprint methodology to Egypt's horticulture sector, generating new data and insights, but also gathering and consolidating the existing knowledge on crop water use and integrating these into a centralized Knowledge Hub.

3.4 Capacity building and technology transfer (policy for knowledge)

Learning questions
What have we learned from this activity for Capacity Building?
Measurements: Public extension lacks resources, leaving smallholders underserved. Capacity building must leverage existing institutional frameworks and Water User Associations, using mobile digital solutions rather than theoretical textbooks.

What have we learned from this activity for Technology Transfer?
Measurements: Smallholders face steep financial and technical barriers to technification. Technology transfer requires continuous field-based support and peer-led demonstration sites, like Crystallization Points, to prove immediate economic value.

Indicators
3.4. What has been achieved by this activity on capacity building and technology transfer?
Measurements: Co-designed a competency-based curriculum and Interactive Water Footprint Tool. Mapped a cascade model to train 30 master trainers (ToT) and 300 professional public and private extensionists.

3.6. Market development and mobilizing additional financial means

Learning questions
What have we learned from this activity for market development and/or mobilizing financial means?
Measurements: Private-sector investment is more likely to emerge when water efficiency improvements are linked to clear business opportunities, such as improved productivity, reduced production risks, and stronger market access for sustainable horticultural products

Indicators

3.6. What has been achieved by this activity on market development and/or mobilizing financial means?
Measurements: Operationalized an Innovation Fund framework offering EUR 60k-100k matching grants for 5 agritech SMEs. Initiated design on an Act4Water-based Water Credit Standard to attract third-party investment capital.

2. Water Management

Water is an important factor for development, but too much, too little or too dirty water can be very harmful to development. It is important that everyone has access to sufficient water of good quality and is protected against water related disasters. Additionally, it essential to safeguard biodiversity and to protect and restore water-related ecosystems. NL MFA promotes sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity (6.4), implementation of IWRM at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation (6.5) and protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems (6.6). Target: providing 3 million people per year (on average) with improved river basin management and safe deltas, as a result of Dutch support.

Learning questions
What has been achieved by this activity on the result area Water Management?
Measurements: The activity supports the transition toward more water-efficient and climate-resilient horticulture in Egypt by combining improved knowledge, advisory services, and innovation.

Food and Nutrition Security

2. Improving the performance, sustainability and resilience of smallholder farming systems

Our 2030 target is to double productivity and income of 8 million small scale food producers and to convert 8 million hectares of farmland to sustainable land use.

Indicators
Description how the activity contributes to the result area Improving the performance, sustainability and resilience of smallholder farming systems
Measurements: This program enhances the resilience of medium-to-large scale horticultural systems (>10ha) by bridging the gap between technical knowledge and field application. By upgrading Rural Advisory Services and establishing "Crystallization Points"

B.0. Improvements towards desired changes, transitions or transformations in the agricultural sector
Measurements: Facilitates the transition of the Egyptian horticulture sector from a high-resource-intensity model to a high-efficiency, climate-resilient model and knowledge-driven production systems by linking advisory services, and private-sector innovation

D. D. Knowledge & Innovation Systems

Indicators
D.1. Number of SSFPs applying new technologies/practices that aim to transform food systems towards desirable outcomes (disaggregated for male/female)
Measurements: Target: 43000

D.2. Number of FNS-relevant knowledge and extension institutions reached with interventions that aim to strengthen their capacity
Measurements: Target: 40

B. Productivity and Income

Indicators
Outcome B.1.4. Number of SSFPs (disaggregated for male/female) whose livelihood became more resilient to shocks
Measurements: Target: 77000

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring

Item	Reporting period	Deadline for submission
Annual plan	15/08/2026 -31/12/2026 1/01/2027 – 31/12/2027 1/01/2028 – 31/12/2028 1/01/2029 – 31/12/2029 1/01/2030 – 14/08/2030	n.a. for the first half year the proposal will be used 01/10/2026 (depending on the inception report) 01/10/2027 01/10/2028 01/10/2029
Annual progress report including IATI	15/08/2026 -31/12/2026 1/01/2027 – 31/12/2027 1/01/2028 – 31/12/2028 1/01/2029 – 31/12/2029 15/08/2026 – 14/08/2030 (final report including period 1/01/2030 14/08/30)	Inception phase report 31/03/2028 31/03/2029 31/03/2030 30/11/2030
Annual financial report	5/08/2026 -31/12/2026 1/01/2027 – 31/12/2027 1/01/2028 – 31/12/2028 1/01/2029 – 31/12/2029 15/08/2026 – 14/08/2030 (final report including period 1/01/2030 14/08/30)	Inception phase report 31/03/2028 31/03/2029 31/03/2030 30/11/2030
Annual audit opinion and audit report (on base of audit protocol)	15/08/2026 - 31/12/2027 1/01/2028 – 31/12/2028 1/01/2029 – 14/08/2030	01/07/2028 01/07/2029 31/03/2030
Mid-term evaluation	15/08/2026 – 14/08/2028	31/11/2028
End-term evaluation	15/08/2026 – 14/08/2030	31/11/2030

Yearly audit on base of protocol - to be attached to the grant - mention in the grant that budget layout from proposal can be sued.
Here is the fully adjusted and summarized table for the monitoring part of the proposal, explicitly integrating the Steering Committee meetings alongside the field visits and regular tracking.

Summary of Project Governance, Monitoring, and Field Tracking

Activity / Mechanism	Frequency	Core Focus & Purpose	Link to Field & Monitoring
Steering Committee Meetings	**Twice a Year** (1 Annual In-person/Hybrid, 1 Mid-Year Virtual)	Formally review project performance, approve annual budgets, and sign off on upcoming work plans or strategic course corrections.	Validates annual data and log frame tracking metrics before official submission to the donor.
Joint Field Monitoring Missions	**At least once a year** (On-site in Egypt)	Conduct joint field visits by Steering Committee members to local Crystallization Points and project operational sites.	Cross-checks remote monitoring reports with actual on-farm realities, farmer adoption rates, and local context.

Activity / Mechanism	Frequency	Core Focus & Purpose	Link to Field & Monitoring
Direct Beneficiary Feedback Loops	**During field missions**	Engage directly with Water User Associations (WUAs), local extension officers, and participating agritech SMEs.	Gathers qualitative ground feedback to verify that training delivery and tech pilots align with target objectives.
Routine Operational Tracking	**Continuous** (Monthly/Bi-weekly)	Day-to-day project management, field coordination, and routine data collection.	Handled entirely by the Program Management Unit (PMU) and local coordinators to feed tracking data to leadership.

Evaluation

Mid-term Review (MTR):

MTR is planned for the mid-point of the project (first two years).

Commissioned by: WUR, in consultation with the Netherlands Embassy. Money for this MTR has been budgeted for .

A **Final Evaluation** will be conducted at the end of the activity.

- **Commissioned by:** The **Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)**. This may be part of a broader thematic evaluation of water-efficient agriculture programs in the MENA region.
  Practical arrangements have been agreed upon with the consortium; the MTR will focus on the "Theory of Change" to determine if the "Combi-track" approach is effectively mobilizing private sector investment as intended.

Finance

Budget breakdown

- Include an overview of the activity budget, including overhead costs

Type of Cost	Preparation Phase (Q2-Q3 2026)	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
Personnel fees per activity						
Activity WP1	€ 196,246	€ 307,667	€ 310,451	€ 306,380	€ 177,345	€ 1,298,089
WP1.1 - Water Footprint Assessment	€ 63,433	€ 66,136	€ 71,637	€ 75,111	€ 45,393	€ 321,709
WP1.2 - Central Hub	€ 40,792	€ 70,652	€ 69,047	€ 71,510	€ 44,386	€ 296,386
WP1.3 - Interactive Water Footprint Tool	€ 53,472	€ 87,672	€ 91,680	€ 79,857	€ 48,848	€ 361,529
WP1.4 - Knowledge Exchange Programme	€ 32,145	€ 32,552	€ 35,573	€ 35,757	€ 21,844	€ 157,871
WP1.5 - Dissemination and Farmer Awareness	€ 6,405	€ 50,654	€ 42,515	€ 44,146	€ 16,874	€ 160,594
Activity WP2	€ 94,810	€ 221,654	€ 179,151	€ 171,730	€ 99,558	€ 766,903
WP2.1 -Co-created vision on public–private Rural Advisory Services	€ 51,718	€ 44,895	€ 1,006	€ 1,038	€ 23,576	€ 122,234
WP2.2 - Water-Smart Advisory Competency Framework (WACF)	€ 4,678	€ 98,680	€ 100,236	€ 91,083	€ 24,809	€ 319,486
WP2.3 - Crystallization points	€ 38,414	€ 78,078	€ 77,909	€ 79,610	€ 51,172	€ 325,183
Activity WP3	€ 44,254	€ 157,924	€ 166,317	€ 164,917	€ 80,753	€ 614,164
WP3.1 - Innovation funds	€ 8,589	€ 40,850	€ 43,289	€ 36,923	€ 19,511	€ 149,162

WP3.2 - Business skills	€ 3,868	€ 41,777	€ 43,255	€ 44,773	€ 10,824	€ 144,496
WP3.3 - Water credits	€ 31,797	€ 75,298	€ 79,773	€ 83,221	€ 50,418	€ 320,506
Project Management, Coordination and M&E	€ 85,591	€ 133,529	€ 137,720	€ 142,986	€ 128,561	€ 628,388
Total cost (Personnel fees)	€ 420,901	€ 820,774	€ 793,639	€ 786,014	€ 486,217	€ 3,307,544
Non personal cost						
Travel expenses	€ 26,960	€ 43,500	€ 41,120	€ 42,960	€ 29,431	€ 183,971
Material Cost	€ 19,000	€ 102,100	€ 102,100	€ 62,100	€ 31,100	€ 316,400
Local Office (running cost, including rental, laptops, Wi-Fi, office material, etc.)	€ 6,000	€ 12,000	€ 12,000	€ 12,000	€ 6,000	€ 48,000
Workshop organisation	€ 6,000	€ 14,000	€ 14,000	€ 14,000	€ 11,000	€ 59,000
Field activities (i.e. crystallization points)	€ 5,000	€ 60,000	€ 60,000	€ 20,000	€ 5,000	€ 150,000
Implementation of trainings	€ -	€ 8,000	€ 8,000	€ 8,000	€ -	€ 24,000
Other individual costs	€ 2,000	€ 8,100	€ 8,100	€ 8,100	€ 9,100	€ 35,400
Third parties (Lump Sum)	€ 25,000	€ 360,000	€ 160,000	€ 330,000	€ 47,000	€ 922,000
Innovation Funds	€ -	€ 200,000	€ -	€ 200,000	€ -	€ 400,000
External Knowledge Institutions	€ 20,000	€ 110,000	€ 110,000	€ 110,000	€ 42,000	€ 392,000
IT services (platform development)	€ 5,000	€ 50,000	€ 50,000	€ 20,000	€ 5,000	€ 130,000
Auditory and Mid-Term review	€ -	€ 27,500	€ 82,500	€ 47,500	€ 82,500	€ 240,000
Overall Audit	€ -	€ -	€ 20,000	€ 20,000	€ 20,000	€ 60,000
Individual auditory (each partner)	€ -	€ 27,500	€ 27,500	€ 27,500	€ 27,500	€ 110,000
External review	€ -	€ -	€ 35,000	€ -	€ 35,000	€ 70,000

Contingencies	€ 5,000	€ 5,000	€ 5,000	€ 5,000	€ 10,000	€ 30,000
Total cost (non-personal cost)	€ 75,960	€ 538,100	€ 390,720	€ 487,560	€ 200,031	€ 1,692,371
Total cost	**€ 496,861**	**€ 1,358,874**	**€ 1,184,359**	**€ 1,273,574**	**€ 686,247**	**€ 4,999,915**

- Is the budget arithmetically correct? yes, we received and approved on base of the excel sheet
- Are the amounts/rates in the budget acceptable?
  During the intake it has been discussed and adapted where applicable. Amounts and rate are now acceptable. It remains a fact that personnel costs are high (see below) but this is due to the nature of the activity itself.
  Budget breakdown for personnel cost in activities and project partner (expressed in Euros)
-

Cost Category per partner	WENR	AC	UT	WFN	HEIA	Total
WP1	€ 585,696	€ 217,522	€ 300,113	€ 45,066	€ 149,693	€ 1,298,089
WP2	€ 362,416	€ 193,202	€ 32,683	€ 39,276	€ 139,327	€ 766,903
WP3	€ 40,568	€ 288,456	€ 10,084	€ 247,245	€ 27,812	€ 614,164
Project Management, Coordination and M&E	€ 386,560	€ 54,484	€ 16,366	€ 24,557	€ 146,421	€ 628,388
Travel cost	€ 68,650	€ 40,180	€ 18,840	€ 21,500	€ 34,801	€ 183,971
Others (auditory and other individual material cost)	€ 30,000	€ 20,000	€ 30,000	€ 30,400	€ 35,000	€ 145,400
Total cost	**€ 1,473,890**	**€ 813,843**	**€ 408,086**	**€ 408,043**	**€ 533,052**	**€ 3,636,915**

- Briefly explain the structure of the budget.
  See MINBUZA-2026.172199 for the complete budgets in excel. Also per organization.
  Use of contingency is only after approval from our side (needs to be mentioned in the grant!)
- Are overheads proportional to outputs? What is included? What is recharged?
  no overhead as separate budgetline, all costs are in the budgetlines.
- Is implementation conditional on the budget being amended in an inception phase? (Specify the requirements that the budget must satisfy and the date by which the budget must be amended)

There will be a preparation phase in 2026. Budgets might change slightly but this will be taken into account in the yearplan 2027.

Earmarking

- Is the Dutch contribution to the programme earmarked (i.e. reserved for a specific purpose)? If so, specify the reasons why.
  Netherlands is the only donor. We fund on base of approved budget.

Prepayments

Payments will be recorded as prepayment.
The yearly audit report will be the basis for the justification.
The last payment of 5% will only be done after approval of the final report.
Payment planning:
Start (2026)
After final report (5%) EUR 250.000

Available resources

	Foreign currency	EUR
Implementing organisation's own contribution		
Firm commitments by other donors (for each donor)		
Dutch contribution		4.999.915
Total available resources		4.999.915
Budget needed		4.999.915
Still to be financed		0
Soft commitments by other donors (for each donor)		
Uncovered balance		

- Are there any non-financial contributions relevant to implementation of the activity, such as deployment of volunteers, availability of buildings, materials, etc.? n.a.
- If there is an uncovered balance, how will this affect implementation of the activity (e.g. proportional reduction in outputs, omission of regions) and how will this affect the decision whether to fund this activity? n.a.

Grant with a repayment obligation, loans, equity investment or guarantee

- Does the Dutch contribution take the form of a grant with a repayment obligation, a loan, an equity investment or a guarantee (either in whole or in part)? If yes, briefly set out the consequences for accounting and how correct processing in the financial records will be ensured. no
- Are there revolving funds? If yes, please explain what will happen to any residual funds, how closure will take place and which agreements should be made. no

Audit opinions

A yearly audit will be required on the project (on all consortium partners too)

- Is an audit opinion required for the activity (see Help)? Briefly explain. yes
- Should the audit opinion be accompanied by an additional auditor's report (for example, on the risks set out above, or on monitoring that the organisation carries out on its prepayments to other organisations)? standard protocol from HBBZ will be used.