

Project Update: April 2011

Evaluation means everyone involved engages in critical discussion about the work – which requires people to be thinking and talking about what worked, what didn't and why, and what changes can be made. Evaluation of the programme is so essential as the cultivation is a new practice for Bedouins in Eastern Desert, Egypt, in general as their livelihood is based mainly on sheep, goats and camels grazing. So the aim of the evaluation is to: 1) Measure to what degree do the Bedouins of Allaqi respond positively to cultivation programme; 2) If they feel suspicion about the idea, why? What are their constraints?; 3) Positive and negative impacts of the programme; 4) Impact of cultivation programme on sheep and goat production; and finally 5) To what degree are the Bedouins aware about the conservation of endangered plants species?



To obtain these objectives the evaluation will be applied twice before and after the implementation of cultivation programme. Questionnaire was the method to collect information and evaluation data from Bedouins; this method was selected because it is quick, easy, objective, responses are gathered in a standardised way, data can be obtained from broader range of people, provide both qualitative and quantitative data and enhance

credibility of the evaluation data. The questionnaire contained different forms of questions from tick boxes to free text responses running around three main dimensions:

- Measure the awareness degree of Bedouins toward conservation of plants and cultivation.
- Measure the impact of the programme on the sheep and goat production.
- Detect the plant species they want to cultivate through the programme.

The questionnaire was aimed at both men and women in different ages particularly those involved in livestock grazing and they were asked separately due to Bedouin customs.

Questionnaire Results:

It was found that:

1. Most of Bedouins (88%) agree with the cultivation programme mainly to have more grazing resources but they were not aware of the species conservation concept which is one of main objective of the programme.
2. Bedouins keep only few animals in their settlement (small, weak and some females for their milk) and most of their animals are grazing at the shores of lake away 16 km from Bedouins settlement.
3. The preferred plant species by Bedouins for cultivation were: *Acacia* spp., *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Ziziphus spinosa*, *Medemia argun*, *Hyphaene thebaica*, *Zea may* and peanuts