ENCROACHMENT ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN EGYPT A CASE STUDY IN AN EGYPTIAN VILLAGE

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Abstract:

The main objectives of this study were to: (1) investigate various dimensions of the encroachment problem on agricultural lands, (2) present formal estimates of losses in agricultural lands in Egypt resulting from encroachment, (3) present a case study on encroachment on agricultural lands in an Egyptian village to assess losses in agricultural lands, identify actual cases and areas of clearance of encroachment, identify cases and types of sanctions implemented against individual encroachments, and identify reasons for encroachment by individuals. The study depended on different types of data concerning encroachment on agricultural lands in Egypt at different levels. A case study was conducted in the village of Shoeshai in Menoufiah governorate in the Delta. Data concerning the research problem in this village were gathered through personal visits to the encroachment locations, interviews with different individuals and key informants among people, and agricultural engineers at the agricultural cooperative of the village. Regression analysis was applied to predict losses in agricultural land in the coming ten years. Results showed that there has been great increase in encroachment on agricultural land in Egypt since the 25th of January 2011 revolution. The case study showed that a great increase in encroachment on agricultural land has occurred during the last three years. Great differences were found between formal estimates and actual losses in agricultural land. Greater number of cases and greater losses in agricultural land were predicted. Several reasons for encroachment were identified. Roles of the government and the agricultural extension organization in the country were emphasized.

Keywords:

Agricultural land, casestudy, Egypt, Egyptian village, encroachment, urbanization

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