

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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A Hardworking Farmer

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“It is He who produces both trellised and untrellised gardens, date palms, crops of diverse flavours, the olive, the pomegranate, alike yet different. So when they bear fruit, eat some of it, paying what is due on the day of harvest, but do not be wasteful: Allah does not like wasteful people.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Agriculture is one of the most important economic pillars for building and stability of nations. It is the key of food provision and sufficiency. When contemplating the Glorious Qur’an, one finds that the Almighty Allah has mentioned agriculture more than one time as a sign of its importance. Allah says, **“There are, in the land, neighbouring plots, gardens of vineyards, cornfields, palm trees.”** He (Glory be to Him) also says, **“Do they not consider how We drive rain to the barren land, and with it produce vegetation from which their cattle and they themselves eat?”**

The Islamic Shari'ah states that agriculture is a form of worship that gives reward for the one who practices it. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Never does a Muslim plant trees or cultivate land and birds or a man or a beast eat out of them but that is a charity on his behalf." Our Prophet (PBUH) also guided us to continue practicing farming to the last moment of life, when he (PBUH) said, "If the Final Hour comes while you have a shoot of a plant in your hands and it is possible to plant it before the Hour comes, you should plant it."

One of the manifestations of the value of agriculture is that Islam makes it one of the ongoing charities whose reward extends after one's death. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Seven things continue to accumulate reward for the slave while he's in his grave after his death: knowledge he taught, the canal he dug, the well he drilled, the date palm tree he planted, a Mosque he built, a *Mushaf* he donated and a child who asks forgiveness for him after his death." This because, a farmer participates in developing life, and that he does not live solely for himself, but he provides goodness for his society and homeland.

A farmer who works diligently has a great status and position, as he contributes to the strength and stability of the nation, and the creation of job opportunities for his fellow citizens. A nation that does own its food, cannot independently make its own decision. By diligently performing his work, a farmer achieves prosperity for himself and his nation through his

high spirit and sincere sacrifices. The Almighty Allah said, **“Take action! God will see your actions- as will His Messenger and the believers- and then you will be returned to Him who knows what is seen and unseen, and He will tell you what you have been doing.”** A farmer follows the instruction of the Prophet (PBUH) when he said, “O Allah, bless my people in their early mornings.”

A farmer who works diligently does not depend on randomness, but he works according to a conscious planning, using the means of science. When contemplating the story of Prophet Joseph (PBUH) in the Glorious Qur'an, one realizes a planning project for the agricultural economy founded by Prophet Joseph, after he realized through a true dream from Allah that there would be a food crisis that will inflict the whole region. Therefore, he proposed and implemented a reform plan, which carried goodness and blessing for Egypt and the surrounding regions. Allah (Glory be to Him) said, **“[Joseph] said, ‘You will sow for seven consecutive years as usual. Store all that you reap, left in the ear, apart from the little you eat; After that will come seven years of hardship which will consume all but a little of what you stored up for them; after that will come a year when the people will have abundant rain and will press grapes.’”**

A farmer who works diligently also consults the people of experience and competence in agriculture in order to be able to provide a high-quality product that benefits his country and society, in compliance

with the saying of the Almighty Allah, “**Ask those who have knowledge if you do not know.**” He follows the saying of the Prophet (peace be upon him) when he said about agriculture, “You have better knowledge (of a technical skill) in the affairs of the world.”

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

A farmer who works diligently is a loyal patriot, and his patriotism drives him to play a role in resisting attempts to raze and demolish agricultural land or build on it, which results in crop shortages and increased imports, which is a burden on the State. This is a harm prohibited by our Prophet (peace be upon him) who said: “There should be no harm.”

A farmer who works diligently also works driven by his patriotism in marketing his crops after harvesting without delay or monopoly. He does not exploit people’s crises or their sufferings. Islam has forbidden all forms of monopoly and putting people in crises, as our Prophet (peace be upon him) said, If anyone withholds grain for forty days thereby desiring a high price, he has renounced Allah and Allah has renounced him.”

We ask Allah to save our country, Egypt and all other countries of the world!