

## Egyptian-Swiss Research on Innovations in Sustainable Sanitation

ESRISS is a 5-year applied research project aiming to validate cost-effective and reuse-oriented sanitation systems for small and mid-sized settlements in the Nile delta. Started in May 2010, it is led in partnership with the Egyptian Holding Company for Water and Wastewater (HCWW), the German Development Agency (GTZ) and an open platform of sanitation experts from Egyptian Universities and Research Institutions.

### Project Scope

- assessment of decentralised sanitation technologies and systems, with a focus on cost-effectiveness, social acceptance, institutional settings and operation & maintenance aspects;
- comparison of sewered and unsewered systems;
- optimization of field-scale technologies under site-specific conditions (i.e. contaminated irrigation water, water salinity, high groundwater tables, scarcity of available land, low energy requirements);
- improvement of on-site sanitation and sludge management.
- validation of selected systems at field scale;
- building of a research platform on decentralised sanitation in Egypt and diffusion of available knowledge employing multi-media guidelines and manuals.

The ESRISS project is divided into three phases: during Phase 1, it will assess the current status and develop innovative implementation concepts (year 1); during Phase 2, it will field-test and validate selected decentralized sanitation systems and their acceptance by local populations (year 2+3); during Phase 3, it will capitalise on the experience and fill remaining knowledge gaps.

### Project Context

ESRISS is an independent component of the Integrated Sanitation & Sewerage Infrastructure Project (ISSIP), launched by the Government of Egypt in cooperation with the World Bank and which aims to develop the sanitation sector in towns and villages in three northern Governorates in the Nile Delta region. The applied research project is funded by SECO, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.

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