

Mapping & Assessment of Egyptian Technology & Innovation Infrastructure

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (ENGLISH)

The study deals with the mapping and assessment of Egyptian technology and innovation infrastructure. The data was collected on the ministerial as well as the R&D institutional levels. Also data for NGOs and the private sector were taken into consideration as both have the potential to act as intermediaries between R&D institutions and end users particularly industry. The data was divided into governmental and non-governmental sectors, and each sector was further divided into structures with a direct role in R&D and structures with a supporting role in R&D.

The governmental sector contained all ministries with direct R&D capabilities. Four ministries (Higher Education, Scientific Research, Agriculture and Water Resources) have the largest percentage of human resources working in R&D. No information was available for the Ministry of Military Production.

Universities and their affiliated research centres along with specialized research centres affiliated to the Ministry of Scientific Research represent the major players in S&T/R&D related to industry. The Agricultural Research Centre (Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation) and National Water Research Centre (Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation) represent a further addition to S&T with the advantage over the first top R&D institutions in being tied in with the sectoral policies/strategies of both respective ministries. The following six ministries have a smaller number of R&D institutions; however they are directly linked to their respective ministries.

The non-governmental structures with a direct role in R&D are represented by the private universities and the IMC technology centres. Both are still in their infancy stages where R&D is concerned and an active role will be developed over the coming few years, particularly the IMC technology centres.

Considering the governmental and non-governmental structures with a supporting role in R&D, both sectors have good potentials should a need for R&D arise on behalf of the industry. The governmental structures on the ministerial level are only few in number for example R&D units with marketing capabilities; the Technical and Technological Consulting Studies and Research Fund – MOSR; the ASRT – MOSR; the Technology Management and Commercialization Office – MOALR; and the Social Fund for Development). The non-governmental structures with supporting role in R&D are represented by the Federation of Egyptian Industries, a number of specialized associations, businessmen/women associations, private consulting companies and international donor organizations. The study in its assessment concludes that despite the recent advancements in information technology, yet several ministries do not have adequate and reliable databases. In many cases data collection depends on the attitude of those in charge and on the level of clearance. The absence of S&T indicators is a weak point that should be better developed for policy makers.

Furthermore, the absence of S&T policies/strategies as well as adequate funding also plays a negative role in the lack of innovation in over 90% of R&D institutions. Marketing capabilities also plays an important role. Institutes with marketing capabilities appear to fare better than those lacking it. The role of marketing/intermediary structures should be developed to play a more positive role in the governmental and non-governmental sectors. The positive aspect is that the R&D human resources with a wide scope of specialists and expertise exist, and only need a good management system to make use of them in the presence of appropriate policies/strategies and funding.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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