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SEKEM Publishes Sustainability Report 2015

In the Sustainability Report 2015 SEKEM shows that the initiative could manage the challenges of the past years. In the cultural and societal fields many activities took place, in agriculture water could be saved by specific investments and debts have been further reduced.

„Sustainable Development is always a challenge – in post-revolutionary Egypt, the past years were especially challenging for us. Still, in 2015 most of SEKEMs institutions performed well, which is an important driver, especially after the struggles we went through in the past five years.

Helmy Abouleish, CEO of SEKEM Group

This year, SEKEMs Sustainability Report is a combination of indicators and statistics, as well as texts, which link to further publications in the SEKEM News (news.sekem.com). Hence, the data is more interactive and interconnected and the reader has the opportunity to gain deeper and more personal insights into the everyday life of SEKEMs sustainable commitment.

Debt Reduction

SEKEM dedicates this year's report on sustainable development to the partners of the initiative. With the continuous help of longstanding and even new supporters, SEKEM was able to handle the, still noticeable financial impact of 2011s revolution in the past year. SEKEMs debts have been reduced further although the profit, in spite of rising sales, decreased due to the devaluation of the Egyptian pound at the end of 2015.

Empowering Women

Social interaction and community building is still one of the most important pillars in SEKEMs vision. To further strengthening women in society and in economy, SEKEM has published a "Gender Strategy for a Balanced Society" in 2015. In this context many activities took place such as the "Girls' Day", where pupils of SEKEM School got insights to professions that are traditionally occupied by men. As one result, four girls started their training in SEKEMs Vocational Training Center. Generally, the proportion of women employed by SEKEM increased to 23 percent.

Education for Sustainable Development

In SEKEMs educational institutions as well as companies various cultural activities that had been offered in 2015 have been appreciated by pupils, students and the currently approximately 1200 employees. The campaign "Education for Sustainable Development", initiated by the United Nations, was successfully promoted in 2015 by SEKEM and the Heliopolis University through various projects, for example by providing trainings for teachers in Egypt's slum areas.

Sustainable Use of Water

To protect the environment and to make sustainable agriculture possible, SEKEM increasingly fosters renewable energies. On the SEKEM Farm in Wahat El Bahareya the so far largest solar powered water pump in Egypt has been installed during the past year. The solar panels replace a diesel generator and provide water for approximately 25 hectares of land. Generally, SEKEM could strongly reduce its water consumption in 2015 by investing in monitoring and expanding the irrigation systems.

462 words, 3029 characters

Click here for the Web-Version of the [Sustainability Report 2015](#).

Click here to download the Sustainability Report 2015 as PDF-file in [English](#) and [Arabic](#).

About SEKEM:

The SEKEM Group of Companies is a part of the SEKEM Initiative founded in 1977 by Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish to strengthen Sustainable Development in Egypt by producing, processing, and marketing Organic and Biodynamic foodstuff, textiles, and phyto-pharmaceuticals in Egypt, the Arab World, and on international markets. SEKEM has been widely praised as an "Egyptian organic pioneer" and has received the 2003 Right Livelihood Award ("Alternative Nobel Prize") as a „Business Model for the 21th Century" and an "economy of love". With part of their profits the SEKEM companies co-finance the social and cultural activities of the SEKEM Development Foundation that runs, among others, schools and a Medical Centre. In 2012 Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development have been opened under the umbrella of SEKEM Initiative.

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