Kafr El Sheikh
Fishery resources

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Kafr El Sheikh Governrate

**Location:** Kafr El-Sheikh is located in the middle east of the Nile Delta, where it overlooks the Mediterranean Sea Shore in the north and the River Nile (Rashid Branch) in the west. The International Coastal Road (which joins all the Mediterranean Sea countries) passes in the north of it. The road will play a role in the movement of international commerce and tourism.
The region occupied today by the Kafr El Sheikh Governorate has been well-known since the Ancient Egyptian period. The capital of Lower Egypt, called "Buto", is located today at Tel El Faraain (the hill of the Pharaohs), near Desouk.

The governorate was named after Sheikh “Talha Abi Said el-Telmesany” descending from Moroccan origin, who settled in the governorate in the year 600 Hijri calendar.

Kafr El Sheikh is an agricultural governorate and is famous for the production of rice, beets, wheat, and cotton. During the past few decades, fish farming turned to be a principal activity in the governorate. In an effort to enhance investments in the governorate, an industrial zone in Balteem has been established.

The Governorate's national day is the 4th of November commemorating the Burullus battlefield that took place in 1956.

The emblem of Kafr El Sheikh shows a Pharonic canoe having two spikes of rice grain, which the governorate is famous for. The three integrated rings refer to the agricultural cooperative system.
Fishery resources in Kafr El Sheikh

Capture fishery
- Lake Burullus
- River Nile system
- Mediterranean Sea

Aquaculture
- Earthen ponds
- Cages

Integrated/systems
- Integration (Rice-fish)
- Rotation (Fish/wheat – fish/alfalfa)
Lake Burullus

Among Delta lakes, Burullus used to be the second -after Manzala- in regard to fishery production. The only connection with the open sea is a narrow channel (about 50-m wide) near the village of “El-Burge” in the east. Lake Burullus was declared as a Protected Area in the year 1998. In line with that, the lake is considered a significant wintering refuge for migrating birds and an attracting site for bird watchers in Egypt.
## Contribution of Kafr El Sheikh in Egyptian fishery in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
<th>Kafr El Sheikh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ton</td>
<td>% of Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capture fishery</td>
<td>354237</td>
<td>69064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>1017738</td>
<td>529064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt total fish production</td>
<td>1371975</td>
<td>598128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GAFRD  Fishery statistics year book
Key features of aquaculture development in Kafr El Sheikh

The significant contribution of Kafr El Sheikh aquaculture has witnessed several stages of development including:

The establishment of a governmental fish farm (Zawya) during late 1970s/early 1980s

Conducting –with the cooperation of FAO- the first 6-month training course held in Zawya farm during 1980

Hosting one of the first four carp hatcheries in Egypt (in Fowa)

The first all-male tilapia hatchery was established in Kafr El Sheikh during early 1990s

The rotation between fish culture and agricultural crops (wheat & alfalfa) was first practiced in Kafr El Sheikh

A wholesale fish market –which is the second to the central market in Cairo- has been established in the governorate

Fish feed mills of different production capacities do exist in Kafr El Sheikh
Aquaculture systems practiced in Kafr El Sheikh in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Production system</th>
<th>Fish production (ton)</th>
<th>Percentages to total production</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earthen ponds</td>
<td>343730</td>
<td>64.97 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cages</td>
<td>184000</td>
<td>34.78 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice-fish</td>
<td>1334</td>
<td>0.25 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>529064</td>
<td>100.00 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A 35-year old picture. The FAO expert Mr. Pedro Padlan led the 6-month training course (in the left) while the national counterpart Dr. Abdel Rahman El Gamal (in the right)
The emergence of tilapia hatchery technology and the sex reversal of tilapia fry started in Kafr El Sheikh before disseminated to the whole Egypt.

The wholesale fish market which serves fish trade within Kafr El Sheikh and neighboring governorates.