



**STUDIES ON SOIL FERTILITY STATUS IN
RELATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SOIL CONDITIONS IN FAYOUM
GOVERNORATE, EGYPT.**

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THESIS

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master**

In

Agricultural Sciences

(Soils)

To

Soils and Water Department

Faculty of Agriculture

Fayoum University

Egypt.

2018

ABSTRACT

The present work was carried out to study the impact of Lake Qarun, soil forming sediments and some environmental conditions on Fayoum soils fertility and their characteristics. Seventeen soil profiles were excavated to represent the studied soils. Soil samples were collected from each profile at the depths (0 – 30cm), (30 – 60cm) and (60 – 90cm) and analyzed for particle size distribution, E_{Ce}, pH, CaCO₃, Organic matter Content and AB-DTBA extractable P, K, Mn, Zn, Fe and Cu and hot water extractable NO₃-N.

Data obtained indicated that soils developed on recent lacustrine sediments adjacent to Lake Qarun had greater values of each of the studied components in comparison with those of alluvial origin. The greatest E_{Ce} values were found in Barren soils very closed to Lake Qarun. The mean values of AB-DTPA extractable Zn and hot water extractable NO₃-N in most of the studied soil profiles were found below their critical deficiency limits, however the mean concentrations of extractable Mn and Cu were assessed as sufficient in all the studied soil profiles. Variable levels of available P, Fe and K were observed depending upon soil forming sediment, quality of irrigation water and soil depth ranging from low to marginal.

Positive correlation coefficients were found between values of AB-DTBA extractable nutrients, hot water extractable NO₃-N and each of Clay, Organic matter content but except Zn and P with Clay content negative correlations were observed with Sand % except P and Soils cultivated under organic farming practices contained more organic matter % and Less E_{Ce} values in Comparison with those conventionally managed. Soils that have been irrigated using mixed Nile water with drainage water had greater values of E_{Ce}, Organic matter and all available nutrients as compared to soils irrigated with Nile water.

Key words: Soil fertility, Soil nutrients, Soil sediments, Environmental conditions, Fayoum.