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Deities of Agriculture in Ancient Egypt	± 11 .1 *-
معبودات الزراعة في مصر القديمة	عنوان البحث
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Abstract

Agriculture was the foundation of ancient Egypt; it helped the ancient Egyptians to turn dry lands into rich fields after the inundation of the Nile. Ancient Egyptians paid a great importance to agriculture due to two reasons:the first was to make availabletheir needs of food, drink, and clothes. The second reason had to do with religious purposes;theywere farming to present different kinds of offerings to the deities to protect and help them. Scenes of agricultural life started to be represented for the first time during the Old Kingdom and continued during the Middle Kingdom. During the New Kingdom, theAncient Egyptian artists began to represent some deities accompanying the agricultural scenes in order to celebrate and protect the harvest, in addition to ensuring plentiful and good harvest in the future.

The aim of this article is to highlight the deities of agriculture whether they appeared in the agriculture scenes or not. A further aim is to investigate the main roles played by these deities in agriculture especially those who appeared in its scenes and the reason for that. This paperadopts the descriptive and analytical methodology to achieve its aims.

The result of this research reveals that although the ancient Egyptians worshiped a huge number of Egyptian deities, only three deities were represented accompanying the agricultural life scenes during the New Kingdom. These deities are "Amun," king of the deities and deity of fertility in ancient Egypt; "Rennutet," deity of the harvest and "Nepri" deity of the grain. Maybe this is because of the increase of their cult especially during that time.





Keywords: Agriculture, Deities, Ancient Egypt, Religious, The Nile, Scenes, Offerings, Harvest.