EVALUATION OF INTERCROPPING SUGAR BEET AND SUGAR CANE AND IT'S EFFECT ON GROWTH, YIELD AND JUICE QUALITY.

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ABSTRACT

Two field experiments were conducted at Shandaweel experimental station, Sohag governorate, upper Egypt during 2000 / 2001 and 2001 / 2002 seasons to study effect of intercropping sugar beet and sugar cane. Sugar beet was planted with one row on the ridge of sugar cane under different plant densities of sugar beet. Each experiment included five treatments; 3 treatments for distances of sugar beet at 20, 25 and 30 cm among the hills and 2 treatments for pure stand of sugar pure stand of beet. Randomized complete block design was used in the experiment with four replication plot area was 25 m². The main results could be summarized as follows:

- Sugar cane yield was decreased from intercropping with sugar beet and lowest value was obtained from planting sugar beet at 20cm between hills.
- Brix degree, sucrose, purity, rendement and sugar yield were unaffected by Intercropping in both seasons.
- 3. Pure stand of sugar beet had higher top and root yields/fad Than intercropped sugar beet.
- 4. Sugar beet quality characters were decreased by intercropping except total soluble solids (T.S.S %), was increased by intercropping in both seasons.
- Intercropping sugar beet with sugar cane increased land usage by 48.5 to 64 %.
- The relative crowding coefficient for both crops was increased by increasing distance between hills of sugar beet.
- 7. The economical analysis clearly showed that intercropping sugar beet with sugar cane gave the highest gross profit comparing with sole cropped treatments. Moreover, the results indicated that the best treatment was when the intercropped sugar beet was sown at distance of 30 cm between hills.

It could be recommended that planting one row of sugar beet at a distance of 30 cm between hills on cane ridges is successful and profitable for production under conditions of Upper Egypt.

INTRODUCTION

Many farmers who grow sugar cane were accustomed to doing intercropping many crops on the same ridge of sugar cane.

During winter season, sugar cane grows slowly due to prevailing low temperatures. Therefore, attention was focused on some annual, short duration, winter crops that may be grown as companion crops with sugar cane. Many investigators have shown the importance of intercropping other crops with sugar cane.

Nour et al. (1980) found that when the sugar cane was intercropped with onion, cane yield was slightly reduced but sucrose and purity percentages were unaffected. El-Bashbishy (1982) found that juice quality parameters i.e. riches, purity, rendement and glucose and sucrose percents

were not significantly affected by intercropping some field crops with sugar cane

Mohamed (1985) demonstrated that the average number of stalks and sucrose yield per fad tended to increase by increasing distances between sugar beet plants, crop purity of cane tended to decrease with increasing intercropping sugar beet densities. Land equivalent ratio (LER) was greater than one by intercropping sugar cane with different sugar beet densities. The highest value of LER was obtained by growing sugar beet plants at a distance of 30 and 10 cm apart according to sugar beet cultivars. Sugar beet was the dominated intercropped component. Increasing plant distances between sugar beet plants decreased aggressivity. The relative crowding coefficient for both sugar cane and sugar beet became great by increasing plant density of sugar beet.

Singh and Singh (1985) found that yields of sugar cane and sugar beet were decreased when grown together compared with their pure stands, it increased the sugar cane equivalent yield, LER and economic returns. Belfquih et al. (1989) reported that the standard cultivars grown in double rows gave the highest sugar beet and sugar extract yields.

Lal and Mukerji (1993) reported that sugar cane yield in pure stands was higher from autumn than spring planting (93.19 vs., 52.11 t/ha). Sugar cane yields were decreased by intercropping with sugar beet and gave the highest gross economic returns. El – Geddawy et al. (1994) found that intercropping beet with sugar cane increased sucrose percentage of sugar beet roots, whereas, sucrose content of sugar cane decreased with the intercropping as compared with the pure stand.

Zohry (1997) found that cane yield slightly decreased by intercropping, the greatest yield reductions (9.9 and 8.4%) in the two season occurred when intercropped with 5 rows of onion. Most sugar quality parameters (brix, sucrose and purity percentages) were unaffected by intercropping Land equivalent ratio and economic analysis showed that intercropping sugar cane with 5 rows of onion was the most productive and profitable system, with an LER of 1.59.

El-Geddawy et al. (1988) and (1994), Eweida et al. (1996) and Zohry (1997) cleared that intercropping bean, wheat, soybean or onion with sugar cane increased land usage (LER), also the high values of the relative crowding co-efficient (K) indicated a distinct yield advantage from intercropping of these crops with sugar cane.

Mahmoud et al. (1999) found that increasing the distance between hills from 15 to 20 cm significantly increased length, diameter and weight of individual roots and sugar yields / fad While sucrose and purity percentages were decreased.

Bassal et al. (2001) reported that increase in hill spacing until 30 cm was associated with marked increases in length and diameter of roots, top and root fresh weight / plant as well as root / top ratio and purity percentage of sugar beet.

The present investigation aims to find out the competition influence of intercropping sugar beet with sugar cane on some agronomic traits and both yields under conditions in upper Egypt.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two field experiments were conducted at shandaweel Agric. experimental station, Sohag governorate in the two successive seasons of 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 to investigate the effect of intercropping sugar beet " cv. Gloria " with sugar cane "cv. GT.C 54 / 9 " under different plant densities of sugar beet on yield and yield components of cane and beet. Randomized complete blocks design with four replications was used. Plot area was 25 m² with five ridges each 5m long and one m width, each experiment included five treatments as follows:

- 1- Intercropping cane with one row of beet planted at a distance of 20 cm between hills (T₁).
- 2- Intercropping cane with one row of beet planted at a distance of 25 cm between hills (T_2) .
- 3- Intercropping cane with one row of beet planted at a distance of 30 cm between hills (T_3) .
- 4- Sugar beet pure stand planted as recommended (T₄).
- 5- Sugar cane pure stand planted as recommended (T₅).

Sugar cane and beet were planted on October 20 and 25 in the first and second seasons, respectively. Sugar cane was planted in ridges spaced one meter in width while sugar beet was planted in one row between sugar cane ridges. Recommended fertilization for sugar cane was done as 200 kg/fad calcium super phosphate 15.5 % P_2 O_5 and 50 kg/fad potassium sulphate (50 % K_2O) were applied during land preparation.

For pure stand of sugar cane 200 Kg N/fad as urea 46 % N was added in three equal doses one dose after 45 days from planting, the second dose was added after 145 days after the first dose and the third dose was added after one month later.

For pure stand of sugar beet 75 kg N /fad as urea 46 % N was added in two equal doses, one half after 45 days from planting and the second one after one month later. For intercropping sugar beet with sugar cane treatments 235 Kg N /fad (200 Kg N sugar cane + 35 Kg N sugar beet) as urea 46 % N was added, one half of sugar beet dose plus third of sugar cane dose after 45 days from planting sugar beet and the second half after one month later of sugar beet and the other two thirds of sugar cane was added after harvesting sugar beet. The normal agronomic practices for sugar cane and sugar beet were performed.

The two inner ridges of sugar beet from each plot were harvested and cleaned after 190 days from sowing; roots and tops were separated and weighted and the following data were recorded:

- 1- Root length (cm)
- 4- Top fresh weight / plant (q)
- 2- Root diameter (cm)
- 5- Top yield / fad (ton)
- 3- Root fresh weight (g)
- 6- Root yield / fad (ton)

The following measurements were determined on five roots chosen randomly from the central two rows of each plot:

- 7- Total soluble solids (T.S.S %),was determined by using "handrefractometer".
- 8- Source percentage, was measured by automatic fresh system (HYCEL) for analysis of sugar beet quality according to Le Docte (1927).
- 9- Apparent purity percentage, was determined as ratio between sucrose percentage and T.S.S % of root.
- 10- Sugar yield /fad (ton),was calculated by multiplying root yield by root sucrose percentage.

Sugar cane was harvested after 12 months from planting

At harvest, a sample of 20 stalks / plot was taken at random for following morphological and chemical properties:

- 1- Stalk height (cm)
- 2- Stalk number / m2
- 3- Number of nods / stalk
- 4- Stalk diameter (cm)
- 5- Cane yield /fad (ton)

Apparent juice purity % of cane was calculated according to Spencer and Mead (1945).

- 6- Brix percent was determined by using brix hydrometer standardized at 20 °C.
- 7- Sucrose percent was determined by using saccharimeter apparatus cording to A.O.A.C. (1970)

Apparent sucrose × 100

8- Apparent purity =

T.S.S

9- Rendement of sucrose = Purity × 100 - 40

(40 = purity of cane molasses)

10- Sugar yield was calculated according to the following equation: Sugar yield /fad (ton) = cane yield /fad (ton) × Sugar Rendement %.

For, competitive relationships the following parameters were calculated: LER. (Land Equivalent Ratio) according to Willey (1979) a.

K. (Relative crowding coefficient) according to Hall (1974).

Economical evaluation:

The total income from each treatment in Egyptian pound / ton at market prices of L.E. 100 / ton of sugar beet, 95 / ton of sugar cane according to Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Economic Affairs Sector, Agricultural Statistics.*

Data collected were subjected to the statistical analysis according to Snedecor and Cochran (1980).

^{*} Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Economic Affairs Sector, Agricultural Statistics, Volume 2, March 2002 pp. 119,302.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

I. Effect of intercropping on sugar cane.

Data in Table 1 showed that characters under study of sugar cane were significantly affected by intercropping forms in the two seasons except plant height and stalk diameter in both seasons.

Values of stalk number / m², number of nods / stalk and cane yield ton /fad were reduced by intercropping with sugar beet.

The reduction in the above mentioned characters was great when sugar cane intercropped with sugar beet at 20 cm between hills (T_1 high density) while the reduction in the same characters was low when intercropped with sugar beet at 30 cm between hills (T_3 low density).

The intercropped cane yield was estimated with 92.8, 93.7 and 95.3 %; and 93.0, 94.2 and 94.5 % of pure stand for 20, 25 and 30 cm between hills of sugar beet in both seasons, respectively.

These results showed that the greatest yield reduction (7.2 and 7.0 %) were recorded when sugar beet planted at a distance of 20 cm between hills (high density) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

The detrimental effect of the heavy inter- specific competition between both components for light and the severe below competition for nutrients and water on yield components, consequently reflected on the average yield of cane per Fad .

These results are in agreement with those obtained by Mohamed (1985), Singh and Singh (1985), Lal and Mukerji (1993 and Zohry (1997).

Table (1): Plant height (cm), stalk number/ m², number of nods/ stalk, stalk diameter (cm), cane yield /fad (ton) of sugar cane as affected by intercropping forms of sugar beet with sugar cane in 2000/ 2001 and 2001/ 2002 seasons.

Characters Treatment	Plant height (cm)	Stalk number / m²	Number of nods/ stalk	Stalk diametei (cm)	Cane yield /fad (ton)
2000/2001 Season					
T ₁ Cane + beet at 20 cm	245.8	11.6	13.9	2.48	51.77
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	249.5	11.6	13.8	2.51	52.30
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	248.3	12.1	13.8	2.57	53.20
T ₅ Sugar cane pure stand	253.6	13.1	14.7	2.56	55.80
L .S.D. at 5 %	N.S.	0.62	0.61	N.S.	0.90
2001/2002 Season					
T ₁ Cane + beet at 20 cm	253.7	11.7	14.7	2.50	53.77
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	250.0	11.9	14.2	2.51	54.43
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	248.3	12.4	14.3	2.57	54.60
T ₅ Sugar cane pure stand	252.8	13.0	15.5	2.59	57.80
L .S.D. at 5 %	N.S.	0.46	0.31	N.S.	1.68

Data in Table 2 showed that different intercropping forms had no significant effect on cane quality characters (Birx degree, sucrose, purity, rendment and sugar yield) in both seasons.

These results are in good accordance with those reported by Nour et al (1980), El-Bashbishy (1982) and Zohry (1997).

Table (2): Brix degree, sucrose, purity and rendement percentages and sugar yield /fad (ton) of sugar cane as affected by intercropping forms of sugar beet with sugar cane in 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 seasons.

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Characters Treatment	Brix dergree	Sucrose %	Purity %	Rendement %	Sugar yield /fad (ton)	
	2000/2001 Season					
T ₁ Cane + beet at 20 cm	21.03	17.77	89.81	12.45	6.45	
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	21.10	18.72	86.79	13.69	7.15	
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	21.10	18.79	88.30	13.79	7.33	
T ₅ Sugar cane pure stand	21.11	18.93	86.35	13.97	7 79	
L.S.D. at 5 %	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	
	2001/2002 Season					
T ₁ Cane + beet at 20 cm	21.22	18.40	88.68	11.85	6 36	
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	20.36	18.30	84.42	12.39	6.75	
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	21.03	18.57	89.01	13.54	7.39	
T ₅ Sugar cane pure stand	21.21	18.32	89.67	13.10	7.56	
L .Ş.D. at 5 %	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	Ñ.S.	N.S.	

B. Effect of intercropping on sugar beet:

Data presented in Tables 3 & 4 show that all estimated characters were significantly affected by intercropping except, top fresh weight / plant in both seasons and total soluble solids percentage (T.S.S %) in the second season.

The results in Table 3 show that the values of root length, root diameter, root fresh weight and top fresh weight *i* plant were high when sugar beet planted with low density (30 cm between hills). However the lowest values were obtained by high density (20 cm between hills).

Pure stand of sugar beet had high top and root yield /fad In the first season the reduction in top yield of sugar beet intercropped with sugar cane averaged 50.65, 51.95 and 54.80 % when sugar beet planted at a distance of 20, 25 and 30 cm between hills, respectively. In the second season, it was 49.26, 51.57 and 54.69 % for the same respectively treatments. In the first season, the reduction in root yield/fad (ton) of sugar beet intercropped with sugar cane averaged 54.4, 61.6 and 69.80 % when sugar beet planted at a distance of 20, 25 and 30 cm between hills, respectively. In the second season it was 56.80, 61.30 and 68.70 % for the same treatments respectively.

Sugar beet quality characters (Table 4) were decreased by intercropping except total soluble solids percentage (T.S.S %) which increased by intercropping in both seasons.

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Intercropping sugar yield /fad (ton) were 58.1, 59.0 and 61.3 % in the first season and 60.4, 60.2 and 60.6 % in the second season from sugar beet pure stand when planted with 20, 25 and 30 cm between hills respectively.

Table (3): Root length and diameter (cm), root fresh weight / plant (kg), top fresh weight/ plant (g) and top and root yields /fad (ton) of sugar beet as affected by intercropping forms of sugar beet with sugar cane in 2000/ 2001 and 2001/ 2002 seasons.

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Characters	Root length (cm)	Root diameter (cm)	Root fresh weight kg	Top fresh weight/ plant(g)	Top yield/ fad (ton)	Root yield/ fad(ton)
2000/2001 Season						
T ₁ Cane + beet at 20 cm	37.37	7.93	1.73	310.0	4.27	21.50
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	43.60	8.28	1.87	326.7	4,38	24.33
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	45.23	8.45	2,12	336.7	4.62	27.57
T ₄ Sugar beet pure stand	36.83	8.14	1.54	313.3	8.43	39.50
L .S.D. at 5 %	1.78	0.21	0.04	N.S.	0.22	0.96
2001/2002 Season						
T ₁ Cane + beet at 20 cm	37.53	8.06	1,61	320.0	4.35	23,47
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	44.07	8.52	1.81	306.7	4.51	25.30
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	45.70	8.74	2.06	346.7	4.83	28.37
T ₄ Sugar beet pure stand	37.17	8.32	1.47	330.0	8.83	41.30
L .S.D. at 5 %	1.37	0.25	0.07	N.S.	0.35	0.47

Table (4): Total soluble solids % (T.S.S.%), apparent purity percentage, sucrose percentage and sugar yield /fad (ton) of sugar beet as affected by intercropping forms of sugar beet with sugar cane in 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 seasons.

Characters Treatment	Total soluble solids % (T.S.S.%)	Apparent purity %	Sucrose %	Sugar yield /fad (ton)	
	2000/2001 Season				
T ₁ Cane + beet at 20 cm	14.57	82.23	12.00	2.58	
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	14.27	77.87	11.11	2.62	
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	13.27	74.25	9.85	2.72	
T ₄ Sugar beet pure stand	13.37	84.14	11.25	4.44	
L .S.D. at 5 %	0.83	3.88	0.47	0.11	
	2001/2002 Season				
T ₁ Cane + beet at 20 cm	14.63	82.44	12.05	2.82	
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	14.30	77.93	11.13	2.81	
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	13.57	73.50	9.97	2.83	
T ₄ Sugar beet pure stand	13.70	82.68	11.32	4.67	
L .S.D. at 5 %	N.S.	5.74	0,16	0.15	

It's clear that increasing the distance between hills from 20 to 30 cm significantly increased length, diameter and weight of individual roots and top fresh weight/plant, top yield /fad (ton) and root and sugar yields /fad (ton) While total soluble solids % (T.S.S.%), sucrose and purity percentages were decreased. The reduction in sugar beet yield due to the severe inter-specific competition between sugar cane and sugar beet plants for light, water and nutrients. Similar results were reported by Singh and Singh (1985), Lal and Mukerji (1993), Zohry (1997), Mahmoud et al. (1999) and Bassal et al. (2001).

C. Competitive relationships and yield advantages:

Competitive relationships and yield advantages for intercropping sugar beet with sugar cane are presented in Table 5. The results showed that values of land equivalent ratio (L.E.R.) were greater than one for all intercropping forms under study.

Intercropping sugar cane and sugar beet increased land usage by 47.0, 56.0 and 65.0% and 50.0, 55.0 and 63.0% when sugar beet was sown at a distance of 20, 25 and 30 cm between hills in one row between cane ridges in both seasons, respectively.

Sugar cane relative yield (RY) was the largest at low plant density of sugar beet (30 cm between hills). Whereas, sugar beet relative yield (RY) was increased by increasing distance between hills of sugar beet from 20 to 30 cm. In Table 5 also data on relative crowding coefficient (R.C.C.) was shown.

It increased by increasing distance between hills of sugar beet, it could be concluded that the product of the coefficient showed that land use efficiency increased by intercropping sugarcane and sugar beet.

These results are in agreement with those obtained by Mohamed (1985), Singh and Singh (1985), El-Geddawy et al. (1994), Eweida et al. (1996), and Zohry (1997).

Table (5):Effect of intercropping forms of sugar beet with sugar cane on competitive relationships in 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 seasons.

Treatment	Land equivalent ratio	Relation crowding coefficient				
2000/2001 Season						
T, Cane + beet at 20 cm	0.54 + 0.93 = 1.47	14.04				
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	0.62 + 0.94 = 1.56	16.54				
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	0.70 + 0.95 = 1.65	22.76				
	2001/2002	Season				
T ₁ Cane + beet at 20 cm	0.57 + 0.93 = 1.50	14.65				
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	0.61 + 0.94 = 1.55	17.73				
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	0.69 + 0.94 = 1.63	19.25				

D. Economical evaluation and gross profit:

Table 6 shows the gross profit in L.E. for sugar cane pure stand, sugar beet pure stand and intercropping forms.

The results indicated that intercropping sugar beet planted with sugar cane gave the highest gross profit compared with sole cropped treatments.

It could be concluded that the higher values of the intercropping sugar beet planted at a distance of 30 cm between hills in one row between cane ridges while those planted at a distance of 20 cm between hills gave the lowest values.

These results are in a good agreement with those found by Singh and Singh (1985), Lal and Mukerji (1993) and Zohry (1997).

Finally, it could be recommended that planting one row of sugar beet at a distance of 30 cm between hills on cane ridges is successful and profitable for production under local condition of Upper Egypt.

Table (6): Effect of intercropping forms of sugar beet with sugar cane on equivalent gross profit in Egyptian pounds in 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 seasons.

Treatment	Gross profit			
	2000/2001 Season	2001/2002 Season		
T ₁ Cane + beet at 20 cm	7068.15	7455.15		
T ₂ Cane + beet at 25 cm	7401.50	7700.85		
T ₃ Cane + beet at 30 cm	7811.00	8024.00		
T ₄ Sugar beet pure stand	3950.00	4130.00		
T ₅ Sugar cane pure stand	5301.00	5491.00		

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قسم بحوث التكثيف المحصولي - معهد بحوث المحاصيل الحقلية - مركز البحوث الزراعيــة - الجيزة/ مصر .

أجريت تجربتان بمحطة البحوث الزراعية بشندويل بمحافظة سوهاج في مصر العليا خلال الموسمين الجريت تجربتان بمحطة البحوث الزراعية بشنور السكر على قصب السكر تحت كثافات نباتية مختلفة من بنجر السكر و اشتملت الدراسة على خمسة معاملات هي :

الزراعة النقية لكل من بنجر السكر و القصب ، القصب + بنجر السكر و زراعة البنجر على مسافة ١٠ مم بين الجور، القصب + بنجر السكر وزراعة البنجر على مسافة ١٠ مم بين الجور، القصب + بنجر السكر وزراعة البنجر على مسافة ١٠ مم بين الجور، واستخدم تصميم القطاعات الكاملة العشوائية في اربسة مكررات وكانت مساحة القطعة التجريبية ٢٠م وأجريت جميع العمليات الزراعية طبقا المتوصيسات ويمكن تلخيص النتائج فيما يلي:-

- القصن محصول القصب المحمل معنويا بالعقارنة بالزراعة النقيسة وكسان الحسر الخفساض فسي المحصول عند زراعة بنجر السكر المحمل على مسافة ٢٠سم بين الجور.
 - ٢) لم تتأثر صفات الجودة للعصير ومحصول السكر للقصب معنويًا خلال الموسمين.
- الزراعة النقية من ينجر السكر أعطت زيادة في محصول العروش والجنور مقارنـــة بالزراعــة
 المحمنة.
- أدى تحميل بنجر السكر مع القصب إلى انخفاض معنوي في صفات الجسودة لمحصول بنجر السكر ماعدا النصبة المثوية للمواد الصلبة الذائبة الكلية فقد زادت بالتحميل خلال الموسمين.
- ادى تحميل بنجر السكر مع قصب السكر إلى زيادة كفاءة استغلال الأرض وزاد المحدل بزيـــادة المعافة بين جور بنجر السكر وكان ١,٤٠/، ١,٥٠/ في الموسم الأول بينما كـــان ١,٠٥٠،
 ١,١٠٠ في الموسم الثاني عند زراعة البنجر على مسافات ٢٠،٢٥،٢٥،٢٠ سم على النرتيب.
- ٦) زاد معامل الحشد النعبي للقصب وبنجر السكر بزيادة المسافة بين جنور بنجمر السكر في الموسمين.
- لاى تحميل بنجر السكر مع القصب إلى الحصول على عائد اقتصادي أعلى بالمقارنة بالزراعـــة
 النقية لكل من بنجر السكر أو القصب المنفردين وزاد العائد الاقتصادي للزراعة المحملة بزيـــادة
 المعافة بين جور بنجر السكر المحمل حتى ١٣سم في الموسمين.

توصى الدراسة إلى أن أفضل معاملات تحميل البنجر مع القصب عندما زرع البنجر على معسدافة • آسم بين الجور في خط واحد بين خطوط القصب حيث أنها حققت أعلى انتاجية وأعلى عسائد اقتصمادي تحت ظروف مصر العليا.