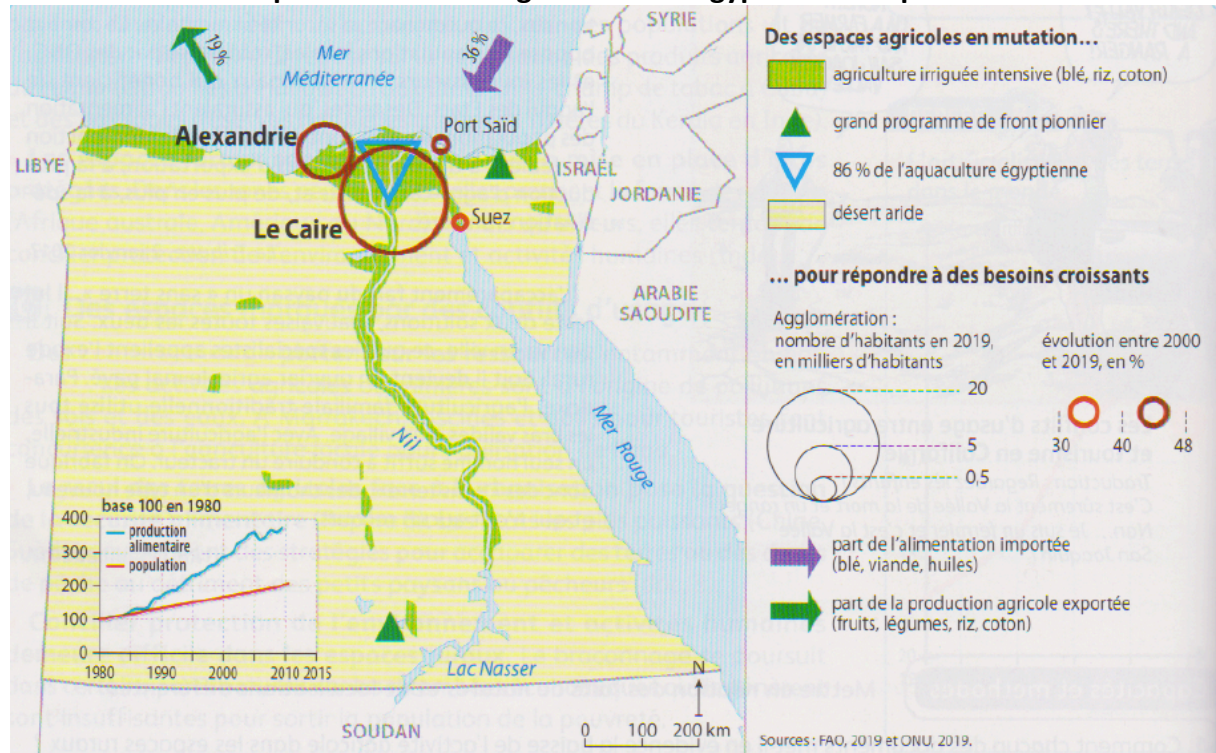


How has agricultural modernization fragmented Egyptian rural space?

With an arid climate and 96 million inhabitants (in 2019) Egypt is facing a challenge to satisfy the food needs of a population which had doubled since 1980. However, the strategies that have been adopted to reduced dependence on imported foodstuffs have contributed to the fragmentation of rural spaces.

Document 1: The impact of intensive agriculture on Egyptian rural spaces



Translations

Base of 100 in 1980

Food production

Population

Changing agricultural spaces...

Intensive irrigated agriculture (wheat, rice, cotton)

Pioneer programme

86% of Egyptian aquaculture

Arid desert

... to response to changing needs

Agglomeration: number of inhabitants in 2019,

Evolution between 2000 and 2019, in%

Proportion of imported food (wheat, meat, oils)

Proportion of exported agricultural production (fruits, vegetables, rice, cotton)

Document 2: A landscape shaped by centuries of small-scale agriculture



Document 3: A transformed landscape: Dina Farms

This exploitation covers 6000 hectares. (a) Cereal crops irrigated by a pivot (b) fruits (for export)



Document 4: Non-alimentary production in progress

The famous Egyptian cotton is today in search of a rebirth. Hats afixed to heads, peasants gather with their fingers the soft white matter that will end up in luxurious fabrics. Renowned worldwide with its very long fibers, Egyptian cotton, especially the Nile Delta, was in the nineteenth century, the main source of wealth in the country. But decades of fierce international competition, especially with short-staple cotton - cheap and popular with textile behemoths - have destroyed the Egyptian industry. 2017 has given rise to hope for a renewal among producers, with a recovery in export prices. The major challenge remains productivity. Companies must invest more in the mechanization of cotton growing, still a completely manual process. The state is trying to act. In four years, its intervention has increased the area under cultivation, from around 50,000 hectares to more than 140,000 at present. The Egyptian government has even experimentally authorized the cultivation of low quality cotton (short fibers) - except in the Nile Delta - "to meet the needs of the factories".

Adapted from Le Croix, 14 October 2018

Exercises

1. How has agriculture changed the landscape of rural Egypt (Documents 2 and 3)?
2. What solutions have been put in place to increase the level of Egyptian agricultural production? What risks does this increase pose (Documents 1,3 and 4)?
3. Write a synthesis paragraph using pertinent supporting information from all the documents in response to this question: How has agricultural modernisation fragmented Egyptian rural spaces?