

## **AU SAFGRAD Capacity Building for African Young researchers organized in Cairo, Egypt from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2017**

The 2017 training session for African Young Researchers has been closed this Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of April in Cairo the capital city of the Arab Republic of Egypt.



Group Photo at the Closing Ceremony



H.E. Dr Mohamed Abdelaty Minister of Water Resources & Irrigation of Egypt (at the center) chairing the closing ceremony

The ceremony chaired by H.E. Dr Mohamed Abdelaty Minister of Water Resources & Irrigation of Egypt was also notably attended by H.E. Amb. Dr Abdulaziz Buhedma, Head of AFTAAC, Dr Ahmed Elmekass, AU SAFGRAD Coordinator, HE Head of African Union Cairo Office, Mrs Zubaida Mohamed Fathallal Mahmoud, Head of the Center Regional Training Sector for Water Resources & Irrigation (RTSWI/RCTWS) and all the trainees of the current session. The venue for the closing ceremony was a wonderful Nile boat ride where the trainees received all their certificates following a full 8-day training course on the theme of “*Modern irrigation scheme*” delivered by several experts’ specialists of Water Resources & Irrigation.

Started on 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2017, the AU SAFGRAD training workshop, in close cooperation with Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to the African Countries (AFTAAC) has embarked this year 16 participants coming from 15 African Member States namely Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tunisia and Uganda.

In his remarks, Dr Ahmed Elmekass, AU SAFGRAD Coordinator, after thanking the Government and People Republic of Egypt for hosting and supporting the training course, has underlined the critical role Agriculture is playing in promoting peace, prosperity and economic development in Africa. "Irrigation agriculture has been recognized as key to unlocking the potential of African Agriculture in achieving the targets set forth in the Malabo 2014 Commitments" stated AU SAFGRAD head of Office. He also recalled the achievements of SAFGRAD in the area of agricultural research and development in the Semi-arid zones of Africa before stressing the good relations and cooperation between Africa and Arab Member states. Furthermore, he concluded his statements by addressing his appreciation to H.E. Dr Mohamed Abdelaty Minister of Water Resources & Irrigation of Egypt his coming to chair the closing of this important training course.

After the closing remarks pronounced by the Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, the certificates were given to the 16 participants who have successfully attended the training course.



The trainees posing at the end of the training session



Dr Mohamed Abdelaty Egyptian Minister (at the left) receiving Dr Ahmed Elmekass (at the right)

In the margins of this training Course, Dr Ahmed ELMEKASS has been received by H.E. Dr Mohamed Abdelaty Minister of Water Resources & Irrigation of Egypt. They have discussed the way of increasing the Programme of Capacity building of African young Researchers notably in the area of water resources and irrigation.