Glossary

'aib shame

'add worth

addab politeness

ard land, ground, soil, terrain, area, region, territory, country

'asâba gang of thugs

'asl roots/origins

''âda sitting (derived from the verb 'to sit': yuq'ud)

'aysh traditional bread

'aysha helwa beautiful life

awaqaf religious endowment land

a'yan village notable

azhari religiously affiliated to Al-Azhar

baladi local, as opposed to imported

baraka blessedness, God's grace as protection

bibalesh for free/at no cost

bîr well

birseem clover

bundera pendulum, an instrument that measures units

dahab gold

dawsha noise, fuss

ful Faba beans

fellah literal meaning is 'tiller of the soil' fellahin is the plural), but also

means a 'villager' or someone who lives in the countryside, as

opposed to the city

gahl ignorance

gallabiya long traditional garment worn by women and men

gamid strong

gamusa water buffalo

hâga basîta simple thing/nothing much (kul hâga everything)

hajj someone who has made the obligatory pilgrimage to Mecca

halal correct/acceptable according to traditional/religious mores

halat al tawari state of emergency

haqq right (huquqq is the plural)

hayâ life

haybat al-dawla the state's prestige

haram unacceptable/incorrect according to traditional/religious mores

hiyaza registered landholding

infitah economic 'open-door' policy

irhab terrorism

imam Muslim cleric

islâh agrarian reform

izba agricultural estate or farming community

kheir goodness/wealth

kinz treasure

majlis al-sulh reconciliation council (also known as majlis al-'arab or majlis

'urfi)

masha' undivided land

mâshi going along, alright, ok

mastaba mud-brick bench

muahddam destitute

mutazalim in an unfair position

mazlum oppressed

melk owned land (property)

molochiyya a popular dish made with a green leafy vegetable

nâs ghalaba poor (defeated) people

nasîb fate, given share from God (literally 'share' or 'portion')

nazir q'ism station headmaster

'omda village head

osra wahda one family

sana soda black year

sel'a commodity

shari'a Islamic law based on the Qur'an, sayings of the Prophet,

consensus of the community and local custom

sha'b the people, the nation

sheikh el balad village sheikh

shilla network of friends

shîsha water pipe tabân weak/sick

tamadûn awareness/education

tam'iya a popular dish made with beans

tarahil migrant labour / casual wage labour

tasaluh reconciliation

'urf traditional/customary law

wâdi valley

w'ai awareness

wasta intermediary

yoomeyya daily wage

zamân before (min zamân means a long time ago)

zamîl labour exchange

zimâm administrative district

zira'a agriculture

zulm oppression

List of newspapers and magazines quoted

Al-Ahali Arabic language daily

Al-Ahram Arabic language daily

Al-Ahram Weekly English language weekly

Al-Akhbar Arabic language daily

Al-Gumhuriyya Arabic language daily

Al-Yasar Arabic language monthly

Cairo Times English language weekly

List of abbreviations

APRP Agriculture Policy Reform Programme

ASU Arab Socialist Union

CAPMAS Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics

CDA Community Development Association

ERSAP Economic Reform and Structural Adjustment Programme

GoE Government of Egypt

FAO Food and Agricultural Organisation

IMF International Monetary Fund

IFI International Financial Institution

LCHR Land Centre for Human Rights

LE Egyptian Pound

PBDAC Principal Bank for Development and Agricultural Credit

MALR Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

NDP National Democratic Party

USAID US Agency for International Development

Units of measurement

1 feddan 0.42 ha

24 qirat 1 feddan

24 sahm 1 qirat

1 *qentar* of cotton 157.5 kg

1 ardab of maize 140 kg

1 *ardab* of wheat 150 kg

1 ardab of rice 200 kg

1 *ardab* of beans 155 kg

6 cuts birseem 1,000 kg

€1.00 LE 4.00 (April 2002)