

## **From Food Crisis to Food Sovereignty in Egypt: An Analysis in Terms of Food Regimes**

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### **Abstract:**

The agrarian question has gained renewed interest after the food crisis of 2007-2008 which led to food riots in Egypt. These riots revealed the pressing need to find an alternative agro-food model that puts farmers back at the center of agro-food policies and render the Egyptian food system less vulnerable to external shocks. The holistic analysis of the global food system in terms of food regimes serves as a theoretical framework to study the Egyptian case. Egypt, having undergone British colonization, heavy dependency on American food aid and the proliferation of Corporate Food Regimes is a representative case of a system derived from these three Food Regimes. Since the liberalization of agricultural policies and related land reforms, Egyptian "fellahin" peasants have faced daunting challenges. The claims of peasant movements and civil society led to the recognition of the right to food sovereignty in the new Egyptian constitution in 2014, which marks a historic victory for these movements. Nevertheless, the analysis of the food system shows that the failed neoliberal industrial model still dominates agricultural policies and socioeconomic relations in Egypt. This study therefore proposes an alternative operational framework mobilizing three political, technical, and legal tools for the implementation of an alternative agri-food policy program that remedies the perpetual depeasantization and impoverishment of Egyptian farmers and the current ecological crisis.

**Keywords:** Egypt, Agrarian Question, Food Regimes, Food Sovereignty, Global Food Crisis

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