

Chapter 20: Environmental Training

Introduction

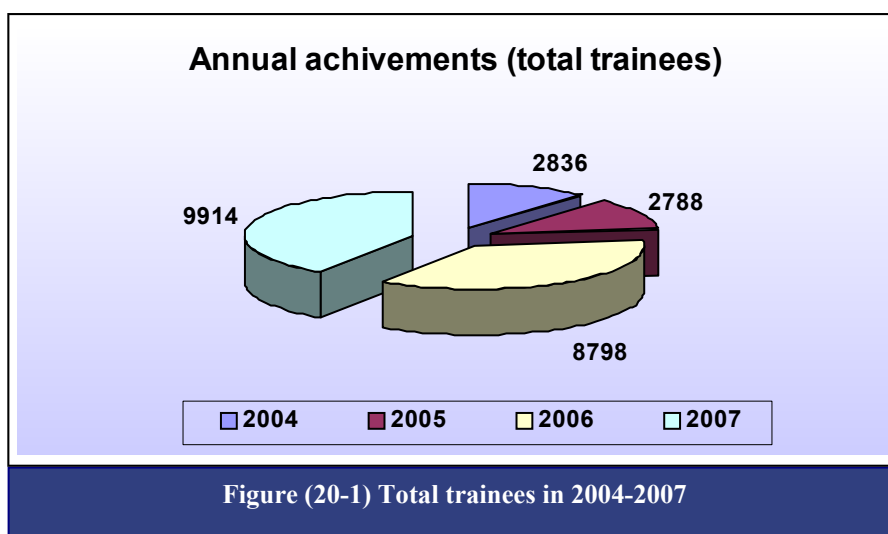
Training in MSEA aims at brining society human resources to acquire sound environmental knowledge, attitudes and skills which make them capable of successfully undertaking their jobs and properly handling the environment. Environmental training is not limited to developing individuals' knowledge, attitudes and skills, but extends to investing their stored unexploited capacities, as well as enhancing behavior and developing and improving environmental positive performance techniques through theoretical and practical training. Thus, training is the right way for human behavior efficiency, awareness of environmental consequences of human actions and decisions, and the importance of subtle environmental handling, so that man can regain balance and harmony between his/her life and environmental requirements. This concept makes training help society exercise the desired environmental behavior, which is eventually reflected on the different aspects of the environment: life and society activities.

Under the presidential electoral platform, MSEA, in coordination with the National Democratic Party (NDP) Youth Secretariat, implements a set of training courses for NDP youth to qualify them for non-typical careers. These courses target fresh graduates by introducing environmental concepts and attitudes into activities where they will work, in addition to instructing them on modern techniques of integrated municipal solid waste management (SWM), utilization, and recycling, as well as agricultural wastes such as rice straw and methods of safe disposal, composting, conversion into feeds, and utilization in mushroom cultivation.

MSEA Achievements during 2004-2007

Table (20-1) Total trainees during 2004-2007

Year	Total trainees
2004	2836
2005	2788
2006	8798
2007	9914



Significant activities in environmental training

First: Environmental Contests

MSEA, on celebrating World Environment Day on 5th June for 3 successive years (2005, 2006, 2007), organized great environmental contests for adults and youngsters. These contests aim at developing environmental awareness and positive environmental attitudes for all society categories, drawing their attention to environmental issues, activating active participation and cooperation on problem solving, and introducing new generations aware of environmental issues. The contests saw yearly increasing turnout by all society categories all over Egypt. Total contestants in the 3 years were as follows:

Year	Contestants
2005	54140
2006	61984
2007	95410

This increasing turnout shows the development of citizens' environmental awareness through active and growing participation and research papers provided by them.

Second: Training courses for youth in collaboration with NDP Youth Secretariat-General as per the presidential electoral platform

In his electoral platform, the President stressed the importance of creating job opportunities for youth to control unemployment. Opportunities can be in non-typical domains, such as environment protection.

In this respect, the Minister of State for Environmental Affairs directed on activating the governmental program as of 2006/2007, under the employment program through which youth are qualified and trained and gain necessary skills for joining the environmental job market.

MSEA implemented 2 training plans for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 with 20 training courses for 986 young people from most of Egyptian universities and all governorates to train and qualify them on the following as per the governmental program:

- EMS.
- Tree-planting and garden maintenance.
- Recycling and safe disposal of agricultural wastes.
- Handling municipal solid wastes (cleaning, recycling, and safe disposal).
- Environmental small enterprises.

These courses targeted the following:

- Introducing MSEA executive structure and role of protecting the environment in Egypt to participants.
- Shadings light on the role of youth in environmental domains and problem handling and active participation to solve them.
- Introducing agricultural wastes, as well as their sources and health hazards in case of unorganized burning.
- Introducing techniques for utilizing agricultural wastes and their economic significance.
- Maximizing agricultural waste utilization in useful and environment-friendly domains such as animal feed, fertilizer heaps, and biogas.
- Introducing municipal solid wastes, and their classification, sources and health impacts.
- Enabling participants to plan for municipal SWM process.
- Introducing municipal solid waste collection, sorting, and transfer techniques.
- Maximizing utilization of municipal solid wastes via recycling.
- Introducing the importance of trees and gardens in controlling pollution.
- Introducing systems used in designing and gardening parks and promenades.

- Enabling participants to select and use different plant varieties and garden elements in gardening.
- Introducing the importance of using treated waste water in cultivating gardens and woods.
- Making young people acquire skills necessary for joining environment protection job market.
- Making young people acquire positive attitudes toward environment protection and conservation.

Third: Environmental Training Camps for Youth in Collaboration with NDP Youth Secretariat-General as per the Presidential Electoral Platform

MSEA organized 4 training camps for youth as follows:

- Excellence Camp over the President Cup for 2006, with 600 young people from all Egyptian governorates.
- Youth Camp, Abu Qir, Alexandria, 2007, with 905 young people.
- First Youth Camp, Port Said, 2007, with 400 young women from all governorates.
- Second Youth Camp, Port Said, 2007, with 450 young women from all governorates.

Fourth: Training Courses for Fresh Graduates, Farmers, and Extensions on safe Utilization of Agricultural Wastes in Delta Governorates

MSEA organized 37 training courses on agricultural waste safe utilization, with 1850 trainees from Sharqeya, Gharbeya, Monoufeya, Kafr al-Sheikh, Daqahleya, Qaliubeya, and Behaira. They included the following:

- Producing compost;
- Producing animal feed; and
- Cultivating mushroom on rice straw bales.

Fifth: Training Courses for EEAA and RBO staff

MSEA organized a number of training courses for EEAA and RBO staff in some areas (legal impoundment, strategic EIA, hazardous material and waste management, and the best technologies available), with 1050 trainees.

Sixth: Training Courses for NGOs

MSEA conducted some training courses for NGOs in some areas (climate change, water maintenance and rationalization, and Integrated SWM to make economical gains) with 360 participants from NGOs.

Seventh: Environmental Training Courses on Request

MSEA conducted 3 courses for increasing environmental staff capacity in some organizations upon request:

- Training course for ARESCO and Mövenpick Hotel staff;
- 3 training courses for Petrobel;
- Training course for Qena Cement Plant staff;
- 2 training courses for Nag' Hammadi Aluminum Plant staff; and
- 2 training courses for Egyptian Airports Company staff.