

# **AGRARIAN CHANGE *in* EGYPT**

**AN ANATOMY OF RURAL POVERTY**

**Samir Radwan  
and  
Eddy Lee**

**A study prepared for the International Labour Office  
within the framework of the World Employment Programme**



**CROOM HELM**

**London • Sydney • Dover, New Hampshire**

# Contents

List of Figures	ix
List of Tables	x
Acknowledgements	xiii
1. Introduction	1
Notes	4
2. Background and Methodology	6
Introduction	6
The Evolution of Egypt's Agrarian System: a Brief Historical Background	6
The Agrarian Question in the 1970s	14
Methodology	17
Appendix: Sampling Procedure, Concepts and Definitions	21
Notes	28
3. The Generation and Distribution of Income	30
Sources of Income	30
Source of Income by Income Group	36
The Size-distribution of Income	41
Notes	50
4. The Structure of Asset Ownership	51
Characteristics of Various Categories of Asset-owning Households	58
Land and Income	60
Tenancy	66
Land Movements	69
Farm Production	76
5. Poverty, Consumption and Basic Needs	80
The Nature and Extent of Rural Poverty	80
Profile of Poverty in Rural Egypt	91
Appendix: Basic Needs in an Egyptian Village: the Case of Kamalia	120
Notes	130

<b>6. Employment and the Labour Market</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Features of the Rural Labour Market</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Rural Wages</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Concluding Remarks</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Notes</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>7. Efficiency and Equity in the 1980s</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Factors Affecting Agricultural Performance</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>Elements of the Agrarian Question</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Some Concluding Remarks</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Notes</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>167</b>