



ROOTGROW EGYPT 2025 NEWSLETTER

STRENGTHENING ROOTS, GROWING IMPACT, POWERFUL IN UNITY

1. Salt Doctors joins the RootGrow project



In September 2025, The Salt Doctors officially joined RootGrow as a third-party partner. Their expertise in saline agriculture is helping us address one of Egypt's most pressing agricultural challenges: soil salinisation. Together we are mapping salinity levels in our growing regions, conducting field analyses, and introducing innovative mitigation strategies to ensure sustainable yields and healthier soils for the future.

2. First mandarin and lime plantings inaugurated

A major milestone this year was the planting of our first mandarin and lime orchards, attended by the Dutch Agricultural Counsellor in Egypt as well as our various partners. These plantings mark the tangible start of RootGrow's on-the-ground citrus programme, combining Dutch innovation, Egyptian entrepreneurship, and global expertise. To date, we have planted:



- Mandarins (C37 'Juicy Crunch') on rootstocks C22, FA5, UFR4, C942 and Carrizo, covering 28 feddan across two separate fields.
- Limes on Macrophylla rootstock at two sites: 11 feddan with MK Trading and 15.6 feddan at Tara Farms (via Sweet Caroline).
- 20 feddan of Navel oranges at Agroland (Wadi El Molak), including rootstocks such as Citrumelo Swingle.



Each field serves as both a production and demonstration site, forming the nucleus of a scalable Egyptian citrus network.

3. University of Florida joins Cairo University visit



From 5–9 January 2025, RootGrow will host Professor Jude Grosser from the University of Florida, one of the world's foremost citrus geneticists. His visit to Cairo University includes a series of guest lectures and technical sessions on citrus innovation and plant disease management — notably the global citrus threat known as greening (HLB).

This visit forms part of RootGrow’s long-term ambition to bridge academic excellence and practical field innovation, linking Egypt’s next generation of scientists with global leaders in citrus R&D.

4. Strengthening phytosanitary standards

Throughout the year, Sven Thomas has been working closely with the Egyptian phytosanitary authorities, advising on regulatory frameworks, plant-disease monitoring, and export readiness. His contributions have been instrumental in aligning RootGrow’s activities with both national agricultural standards and international export protocols.



5. 2025 targets achieved

RootGrow Egypt is proud to confirm that all planting targets for 2025 have been achieved. Beyond acreage, we have built a resilient partnership ecosystem that includes growers, researchers, exporters, and governmental stakeholders. This success reflects the collaborative spirit that defines our mission.

6. Launch of the Village Project

We are proud that RootGrow has received official approval to commence the Village Project — an initiative aimed at integrating smallholder communities into Egypt’s citrus value chain. In the spring of 2025, we will plant the first 10 feddan at the site, using the UFR-4 rootstock developed by Dr Jude Grosser.

On these rootstocks, late navel oranges will be grafted, creating a pilot that combines cutting-edge genetics with community-level impact.

This project perfectly symbolises the RootGrow mission: bringing world-class research to local fields, improving livelihoods, and building long-term resilience.

7. Strengthening partnership dialogue

Two major partnership meetings were held this year — the second RootGrow partners meeting in May, followed by a third in September. Both sessions facilitated transparent sharing of progress, data, and future planning. Together, we are shaping the roadmap for Egypt’s citrus transformation.

8. Official visit

In May a group of Dutch officials (amongst others from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency) visited RootGrow to gain a better understanding of the project scope and the local conditions.



8. Looking ahead

Moving into 2026, we will continue investing in soil health, farmer training, and R&D collaborations. With our partners and collaborators will focus on agricultural resilience, improving knowledge, and creating new opportunities for all stakeholders.

RootGrow is a Dutch–Egyptian agricultural innovation cluster co-funded by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). It unites companies and institutions to apply rootstock technology that combats salinity, optimizes water use, and improves yields and quality. RootGrow empowers farmers - especially women and youth - through knowledge transfer, job creation, and regenerative farming. RootGrow develops a sustainable, climate-smart, and export-driven citrus sector that strengthens Egypt’s food security and rural economy.

www.jaguarthefreshcompany.com