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Green careers guide

Saber Osman
Egypt



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When Passion Leads to Success!

My name is Saber Osman, I am from Egypt, I believe that my passion to protect Environment and achieve sustainability encouraged me to search for the best way to reach my ambition. My interest in science dates to my years in high school, where I excelled in Biology and chemistry. After finishing my studies in high school, I joined the Faculty of Agriculture. As the Environment and Biological Agriculture Department (EBAD) has been established, I was fortunate to join its first batch.

Throughout my studies, I had the opportunity to be exposed to a full range of Environmental courses, all of which tended to reinforce and solidify my intense interest in the Environment. I have had the opportunity to study several subjects in Organic Agriculture and they had been both enjoyable and enlightening, providing me with a new and different perspective on the world in which we live.

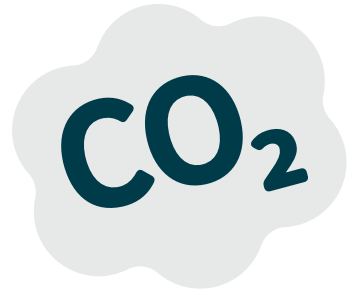
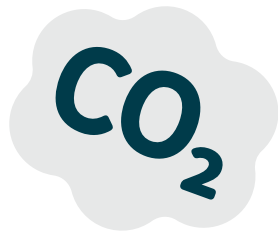
The study in EBAD was a mix of theoretical and practical methods in several different locations, research centers, farms, and companies using interactive learning techniques. During my studies, I attended several training courses at Sekem Company, New & Renewable Energy Authority (NREA), Agricultural Research Center as well as Central Laboratory for Agricultural Climate which triggered me to follow a career in climate change. Since I appreciate social work, I established a club of Environmental Knights which collected several prizes in sports, arts, and literature. This club has been involved in several green activities with NGOs and enabled me to understand that there is a gap between science and public perception regarding climate change issues in Egypt. In fact, during that period, climate change skeptics had the lead in media affecting public perception,



even though Egypt was considered as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts according to IPCC reports.

After graduating from the Faculty and upon my request, I was nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture to work at the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency "EEAA" (governmental organization under the cabinet of ministries). Since Sep. 2002, I work for EEAA at Climate Change Department. My position has enabled me to gain various skills and allowed me to work with many local and international consultants. Their high professional calibers and academic standards made me even more aware of the range and depth of knowledge needed to be successful in this field and motivated me to undertake further studies to develop my professional capabilities.





As the United Kingdom has some of the world's most renowned and prestigious educational institutes that attract students from different professional and cultural backgrounds from all over the world, I chose to continue my master's degree in climate change in the UK. I was aware that studying in one of its institutes would allow me to get a world-class education and a recognized degree in my chosen area of study in a multi-cultural context. Therefore, I applied to study MSc. in Climate Change at the University of East Anglia, as it is known as a pioneer in the field of Climate Change. I was thus able to access information directly relevant to Climate Change issues in the whole of the world, adding valuable practical insights to my learning experience. The multidisciplinary postgraduate degree in climate change gave me access to new disciplines and areas, allowing me to have both the conceptual knowledge and the technical expertise related to climate change.

Spending a year learning and working with professionals from various countries who share the same interests allowed me to learn from their experience, develop a critical view of challenges posed by development around the world, and enabled me to better understand those faced by Egypt and the possible means of overcoming them. Moreover, the network of professionals that I built during my studies in the UK helped me to stay in touch with and get advice on climate change-related issues throughout my career.

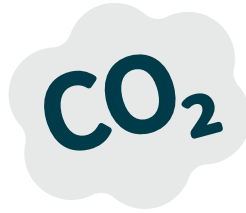
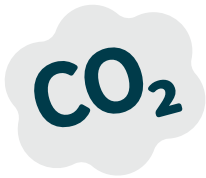
The MSc course gave me an advantage over other candidates. Modular teaching-focused both upon the necessary skills to conduct high-level research, but also afforded attention to the wider picture of climate change, such as societal impacts and political issues, provided me with a faster track for career progression, helped me to fulfill my ambition of attaining leadership positions

in the environment field and allowed me to somehow influence development policy in Egypt.

In professional terms, having a well-rounded education allowed me to perform better in my job, which benefited the organizations that I worked with, as well as my country. I was able through my day-to-day interactions with colleagues to share and transfer the knowledge I had learned in the UK.

Having an internationally recognized postgraduate degree in the field of Climate Change helped me access better employment opportunities in the environmental development sector in Egypt, a field where postgraduate education is very much considered a basic requirement. I worked for the UNDP project from 2010 to 2011, I was appointed to be Egypt's National Focal Point to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) during 2012-2013. Then, I worked for GIZ as a climate change advisor from 2013-2016 in its Urbanization Program to study the impacts of climate change on Urban Informal Areas in the Greater Cairo Region (Egypt). During that period, I managed different exchange mechanisms between Governmental Bodies and local authorities such as managing The Advisory Board of Climate Change in Cities in Egypt (AB-CCC) more info could be found on the following link: <http://www.egypt-urban.net/ab-ccc/>, also, I managed exchange mechanism between NGOs which were funded by PDP/EU grant scheme Lot 6 (Environment and Climate Change) to guarantee better coordination and sharing experience during the implementation course of climate change adaptation measures and I managed a Rooftop farming pilot project which implemented in some urban informal areas around Cairo governorate to improve the livelihood, awareness





and the adaptive capacity of the community members. Besides, I supported the development of a climate change adaptation strategy for urban informal areas in Egypt and a climate change framework strategy for the GIZA governorate.

From 2016 to 2020, I worked for the Egyptian government as a climate change adaptation Manager, due to the increase of extreme weather events intensity and frequency in Egypt, I developed the project document of Egypt's Interactive Climate Change Vulnerability Map funded by the Egyptian Gov. I was appointed as the project manager for that project which used GCMs and RCMs downscaling tech. with IPCC Scenarios and GIS tools to support the policymaking process. I was one of the developers of the institutional reform of the climate change council in Egypt to ensure the mainstreaming of climate change in the central government and local municipalities. I also supported the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and National Adaptation Plan- Global Support Program (NAP-GSP) in conducting a skills assessment for the staff of Planning, Finance, and Environment ministries in Egypt and develop the required training plans. I developed Egypt's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) proposal and submitted it for funding from GCF and supported the Egyptian Gov. in climate negotiation a) negotiating agenda item of adaptation registry on-behalf of the African Group of Negotiators, b) negotiating Nairobi Work Program on-behalf of G77 and China, in addition to c) represented Egypt in the Adaptation and Resilience Coalition under UNSG Climate Action 2019 chaired by UK and Egypt.



In the last year, I started teaching an Environmental Planning course for MSc students at the Institute of National Planning (INP), as I am keen to transfer all the knowledge and experiences that I gained during my career path to the new generations. Also, I established my YouTube Channel Our Planet Climate, or "Monakh Ardena in Arabic" to provide an insight on climate change issues for the public. As well, I started to work for a private corporation that helps individuals, the private sector, civil society, and government through trainings and consultation services in the fields of Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability.

To conclude, I would like to advise the youth to follow their passion, consult experienced people in the field they would like to work in, and allocate enough time to planning to excel during the implementation.

