



Technical and economic efficiency of fish production farms in kafr El-Sheikh Governorate

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Abstract: The fisheries sector contributes about 9.9% of the total value of agricultural production, which amounts to about 465.2 billion pounds and about 27.4% of the total value of animal production, which amounts to about 169.8 billion pounds. The fisheries sector contributes to the production of fish meat with 83.26% of the total meat production in kafr El-Sheikh Governorate. The average annual production of fish farming was about 1506.5 thousand tons, while the role of capture fisheries in production was reduced to about 369.3 thousand tons, with a total of about 1875.7 thousand tons. tons as an annual average of production. The average annual domestic consumption was about 2,250 thousand tons, and the average per capita is estimated at 11.9 kg / year during the period (2016-2019) , the research problem is summarized in the insufficient production of fish to meet the needs of local consumption of fish, as the gap covers about 374.3 thousand tons with imports from abroad. The research aims to increase fish production and raise the rate of self-sufficiency by researching technical efficiency in both cases with fixed and variable returns to scale, and researching economic efficiency (cost efficiency) and determining the amount of resources achieved for economic efficiency.

The results of the research indicate that technical efficiency (TE) according to the concept of constant return to scale (CRS), the average of this indicator was estimated at 86.6%, that is, the same level of production can be achieved using only 86.6% of the actual summation of the used resources, according to the concept of Variable return to scale (VRS), the average of this indicator is estimated at 94%, which means that the same level of production can be achieved with 94%, the economic efficiency index is estimated at 66.5%.

[Adel Mohamed Abd elwahab Saleh and Hassan Abdullah Mohamed Greda **Technical and economic efficiency of fish production farms in kafr El-Sheikh Governorate.** *J Am Sci* 2022;18(10):1-11]. ISSN 1545-1003 (print); ISSN 2375-7264 (online). <http://www.jofamericanscience.org>. 01.doi:10.7537/marsjas181022.01.

Keywords: fisheries sector, fish farming, technical & economic efficiency.

Introduction:

The fisheries sector is considered one of the important sectors in the national economy it contributes about 9.9% of the total value of agricultural production of about 465.2 billion pounds, and about 27.4% of the total value of livestock production of about 169.8 billion pounds for the average period (2016-2019). Also, fish is a good alternative to red meat, especially in light of its high prices. The ⁽⁴⁾ importance of fish wealth in Egypt comes from the multiplicity of its sources.

On top of these sources comes fish farming, of which the annual average production amounted to about 1.5065 million tons, and the role of natural resources in production declined to about 369.3 thousand tons⁽⁵⁾. The annual average of production reached about 1.8757 million tons, while Domestic consumption of it is about 2.250 million tons, and the average per capita share is about 11.9 kg / year during the same period⁽⁶⁾.

Some studies⁽³⁾ indicated the importance of fish farming in providing a large amount of animal protein

and increasing the level of food self-sufficiency, in addition to the fact that it uses resources that may be idle or do not achieve a moral return if used for plant production. The research also showed the contribution of farming to providing job opportunities for many Young.

Research problem:

The research problem is summarized in the fact that despite Egypt's possession of vast areas of water bodies and its enjoyment of productive advantages in the production of fish from both the natural sources of production, which include the seas, lakes and the Nile River, and from the unnatural sources that include fish farming in its various forms, this fish production It is not enough to cover Egypt's consumer needs of fish, so fish are imported from abroad to fill the fish gap of about 374.3 thousand tons, on average, for the research period, with mostly poor species, with which the burden on the Egyptian trade balance increases.

Research objective:

The research aims to research the technical and economic efficiency of fish production farms in kafr El-Sheikh Governorate to maximize the maximum return in a way that helps expand fish production and raise the percentage of self-sufficiency of it, by researching the technical efficiency in two cases constant return to scale and variable return to scale, and economic efficiency (cost efficiency), And the comparison between two averages: the actual quantities of resources used on the one hand and the optimum quantities achieved for technical and economic efficiency on the other hand, and the application of the amount of resources achieved for economic efficiency.

Methodology and Data Sources:

The achievement of the research's objectives was based on two types' descriptive statistical analysis and quantitative statistical analysis such as percentages, arithmetic mean, in addition to estimating production efficiency of its different types through the use of the Data Envelopment Analysis Program (DEAP) method When both the constant return to scale and the variable return to scale.

The research relied on a group of different sources to obtain the published and unpublished secondary data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and the Fisheries Authority, and on the primary data that includes the various technical transactions of fish farming activities through the questionnaire conducted on a simple random sample that included 50 fish farms The Tilapia fish producers in the most important governorates of fish production in Egypt, Kafr El-Sheikh governorate, with 50 questionnaire forms collected through a personal interview during the months of January and February 2022.

Definition of the Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA):

It is one of the non-parametric statistical analysis methods that use mathematical programming to find the relative efficiency, which uses a multiple set of inputs and outputs, by dividing the total outputs by the total inputs for each facility, and this percentage is compared with other facilities. Efficient limits. The degree of inefficiency of other facilities is measured in relation to the efficient limits using mathematical methods.

The efficiency index for the facility is confined between the value one (1), which represents full efficiency, and between the value zero (0), which represents complete inefficiency, through two assumptions to measure technical efficiency, namely, the constant return to scale and the variable return to scale, and the concept of constant return to scale

assumes the exploitation of the farm and operating at its maximum scale, while the concept of variable return to scale assumes that the farm activity is at capacities less than the maximum scale, as the assumption of constant return to scale does not apply to some production units.

(a) Technical efficiency assuming constant return to scale (DEA Model - CRS):

The DEA scale represents the appropriate way to perform efficiency analysis, when there are multiple inputs and outputs measured in different units, and to build a mathematical model to measure production efficiency, it is required to adopt the appropriate function for this purpose and its determinants, and the general model of linear programming used to measure the technical efficiency of production units can be written. When constant return to scale in the following equations⁽⁸⁾:

$$(1) \quad \text{Min}_{\theta, \lambda} \theta_i^{CRS}$$

$$\text{s.t. } Y\lambda - y \geq 0$$

$$\theta_{X_k} - X\lambda \geq 0 \quad K$$

$$= 1, 2, \dots, n$$

$$\lambda \geq 0$$

whereas:

$$\theta_i^{CRS} \quad \text{A value that measures the technical}$$

efficiency (TE) of the production unit number i , λ , the vector result $N \times 1$ of the constants or weights associated with all productive units that are characterized by efficiency θ_i ; is the degree of efficiency obtained for the production unit whose arrangement i , X represents the resource, and the number of resources is K , and this evaluation must meet the constraint If it is $\theta \leq 1$, When it is $\theta = 1$ the production unit is working efficiently, and it produces on Production Possibility Curve optimum. If it is $\theta \leq 1$ then the unit of production lies under the Production Possibility Curve optimum and technically it is considered inefficient. To measure the economic efficiency (EE), we must obtain the minimization of the following linear function:

$$(2)$$

$$\text{Min}_{\theta_i} \theta_i^{CRS} W_i X_i^*$$

$$X_i^* \geq X \lambda$$

$$s.t. Y \lambda - y \geq 0$$

$$\lambda \geq 0$$

whereas:

X_i^* Represents a vector of cost minimization per production unit No i taking into account that the prices of the inputs W_i^* the production rate Y is given, According to Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), Economic Efficiency is divided into two parts. The first part is Technical Efficiency, which means the facility's ability to obtain the maximum possible output from a set of available inputs, and it is measured in terms of the iso-quant curve, It is the result of dividing the incurred costs by the observed costs:

$$EE_i = \frac{W_i X_i^*}{W_i^* X_i}$$

The second part is Allocative Efficiency, which refers to the firm's ability to use the optimum combination of inputs, which achieves the lowest possible cost, taking into account the prices of the inputs, and it can be obtained with the knowledge of both technical efficiency and economic efficiency, and the following equation represents the distributional efficiency:

$$(4) \quad AE_i = \frac{EE_i}{TE_{CRS}_i}$$

(b) Technical efficiency assuming variable return to scale (DEA Model - VRS):

The assumption of constant return to scale does not apply to some production units, so the modified model from DEA is used, which assumes instability)⁽⁷⁾:

$$(5) \quad \text{Min}_{\theta, \lambda} \theta^{VRS}$$

$$Y \lambda - y \geq 0 \quad s.t.$$

$$\theta_i - X \lambda \geq 0$$

$$i = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

$$N' \lambda = 1 \quad \lambda \geq 0$$

Scale Efficiency:

The nature of the return to scale for any unit of production is determined by measuring the efficiency of scale, and the main reason for this method is that economies of scale can directly determine the efficient and inefficient unit of production^{(8),(1)}. The scale efficiency is measured by analyzing the data envelope for constant and variable scales, and then dividing the degree of technical efficiency that was obtained through analyzing the data envelope when both the return to scale is constant and variable CRS & VRS DEA into two parts. The first can be attributed to scale inefficiency and the second technical inefficiency. If there is a difference between the technical efficiency obtained from both analyzes of the production unit, this means that the production unit suffers from scale inefficiency, which is equivalent to the difference between the degree of technical efficiency in both constant and variable scales. Thus, the scale efficiency can be determined by the following equation:

$$Se_i = \frac{TE_{CRS}_i}{TE_{VRS}_i}$$

Where Se_i stands for scale efficiency and is calculated on the basis of dividing the technical efficiency of constant return of scale (TECRS) by the technical efficiency of variable return of scale (TEVRS), if $Se_i = 1$ Means the capacitance efficiency, but if $Se_i < 1$ It means scale inefficiency, that is, the scale efficiency of the production unit represents the ratio between the technical efficiency of the production unit with a constant return to scale and the technical efficiency of the same production unit with a variable return to scale.

First: The relative importance of the sources of fish production in Egypt:

By researching Table (1), which shows the relative importance of the sources of fish production in Egypt, it was found that the production of fish farming represents the first rank, as its average production reached about 1506.5 Thousand tons, representing about 80.3% of the Egyptian fish production during the period (2016-2019), which amounted to about 1875.7 thousand tons, It was also found that the average production of the northern lakes amounted to about 150,5 thousand tons, representing about 8% of the total production during the same period, but the fish production from the seas averaged about 104.3 thousand tons, representing about 5.6% of the total production, It was found From the same table that the

average fish production of the Nile and its branches amounted to about 75.6 thousand tons, representing 4.03% of the total production, and the average production of the rest of the sources was about 38.9 thousand tons, representing about 2.07% of the annual average of total fish production in Egypt during that period.

Table (1): the relative importance of fish production sources in Egypt during the period (2016-2019)
(thousand tons)

| % | Other fisheries | % | Nile and its branches | % | seas | % | Northern Lakes | % | Fish farming | total production | years |
|------|-----------------|------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-----|----------------|------|--------------|------------------|---------|
| 2.05 | 34.94 | 4.31 | 73.48 | 6.1 | 103.7 | 7.2 | 123.53 | 80.3 | 1370.7 | 1706.3 | 2016 |
| 2.05 | 37.28 | 4.26 | 77.73 | 6.0 | 109.8 | 8.0 | 146.19 | 79.6 | 1451.8 | 1822.8 | 2017 |
| 2.19 | 42.3 | 3.81 | 73.74 | 5.4 | 104.7 | 7.9 | 152.55 | 80.7 | 1561.5 | 1934.7 | 2018 |
| 2.01 | 41.07 | 3.80 | 77.38 | 4.9 | 99 | 8.8 | 179.64 | 80.5 | 1641.9 | 2038.9 | 2019 |
| 2.07 | 38.90 | 4.03 | 75.58 | 5.6 | 104.3 | 8.0 | 150.48 | 80.3 | 1506.5 | 1875.7 | average |

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, General Authority for Fisheries Development, Fisheries Statistics, various issues.

Second: The technical efficiency of fish production farms according to the concept of constant and variable return to scale:

Technical efficiency means the efficiency of the use of the economic resources specified in the efficiency estimation model. Technology efficiency is divided into:-

A- Technical efficiency according to the concept of constant return to scale (CRS):

The area of fish production for the research sample ranged between a maximum of 25 feddan and a minimum of one feddan, as shown in Table (2), According to the concept of fixed return on scale, which assumes the exploitation of the farm and its operation at its maximum scale, the technical efficiency ranged between a minimum of about 46.9% and a maximum of about 100%, The average of this indicator was 86.6%, that is, it is possible to achieve the same level of production using only 86.6% of the actual combination of the resources used, meaning that 13.4% of the resources can be saved on average and the same level of production can be achieved

B- Technical Efficiency According to the Concept of Variable Return to scale (VRS):

Table (2) shows that the technical efficiency indicator of farms that do not operate at their maximum scale ranged between 74.3% as a minimum,

and 100% as a maximum, and the average of this indicator was 94%, meaning that the same level of production can be achieved using only 94% of the actual combination of resources used, meaning that 6% of the resources can be saved without affecting the level of production, and it should be noted that the technical efficiency with the variable return to scale means the farm activity at capacities less than the maximum scale, Thus, the technical efficiency indicators in this case are higher than in the case of the hypothesis of the constant return to scale, which considers the farms operating at its maximum scale. (13, 14, 16, 18, 21, 22, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 39, 40, 43, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50) have achieved full proficiency from the It means that these farms should continue at their current production level.

When comparing the scale efficiency and the return to scale for the sample farms, it was found that there are 37 farms whose production must be increased by increasing the efficiency of resource use for these farms, and 8 farms have achieved full efficiency and these farms are (3, 8, 13, 14, 18, 21, 35, 47), which means that the actual combination of resources is the same as the

Optimum combination, so the efficiency of the scale reached the right one and the constant return to scale was achieved, and to increase the resource efficiency

of all farms, the level of production in farms (9, 24, 27, 28, 36).

Third: Distributive Efficiency and the economic efficiency of fish production farms:

It was previously mentioned to estimate the technical efficiency of the farmer of the research sample in the absence of information about the costs of the resources used in production, the efficiency index in this case does not take into account the cost of actual resources, and accordingly it is necessary to estimate the distributional efficiency of the resources used in fish production farms through the Data Envelope Analysis Program (DEAP) in light of the prices of those resources and a comparison of technical

efficiency and economic efficiency (cost efficiency), as well as Distributive (price) efficiency, whereas, economic efficiency is the result of multiplying technical efficiency and distributive efficiency.

Table (3) indicates that the average economic efficiency index reached about 66.5%, and this average ranges between a minimum of about 27.3%, and a maximum of about 100%, and five farms with numbers (3, 8, 13, 21, 47) have achieved full efficiency. The rest of the farms did not achieve full efficiency. This can be explained economically by the failure of these farms to benefit from the advantages of return to scale when purchasing the factors of production, and when selling the final product.

Table (2): Indications of technical efficiency and return to scale for sample farms in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate

| farm number | farm area (feddan) | technical efficiency (CRS) (1) | technical efficiency (VRS) (2) | scale efficiency (21) | return to scale |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 12 | 0.97 | 1.000 | 0.970 | increase |
| 2 | 11 | 0.795 | 0.876 | 0.908 | increase |
| 3 | 8 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | stability |
| 4 | 10 | 0.750 | 0.876 | 0.856 | increase |
| 5 | 6 | 0.669 | 0.777 | 0.861 | increase |
| 6 | 8 | 0.929 | 0.934 | 0.995 | increase |
| 7 | 3 | 0.469 | 1.000 | 0.469 | increase |
| 8 | 25 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | stability |
| 9 | 25 | 0.909 | 1.000 | 0.909 | shrinking |
| 10 | 18 | 0.959 | 1.000 | 0.959 | increase |
| 11 | 17 | 0.977 | 1.000 | 0.977 | increase |
| 12 | 21 | 0.9 | 0.962 | 0.936 | increase |
| 13 | 11 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | stability |
| 14 | 15 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | stability |
| 15 | 4 | 0.72 | 0.849 | 0.848 | increase |
| 16 | 8 | 0.95 | 1.000 | 0.950 | increase |
| 17 | 4 | 0.716 | 0.822 | 0.871 | increase |
| 18 | 6 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | stability |
| 19 | 11 | 0.716 | 0.902 | 0.794 | increase |
| 20 | 16 | 0.782 | 0.893 | 0.876 | increase |
| 21 | 23 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | stability |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 22 | 17 | 0.918 | 1.000 | 0.918 | increase |
| 23 | 8 | 0.729 | 0.754 | 0.967 | increase |
| 24 | 17 | 0.969 | 1.000 | 0.969 | shrinking |
| 25 | 11 | 0.68 | 0.932 | 0.730 | increase |
| 26 | 25 | 0.981 | 1.000 | 0.981 | increase |
| 27 | 5 | 0.639 | 0.892 | 0.716 | decreasing |
| 28 | 24 | 0.757 | 0.833 | 0.909 | decreasing |
| 29 | 3 | 0.993 | 1.000 | 0.993 | increase |
| 30 | 21 | 0.934 | 1.000 | 0.934 | increase |
| 31 | 21 | 0.862 | 1.000 | 0.862 | increase |
| 32 | 10 | 0.714 | 0.743 | 0.961 | increase |
| 33 | 18 | 0.935 | 1.000 | 0.935 | increase |
| 34 | 24 | 0.935 | 1.000 | 0.935 | increase |
| 35 | 12 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | stability |
| 36 | 24 | 0.702 | 0.970 | 0.724 | decreasing |
| 37 | 5 | 0.825 | 0.846 | 0.975 | increase |
| 38 | 1 | 0.856 | 0.922 | 0.928 | increase |
| 39 | 11 | 0.969 | 1.000 | 0.969 | increase |
| 40 | 18 | 0.918 | 1.000 | 0.918 | increase |
| 41 | 18 | 0.729 | 0.854 | 0.854 | increase |
| 42 | 4 | 0.731 | 0.873 | 0.837 | increase |
| 43 | 3 | 0.95 | 1.000 | 0.950 | increase |
| 44 | 10 | 0.809 | 0.815 | 0.993 | increase |
| 45 | 12 | 0.998 | 1.000 | 0.998 | increase |
| 46 | 21 | 0.711 | 0.811 | 0.877 | increase |
| 47 | 15 | 1 | 1.000 | 1.000 | stability |
| 48 | 15 | 0.99 | 1.000 | 0.990 | increase |
| 49 | 5 | 0.987 | 1.000 | 0.987 | increase |
| 50 | 6 | 0.988 | 1.000 | 0.988 | increase |
| average | 12.92 | 0.868 | 0.943 | 0.919 | |
| highest value | 25 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | |
| lowest value | 1 | 0.469 | 0.743 | 0.469 | |

Source: the results of the analysis for the data of the research sample in 2022.

Table (3): Estimation of allocative efficiency and economic efficiency of sample farms in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate

| farm number | farm area (feddan) | Technical efficiency TE | Allocative Efficiency AE | Economic efficiency |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 12 | 1.000 | 0.632 | 0.632 |
| 2 | 11 | 0.876 | 0.715 | 0.626 |
| 3 | 8 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| 4 | 10 | 0.876 | 0.534 | 0.468 |
| 5 | 6 | 0.777 | 0.354 | 0.275 |
| 6 | 8 | 0.934 | 0.418 | 0.390 |
| 7 | 3 | 1.000 | 0.515 | 0.515 |
| 8 | 25 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| 9 | 25 | 1.000 | 0.865 | 0.865 |
| 10 | 18 | 1.000 | 0.893 | 0.893 |
| 11 | 17 | 1.000 | 0.934 | 0.934 |
| 12 | 21 | 0.962 | 0.724 | 0.696 |
| 13 | 11 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| 14 | 15 | 1.000 | 0.920 | 0.920 |
| 15 | 4 | 0.849 | 0.434 | 0.368 |
| 16 | 8 | 1.000 | 0.653 | 0.653 |
| 17 | 4 | 0.822 | 0.693 | 0.570 |
| 18 | 6 | 1.000 | 0.435 | 0.435 |
| 19 | 11 | 0.902 | 0.814 | 0.734 |
| 20 | 16 | 0.893 | 0.737 | 0.658 |
| 21 | 23 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| 22 | 17 | 1.000 | 0.962 | 0.962 |
| 23 | 8 | 0.754 | 0.514 | 0.388 |
| 24 | 17 | 1.000 | 0.518 | 0.518 |
| 25 | 11 | 0.932 | 0.715 | 0.666 |
| 26 | 25 | 1.000 | 0.948 | 0.948 |
| 27 | 5 | 0.892 | 0.333 | 0.297 |
| 28 | 24 | 0.833 | 0.532 | 0.443 |
| 29 | 3 | 1.000 | 0.434 | 0.434 |
| 30 | 21 | 1.000 | 0.925 | 0.925 |
| 31 | 21 | 1.000 | 0.693 | 0.693 |
| 32 | 10 | 0.743 | 0.518 | 0.385 |
| 33 | 18 | 1.000 | 0.567 | 0.567 |
| 34 | 24 | 1.000 | 0.836 | 0.836 |
| 35 | 12 | 1.000 | 0.817 | 0.817 |
| 36 | 24 | 0.970 | 0.725 | 0.703 |
| 37 | 5 | 0.846 | 0.615 | 0.520 |
| 38 | 1 | 0.922 | 0.516 | 0.476 |
| 39 | 11 | 1.000 | 0.634 | 0.634 |
| 40 | 18 | 1.000 | 0.639 | 0.639 |
| 41 | 18 | 0.854 | 0.522 | 0.446 |
| 42 | 4 | 0.873 | 0.534 | 0.466 |
| 43 | 3 | 1.000 | 0.893 | 0.893 |
| 44 | 10 | 0.815 | 0.335 | 0.273 |
| 45 | 12 | 1.000 | 0.873 | 0.873 |
| 46 | 21 | 0.811 | 0.678 | 0.550 |
| 47 | 15 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| 48 | 15 | 1.000 | 0.812 | 0.812 |
| 49 | 5 | 1.000 | 0.714 | 0.714 |
| 50 | 6 | 1.000 | 0.733 | 0.733 |
| average | 12.9 | 0.943 | 0.696 | 0.665 |
| highest value | 25 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| lowest value | 1 | 0.743 | 0.333 | 0.273 |

Source: the results of the analysis for the data of the research sample in 2022.

Fourth: Estimating the optimal employment for the economic use of fish farm in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate:

Economic efficiency is estimated given both the actual combinations of resources and the unit price of each resource. This is achieved when the resource costs line touches the data envelope (the isoquant production curve), At this point, the efficient use of the resources used is achieved according to economic theory, where the optimal size of the resources used in production is achieved by reaching them.

Table (4) shows a comparison of the use of the optimal volume of resources on the one hand and the actual volume of the same resources on the other hand, it is clear from the total sample that it is necessary to reconsider the use of production resources in a way that achieves the economic efficiency of the farm by reducing the average cultivated area from about 12.92 to 12.54 feddan/farm, it is also necessary to reduce the average amount of water from about 80 to 78.7 million cubic meters/farm, as well as reducing the number of fry from about 180.5 to 178.2 million/farm, and reducing the amount of organic fertilizer used from About 44.2 to 28.8 cubic meters / farm, and also reducing the quantities of fodder used from about 59.4 to 58.1 tons / farm, and Reducing the number of non-technical workers from about 528.2 to 488.1 working days/farm, and also reducing the number of technical workers from about 319.1 to 309.3 working days/farm without affecting the condition farm access to full economic efficiency to the total farm production.

Summary and recommendations:

The fisheries sector contributes about 9.9% of the total value of agricultural production, which amounts to about 465.2 billion pounds and about 27.4% of the total value of animal production, which amounts to about 169.8 billion pounds. The fisheries sector also contributes from fish meat to 83.26% of the total meat production in Egypt.

Egypt is also the first in Africa and sixth in the world in aquaculture, the annual average production from fish farming was about 1506.5 thousand tons, while the role of natural fisheries in production shrank to about 369.3 thousand tons, with a total of about 1875.7 thousand tons as the annual average of production. And The annual average of domestic consumption was about 2,250 thousand tons, and the average per capita share was estimated at about 11.9 kg / year during the period (2016-2019).

The research problem is summarized in the insufficient production of fish for the local consumption needs of fish, the gap of about 374.3 thousand tons as an average for the research period is covered by importing fish from abroad of low quality

species, in addition to the increasing burden on the trade balance.

The research aimed to research both the technical and economic efficiency of fish production farms in Egypt to maximize the maximum possible return to increase fish production and raise the rate of self-sufficiency, by researching the technical efficiency in both cases of constant and variable return to scale, and researching the economic efficiency (cost efficiency), and the comparison between both averages The actual quantities of the resources used and the optimum quantities achieved for technical and economic efficiency, and catching the amount of resources achieved for economic efficiency.

The results of the research indicate that the average production of the northern lakes amounted to about 150.5 thousand tons, representing 8% of the total production, from both the Mediterranean and the Red Sea about 104.3 thousand tons, representing 5.6%, and the Nile River and its branches 75.6 thousand tons, representing 4.03%, and the rest of the sources are about 38.9 thousand tons It represented 2.07% of the annual average of total fish production in Egypt during the period (2016-2019).

The research indicates that the technical efficiency (TE) in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate according to the concept of constant return to scale (CRS), the average of this indicator was estimated at 86.6%, meaning that the same level of production can be achieved using only 86.6% of the actual combination of used resources, according to the concept of variable return to scale (VRS), the average of this indicator was estimated at 94%, meaning that the same level of production can be achieved using 94%, The economic efficiency index was estimated at 66.5%, These percentages reflect the optimal amount of resources compared to the actual quantities used of the resources, which are represented in the area, the amount of irrigation water, the number of fish fry, the amount of fodder, the amount of natural decomposing fertilizers, the number of non-technical workers, and the number of technical workers. When the optimum size of the resources used in production was estimated and compared with the actual size of the same resources, it was found that the average farm area should be reduced from about 12.9 to 12.6 faddan/farm, and the amount of irrigation water should be reduced from about 80 to 78.7 million cubic meters/farm, and also reducing the number of fish fry from about 180.5 to 178.2 million / farm, and reducing the amount of organic fertilizer from about 44.2 to 28.8 cubic meters / farm, and also reducing the quantities of feed used from about 59.4 to 58.1 tons / farm, and reducing the number of non-technical workers from about 528.2 working days to 488.1

working days/farm, and reducing technical workers from about 319.1 to 309.3 working days for each farm without affecting the total production.

The research recommends according to the results:

1- Stop the depletion of productive resources by overusing them and trying to make them the optimal use of those productive resources to reduce production costs and increase net returns and profits.

2- Directing agricultural extension and development programs implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture through specialized research centers and institutes towards focusing on the optimal use of productive resources.

3- The research expects an increase in the total production and the average per capita share of fish meat due to the expansion that took place for government investment in the field of fish farming.

Table (4): the actual and optimal quantities of production inputs used in the research sample farms in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate

| farm number | Cultivated area feddan | | water quantity cubic meter | | number of fry thousand units | | volume organic fertilizer cubic meter | | Feed quantity in tons | | NO. non-technical workers days | | NO. Technical workers days | |
|-------------|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| | actual | optimum | actual | optimum | actual | optimum | actual | optimum | actual | optimum | actual | optimum | actual | optimum |
| 1 | 12 | 12 | 74772 | 67650 | 198822 | 197470 | 38.52 | 24.3 | 63 | 65 | 420 | 390 | 352 | 330 |
| 2 | 11 | 12.5 | 67750 | 68550 | 182600 | 190510 | 30.92 | 18.24 | 55.6 | 60 | 420 | 410 | 276 | 259 |
| 3 | 8 | 8 | 47172 | 47172 | 93944 | 93944 | 20.7 | 20.7 | 35.8 | 35.8 | 292 | 292 | 187 | 187 |
| 4 | 10 | 10 | 63690 | 63690 | 126200 | 126200 | 49 | 30 | 60 | 60 | 415 | 415 | 254 | 244 |
| 5 | 6 | 4.3 | 46935 | 42092 | 87534 | 64525 | 17.7 | 9.42 | 35.3 | 30.08 | 252 | 172 | 142 | 122 |
| 6 | 8 | 6.7 | 49381 | 44210 | 98048 | 90117 | 22.76 | 14.44 | 32 | 29.51 | 359 | 295 | 171 | 162 |
| 7 | 3 | 4.5 | 12726 | 14450 | 37950 | 39620 | 13.2 | 10.2 | 18.68 | 19.23 | 138 | 158 | 81 | 90 |
| 8 | 25 | 25 | 153065 | 153065 | 330775 | 330775 | 86.04 | 86.04 | 112.9 | 112.9 | 985 | 985 | 635 | 635 |
| 9 | 25 | 22.7 | 169600 | 169200 | 315000 | 300640 | 91.5 | 52.4 | 96.7 | 90.31 | 1075 | 908 | 640 | 620 |
| 10 | 18 | 18 | 99370 | 98870 | 189000 | 189000 | 67 | 24.5 | 54 | 54 | 720 | 700 | 360 | 360 |
| 11 | 17 | 17 | 111700 | 111700 | 253391 | 255440 | 85 | 30.5 | 85.2 | 83.8 | 632 | 600 | 474 | 470 |
| 12 | 21 | 21 | 140758 | 141852 | 312267 | 320125 | 75.6 | 50.2 | 110 | 105.3 | 913 | 823 | 570 | 561 |
| 13 | 11 | 11 | 68760 | 68760 | 175620 | 175620 | 26.34 | 26.34 | 51.57 | 51.57 | 425 | 425 | 224 | 224 |
| 14 | 15 | 16.2 | 94525 | 97600 | 225025 | 232000 | 44.53 | 30.56 | 75 | 78 | 570 | 551 | 410 | 413 |
| 15 | 4 | 3.2 | 14700 | 12420 | 50264 | 43680 | 9.94 | 5.03 | 24 | 21.92 | 188 | 140 | 108 | 90 |
| 16 | 8 | 6.7 | 51400 | 50220 | 96752 | 91136 | 24.3 | 14.97 | 41.95 | 38.34 | 362 | 278 | 210 | 190 |
| 17 | 4 | 3.7 | 14500 | 13820 | 50000 | 46328 | 10.6 | 5.14 | 20.42 | 19 | 210 | 170 | 102 | 92 |
| 18 | 6 | 4.3 | 43800 | 36890 | 75360 | 68780 | 18.1 | 9.61 | 24.87 | 21.6 | 250 | 182 | 132 | 116 |
| 19 | 11 | 11 | 67750 | 67650 | 162000 | 162533 | 29.32 | 19 | 42.3 | 42.3 | 427 | 415 | 225 | 215 |
| 20 | 16 | 14 | 83700 | 73400 | 229482 | 220563 | 49.63 | 23.43 | 86.4 | 82.4 | 576 | 490 | 334 | 308 |
| 21 | 23 | 23 | 96956 | 96956 | 304244 | 304244 | 45.8 | 45.8 | 113.5 | 113.5 | 916 | 916 | 568 | 568 |
| 22 | 17 | 15.3 | 121000 | 116756 | 262000 | 259852 | 52.7 | 26.36 | 78.9 | 75.41 | 625 | 578 | 428 | 406 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 23 | 8 | 6.4 | 49500 | 37814 | 109200 | 96384 | 23.5 | 11.7 | 24.14 | 22 | 346 | 289 | 138 | 115 |
| 24 | 17 | 18.6 | 120000 | 131000 | 286333 | 290472 | 46.92 | 32.55 | 91.1 | 96.65 | 642 | 638 | 538 | 541 |
| 25 | 11 | 11 | 57850 | 57850 | 184437 | 186500 | 33.25 | 27.54 | 35 | 35 | 450 | 374 | 203 | 198 |
| 26 | 25 | 25 | 181720 | 181630 | 354621 | 354990 | 100 | 95.3 | 132.5 | 130 | 1125 | 1119 | 700 | 696 |
| 27 | 5 | 3.7 | 28500 | 23220 | 60830 | 54305 | 17.3 | 10.25 | 30 | 26.32 | 252 | 187 | 110 | 85 |
| 28 | 24 | 21.6 | 161862 | 159170 | 310536 | 285640 | 96.2 | 55.39 | 120 | 110.62 | 1156 | 940 | 618 | 590 |
| 29 | 3 | 4.3 | 11800 | 12800 | 39967 | 41235 | 14.7 | 8.7 | 19.47 | 21.3 | 152 | 160 | 76 | 80 |
| 30 | 21 | 19 | 141960 | 123640 | 311271 | 296400 | 86.1 | 57.8 | 88.83 | 84.23 | 903 | 818 | 533 | 548 |
| 31 | 21 | 22 | 140758 | 142560 | 292400 | 291523 | 85 | 60.3 | 84 | 86.4 | 840 | 832 | 525 | 526 |
| 32 | 10 | 9.6 | 61476 | 60665 | 128220 | 128220 | 42.3 | 29.6 | 51.5 | 50 | 418 | 384 | 210 | 196 |
| 33 | 18 | 20 | 120916 | 135113 | 201562 | 227600 | 70.32 | 42.4 | 67.6 | 70.1 | 756 | 800 | 415 | 412 |
| 34 | 24 | 22.5 | 160240 | 151040 | 335000 | 329268 | 74.4 | 48.17 | 84 | 82.75 | 1030 | 945 | 652 | 625 |
| 35 | 12 | 13 | 73200 | 75075 | 185000 | 181762 | 35.84 | 22.49 | 55.8 | 57.16 | 453 | 440 | 335 | 340 |
| 36 | 24 | 24 | 160852 | 160280 | 346040 | 342621 | 87.2 | 59.2 | 96.8 | 95.3 | 994 | 960 | 630 | 624 |
| 37 | 5 | 5 | 25120 | 25120 | 56800 | 56800 | 19.3 | 19.3 | 22.21 | 22.21 | 215 | 215 | 111 | 111 |
| 38 | 1 | 1 | 5460 | 5375 | 15400 | 14850 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7.6 | 60 | 49 | 25 | 23 |
| 39 | 11 | 9 | 68950 | 67460 | 144000 | 140000 | 15.35 | 15.35 | 45.7 | 43.7 | 330 | 300 | 184 | 160 |
| 40 | 18 | 18 | 102882 | 104251 | 243146 | 246000 | 69.4 | 30.18 | 90 | 87.7 | 774 | 735 | 445 | 441 |
| 41 | 18 | 19 | 98680 | 106254 | 241570 | 239344 | 79 | 39.3 | 74.5 | 75.8 | 792 | 761 | 430 | 437 |
| 42 | 4 | 3.2 | 14550 | 12320 | 49692 | 43296 | 12.4 | 7.7 | 23 | 20 | 185 | 144 | 104 | 81 |
| 43 | 3 | 3 | 19500 | 12665 | 40654 | 40453 | 9.75 | 5.32 | 21 | 20.2 | 135 | 125 | 70 | 65 |
| 44 | 10 | 9.6 | 58493 | 58765 | 121000 | 120000 | 40.2 | 28.2 | 49 | 49 | 425 | 400 | 210 | 196 |
| 45 | 12 | 14 | 76300 | 77364 | 196760 | 200456 | 36.21 | 26 | 66.5 | 69 | 392 | 406 | 312 | 315 |
| 46 | 21 | 21 | 114860 | 113560 | 317520 | 317520 | 76.5 | 56.2 | 75.6 | 73 | 819 | 798 | 512 | 508 |
| 47 | 15 | 13.7 | 84464 | 82150 | 236700 | 233700 | 46.16 | 28.32 | 66.25 | 60.8 | 562 | 466 | 325 | 310 |
| 48 | 15 | 15 | 94725 | 93916 | 224890 | 226400 | 40.06 | 20.83 | 65 | 62 | 565 | 510 | 390 | 380 |
| 49 | 5 | 3.7 | 27950 | 24870 | 58957 | 52784 | 19.72 | 11.3 | 27.3 | 24.24 | 235 | 150 | 133 | 95 |
| 50 | 6 | 4.3 | 45860 | 43310 | 77400 | 68566 | 20.4 | 10.48 | 36.64 | 30.23 | 233 | 165 | 137 | 105 |
| average | 12.92 | 12.61 | 80049 | 78724 | 180524 | 178204 | 44.2 | 28.8 | 59.4 | 58.1 | 528.2 | 488.1 | 319.1 | 309.3 |
| highest value | 25 | 25 | 181720 | 181630 | 354621 | 354990 | 100 | 95 | 133 | 130 | 1156 | 1119 | 700 | 696 |
| lowest value | 1 | 1 | 5460 | 5375 | 15400 | 14850 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7.6 | 60 | 49 | 25 | 23 |

Source: the results of the analysis for the data of the research sample in 2022

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10/22/2022