

Dredging and weed control



Launching of the Cutter Suction Dredge



Mowing buckets deal with weed infestation

The project started in 1976, when a preparatory mission was invited to identify the Ministry of Irrigation's difficulties in the field of water management. The problems were:

- channels to the pumping stations serving the irrigation schemes in the Blue Nile area had to be dredged
- the Gezira Scheme suffered from weed growth and siltation
- the irrigation schemes along the White Nile and the Nile had to be surveyed.

First it had to be established how much was to be dredged and how this could be done within the irrigation timetable. The four intake channels concerned showed similar soil conditions, but the distances over which the spoil had to be transported varied.

So a small cutter suction dredger with a spud carriage was designed to suit the conditions in the narrow channels. A tug and a work launch facilitated transport and servicing, and the fleet was completed with a small survey launch for monitoring the siltation process in the intake channels. Finally, a training programme for dredger crew and management was set up and a redefinition of the organisational and managerial structures improved efficiency in dredging operations.

The purpose of the pilot project within the Gezira Scheme is to examine the best way of dealing with weed growth and siltation. Mechanical weed control proves also to be an efficient instrument in the fight against bilharzia.

The equipment used in this project includes hydraulic excavators, tractors with mowing buckets, screw-type excavators, rotary discs, mowing boats, amphibious weed cutters, and support and servicing plant such as bulldozers, graders, field repair trucks, etc. Another aim of the project is to build up a fully adapted equipment package. A cost benefit analysis was added to round off the technical study.

Client

Ministry of Irrigation

Location

The Sudan

Year

1978 - 1983

Services

- procurement of equipment
- dredge crew training
- project assistance
- management training

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