Introduction:

- The Egyptian cotton production (ELS & LS) represents about 25% of total Extra-Fine cotton production, and less than 1.3% of total world cotton production (all cotton).

- Egypt, USA and China (Mainland) are the largest producers of Extra-Fine cotton (represents about 70%).

- The Egyptian production in 2009/10 had decreased to the lowest level since 1960.

Difficults facing cotton producers

- The cotton producers have been shifted to produce profitable competing crops due to the unguarded marketing system, they receive a low price, along with difficulties to finance inputs.

- The costs of the hand picking represents about 40% of total cotton production costs.

- The private sector is not permitted to produce or handle the cotton seed, this mission is totally entitled to the government.
The Government role in 2010/11 season

- The Government in 2010/11 season will take appropriate steps to assist the cotton producers to come back to cotton by:
  - Putting a fair guaranteed price to protect them away from cotton prices fluctuation.
  - Providing some subsidies (including preparing the land, availability of cotton seeds and the necessary guidance).
  - Beginning to use mechanized harvesting by cotton picker in a small areas to reduce production costs, it is funded by the French side.
  - Taking approval steps to produce the short upland cotton in a new areas using machines from planting to harvesting.
  - Putting a new, modern, easy & complete irrigation system instead of the current old system, which will save about 30-40% of irrigation water.

- Promoting the Cotton Research Institute to serve new improved ELS & LS varieties.
- A new variety ELS (Giza 92) is exceeding (Giza 88) in productivity, fiber quality and resistance to cotton leaf & boll worm.
- Successful testing in cotton Genetic Engineering has been done through the Genetic Engineering Research Institute.
- The projected production for 2010/11 season will be increased by 21-30% more than 2009/10.

Thank You