



RAWYA MANSOUR

Social Entrepreneur, Environmental Activist & Women's Rights Activist

A woman of many talents, Rawya Mansour began her career as an interior designer. After over two decades in the field and gaining a world-wide reputation of artistic taste and excellence, Rawya decided to set her sights elsewhere. As she put it "I want to make not only the lives of the rich beautiful, but to enrich the lives of those most segregated".

In 2007, just before the Egyptian food riots Mansour foresaw the need for a drastic change, and took the matter in her own hands by founding RAMSCO for Trade and Distribution. There she developed and tested a groundbreaking approach to organic agro-business within Egypt, through the invention of fertilizers and agro-technology. Upon the success the pilot project in her research center, Mansour founded the RAMSCO for Sustainable Agricultural Development in 2009. In 2012 Mansour established OASIS (Organic Agriculture for Social International Solidarity) in The Principality of Monaco.

Mansour's work proved to be an incredible tool for climate change adaptation, as she has developed and patented machines that recycles rice straw and other agri-waste (the burning of which leads to the "black smog" that pollutes cities like Cairo, leading to growing rates of asthma in its residents) and turns it into biochar. Biochar has been proven to be the only way of reversing climate change, as it is capable of reclaiming desertification and decreasing green house gas from agri-waste.

Hand-in-hand with combating environmental degradation Mansour works towards poverty elevation and emancipation of rural women. Currently employing young women in organic farming and training on quality packaging to ensure gender equality, women autonomy & financial independence. RAMSCO works with women from the Ismalia and Behera region where women otherwise have low daily wages and social rights as daily workers. By employing these marginalized women they have grown a sense of empowerment and economic autonomy, which has been proven to give them bargaining power in their homes.

Furthermore, RAMSCO has introduced for the first time in this region equal salaries for men and women farmers, as well as health insurance benefits. As per tradition women farmers in this region receive half the income of a male farmer for the same amount of work. By breaking this tradition and introducing equal pay Rawya Mansour has shattered the status quo by giving women equal rights and status as a man in the workplace.

All of this work has been building to the achievement of Mrs. Mansour's larger dream of worldwide holistic eco villages in the Mediterranean. These eco villages will continue to carry out the use of Mansour's green technology building towards food security and environmental adaptation. Rawya Mansour's innovative vision is to invest on sustainable projects able to reduce poverty and contribute to "save the planet". She is the engine and co-founder of the project We Are The People.

"It costs nothing to dream, but everything not to" is the motto Rawya Mansour lives by.