



AFRICA-ISRAEL

**AGRICULTURAL TRADE
MISSION**

1 - 4 December 2019 | Tel Aviv - Israel



REPORT

DAY 1

REGISTRATION – SEEDS – ANIMAL FEED – DAIRY

After a short introduction by each one of the participants, the first day was devoted to the study of seeds and their impact on crops and livestock.





We visited Hazera, a seeds company, a world leader in its sector. Asaf Stern, International Sales Manager Africa, gave us a presentation about their products, improved seeds (tomatoes, seedless watermelons, onion, corn, and other legumes and fruits) as well as their work and achievements in Africa; he then led us to visit one of their numerous greenhouses. The company offers integrated solutions to the projects, where all parameters are taken into account, following discussions with the local partners, in order to provide the highest agricultural productivity at the best possible cost. Hazera invited us all for lunch in their premises.





We then continued to Beer Tuvia, to visit Yaziv, a large animal feed centre in Southern Israel, serving dozens of farmers, from the region and far beyond, accompanied by Kfir Levi, Marketing Director. The centre, the largest in Israel and probably the largest in the Middle East, includes a variety of feeding elements, produced locally or imported, which together allow for an optimal mix of nutritional components and vitamins, which are essential for a balanced diet to the cattle and other animals and ensure their health and reproduction.





Next, we visited a large private cowshed and a dairy farm in Beer Tuvia, with Guy Golan, Owner and Director. For a successful and beneficial production of an average of 34l milk daily, there is need to take good care of the animals. To facilitate the work, it's important to keep some of the value chain's components geographically close to the farmers. This is why Guy founded, together with other farmers, the animal feed centre, to reduce costs and ensure good communication between the farmers.



DAY 2

MATC TRAINING CENTRE - FISH FARMING - IRRIGATION

Agriculture is a business. All visits and discussions of the second day focused on controlling and intensifying yields, adapting them without disrupting harvests, minimizing waste of water and production resources during and after harvests.

Finally, we discussed the importance of choosing suitable crops for environmental conditions and local demands.





On the second day, the delegation participated in a tour of Kibbutz Shefayim where MATC, MASHAV Agricultural Training Center is located. Guided by Evelyn Rosenthal, Deputy Director, the group had the opportunity to soak up the cooperative ideology and model of the Kibbutz, a model that is now partly adopted in different regions in Africa. MATC provides training in various subjects and agricultural sectors, such as irrigation systems, farm management and agricultural entrepreneurship, over periods that vary from two weeks to a month and more. Participants understood the importance of creating agricultural training centres in Africa





We then continued further North to visit Madan Aquaculture Systems in Kibbutz Maagan Michael where we saw their extensive and intensive aquaculture farms in ponds and in tanks. Accompanied by Boaz Ginzburg, Project Director, participants could watch first-hand the extensive and intensive aquaculture techniques, and consider ways to adapt them in their own countries. Extensive aquaculture, as it is practiced in Israel for all types of fish, can reduce costs, control diseases, and obtain high yields. This is an important sector in Israel, since imports account for more than half of the local consumption.







We then continued to Kibbutz Magal, site of Netafim, a world leader in drip irrigation, a technology invented in Israel in the 50s to address the scarcity of water and the need to increase agricultural productivity. The site visit and the works done by Netafim were presented to us by Victoria Lilti, Project Manager, and allowed us to better understand water Management systems and different irrigation and fertilisation technologies, already used in Africa.





DAY 3

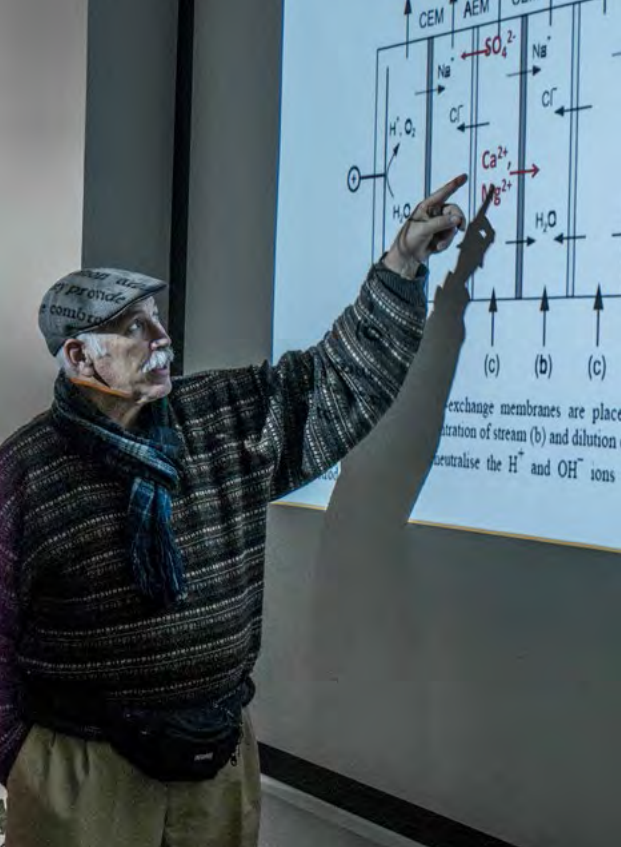
DESERT AGRICULTURE – R&D CENTRE – GREENHOUSES IN THE DESERT – SOLAR ENERGY

On this third day, we discussed how science and technology have helped Israel overcome the disadvantages of its natural geography.

Many of our delegates come from regions in Africa that suffer from water scarcity and desertification. We therefore dedicated the 3rd day to desert agriculture and water management in arid areas. We spent the morning at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, established in the middle of the Israeli desert (the “Negev”), where we learned of some of the amazing projects and researches from Prof. Simon Barak, Director of the Agriculture & Biotechnology School at the Blaustein Institute of desert research.







After lunch in yet another Kibbutz, Mashabei Sadeh, we continued to Ramat Negev R&D to learn of the great agricultural works by Tsion Shemer, Director and we then visited some of the greenhouses where new varieties are tested before they are commercially proposed to the local farmers. Today most of Israel's agricultural fresh produce for both local consumption and export comes from the few dozens farms situated all over the Negev desert, where high technological developments and inventions are used and examined every day.





DAY 4

The last day was devoted to visits of the holy sites in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.



We visited, with our amazing guide Eli, the Church of the Nativity and admired the panoramic views of the mountains and valleys of Judea. In Jerusalem we walked along the Via Dolorosa, visiting the main stations where Jesus walked before his death and burial. We also visited the Western Wall, as well as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which according to tradition contains the two holiest sites in Christianity: the site where Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, and Jesus' empty tomb, where he is said to have been buried and from where he resurrected. Our Muslim colleagues spent this time praying at the Al Aqsa Mosque.

The mission ended with a dinner in Tel Aviv. This day was very eventful for all participants, who will certainly keep an unforgettable memory. Certificates of participation were distributed to the participants on top of the Mount of Olives, in front of the Al Aqsa Mosque.





