



ISRAEL'S NEW HORIZONS AGRICULTURE

Israel creates and shares agricultural technology and techniques.

With 60 percent of Israel exposed to a harsh desert climate, its farmers and agricultural scientists have developed innovative ways to cultivate crops with minimal water. Today, Israeli techniques and technology, such as drip irrigation, have transformed farming around the world. To help other countries expand both the yield and quality of crops, the Jewish state has launched agricultural programs worldwide to help build human capacity, foster research, and create demonstration farms and agribusiness consulting centers.

Agricultural development is a key priority of the Israeli government.

In 2013, the State of Israel launched a \$78 million, seven-year initiative to bolster the relationship between agricultural research and Israeli industry. The Israeli private sector has also provided funding in support of this effort. The government hopes to boost exports of cutting edge agrotechnology to help meet the needs of the international community. Beyond benefiting developing countries worldwide, the Israeli government anticipates that this program will help position Israel as a global center of innovation for agricultural technology and food production.

America and Israel work closely together on agriculture.

In 1977, to establish joint collaboration on agricultural projects, Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) provided funding to launch the U.S.-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Foundation (BARD). The program leverages small investments from both governments to facilitate scientific partnerships, and has promoted innovative research in areas such as drip irrigation, disease control, and farm equipment. Each year, BARD awards approximately 25 grants, each averaging \$300,000 over a three-year period, which is split evenly between Israeli and U.S. researchers. Since inception, it has awarded more than \$300 million.

AIPAC actively works to advance U.S.-Israel agricultural cooperation.

AIPAC has strongly supported the BARD Foundation since its creation, and in 2014 mobilized on behalf of the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act. This legislation, authored by Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL), laid the groundwork to facilitate additional cooperation in agriculture. Today, AIPAC continues to engage with Congress, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture, and BARD to support expanded efforts in this growing partnership. AIPAC's charitable foundation, the American Israel Education Foundation, also brings members of Congress and other key policymakers to Israel, where they gain first-hand understanding of Israel's world-leading expertise in agricultural development.