

Arising From The Israeli Desert

# *Ramat Negev* Desert Agro-Research Center

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since 1981

Located in a desert region characterized by a hot, arid climate and sandy, clay-baked soil. Inaugurated over 50 years ago for the purpose of finding use for brackish [semi-salty] water pumped from local wells.

Today, after conducting hundreds of practical research studies, the region's agriculture has developed vastly and is, indeed, at the forefront of state-of-the-art technology.

Just as we have done in Ramat HaNegev, by turning the desert into a thriving, flowering garden, and as we have done in many other places in the world, we offer dozens of years of cumulative experience and propose establishing a similar local R&D Center. This center will strive to address local problems, to acclimatize new products and to apply our accumulated know-how to highly efficient use of water and soil and optimal utilization of the local climate, all this in cooperation with the local farmers.



David Ben Gurion's vision:

” Scientific innovation arising  
from the Israeli Desert ”



**Ramat Negev  
Desert Agro-Research Center**



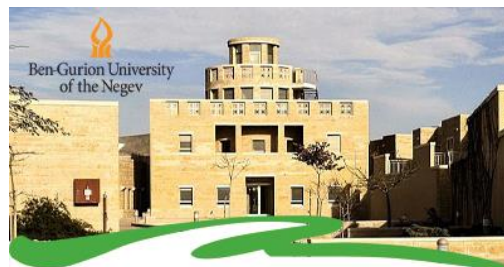
**Tomatoes are the leading branch in Ramat HaNegev's agriculture.** is the largest Israeli exporter This is due to Ramat-Hanegev R&D center that has developed the Cherry tomatoes (Vine tomatoes) "Desert Sweets" the world has fallen in love with. Our region of cherry (vine) tomatoes.

Our farmers grow over 80% of all the cherry tomatoes in Israel.

The Ramat HaNegev International R&D Desert Agricultural Center specializes in this crop and has found a solution to the aforementioned problems of soil and pests as well as providing other agro-technical solutions for streamlining the crop- growing process.



**Midreshet Ben-Gurion, agriculture and biotechnology Infrastructures**



**Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Blaustein Institute for Desert Research.**



**Ramat Negev Desert Agro-Research Center** Specializing in advanced agricultural developments under arid conditions including saline water irrigation.



Ramat Negev  
Desert Agro-Research Center

Our key activities today include:

**Developing agro-techniques for increasing crop-growing profitability**

We are currently performing practical research related to increasing profitability in all crop-growing branches including:

- Testing new varieties of vegetables and orchard fruit
- Improving agro-techniques
- Streamlining irrigation and fertilization
- Saving manual labor costs
- The experiments and their implementation are being performed on many types of crops such as tomato, pepper, melon, herbs, cucumber, eggplant, olives, pomegranates, edible/wine grapes, dates jojoba and more.

**International projects**

The Ramat HaNegev International R&D Desert Agricultural Center is also engaged in instructing and training foreign students majoring in Agriculture in the following frameworks:

An annual 11-month training program for ~500 agriculture students from abroad, who study one day a week and the rest of the time receive practical hands-on training from farmers in the region.

The project is managed jointly by Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of the Interior. Moreover, the center has a great deal of experience in sending experts to intensive courses and/or to provide online advice, and in hosting short-term researchers who come here to acquire practical experience in managing this type of research.

Over the years, the center has supported agricultural activities in numerous countries. Here are some examples illustrating the center's outreach to assist other nations:

**In Egypt**, we established and accompanied an international project under the auspices of the National Bank. An experimental center was erected which examined which crops were ideal for the Marryut region. After this examination it was decided to concentrate on growing strawberries, and, indeed, the district is now the leader in strawberry growing in Egypt, making it a prominent player in the world. The project that we built there was funded by the World Bank.

**In the U.S.**, our center accompanied the Hopi Native-American tribe, aiding them in enhancing their farming techniques with the help of innovative and advanced technologies. This project was funded by philanthropic institutions and non-profit organizations.



## Ramat Negev Desert Agro-Research Center

### **Water for irrigation – minimizing the use of drinking water for agriculture**

Use of brackish water:

Conducting studies for finding economically feasible crops resistant to saltiness, such as olives, cotton, potatoes, tomatoes and so on.

At present, the region's farmers are consuming the entire amount of brackish water being pumped from aquifers, and the demand for this water is exceeding the supply.

Desalinated water

We have developed a unique technology for controlling the levels of dilution (with the aid of irrigation computers). We've also performed a series of experiments, which were crowned a success, for diluting brackish water (which is rich in minerals) with desalinated water, so as to retain the rich mineral content in the irrigation water.

### **Solving joint problems**

The center has performed multiple studies for coping with soil diseases and pests while successfully reducing the use of toxic pesticides

### **Developing new products**

The center specializes in acclimatizing new products, creating research infrastructure and professional guidelines for new crops. We dedicate a great many resources to developing new agricultural products, for both local use and outside markets.

### **Guidance and instruction**

The center's team of researchers – specializing in vegetables, fresh herbs, new products, orchards, protecting plant life, and post-harvest treatment – accompany and provide guidance to Ramat HaNegev farmers, thus addressing immediate and pressing problems in real time.

The Ramat HaNegev International R&D Desert Agricultural Center works in full cooperation with all of Israel's academic and governmental institutions engaged in agriculture. Every year, dozens of researchers from these institutions conduct their research at our experimental center in Ramat HaNegev.



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Ramat Negev

# Agriculture R&D Center

since 1981

A few more products developed here:



**Salicornia**  
Healthy salt that until now was only growing wild at the Israeli deserts



**Juju berry**  
Growing a novel health food at arid climates



**Desert truffles**  
This "white gold" can now be grown in the desert, and at low cost!



**Desert Stork's**  
Bill flower as a health product – a possible solution for intestinal disease

### Goals:

- Develop new agricultural technologies & products
- Enrich the offering of grown products at arid climate areas
- Transferring knowledge to farmers all over the world

### Infrastructures:

Greenhouses, incubators, orchards, climate controlled greenhouses, irrigation and fertilization labs, post-harvest processing of fruits.

### Developing agricultural Infrastructures around the world:

Greenhouses, incubators, orchards, climate controlled greenhouses, irrigation and fertilization labs, post-harvest processing of fruits.

Built & developed the tomatoes growth infrastructures in Egypt (now, one of the largest importers of tomatoes.





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since 1981

At arid desert climate and topography, we've managed to grow a variety of crops and agricultural branches:

Poultry farming, dairy products, tomatoes, olives, yams, herbs, flowers, vineyards, pomegranates, citrus and other fruits, etc.

