



Israel's Journey to Sustainable Agriculture

How Israel's Innovative Water Conservation Efforts Transforms Crop Production

Israel as a nation has changed and developed over centuries; however, the people have always had the heart to reside in and establish their roots in the soil of their homeland. From ancient times until present day, Israel has tilled and worked the land for harvest.

Most of the Jewish feasts center around sowing and harvesting because cultivating the ground was the Jewish people's livelihood.

ROMAN EXILE (70 AD)

Romans drove the Jewish people from their homeland where they lived for over 1,000 years.

BEGIN TO RETURN (Late 1800s)

Jews began to return in small groups to their homeland. This return led to the beginning of the rebirth of the nation.

The Jewish people discovered that, in order to survive, they had to make the desert bloom.

MARK TWAIN'S RECORDING OF ISRAEL'S LAND (1881)

Mark Twain recorded in his book *The Innocents Abroad* that the land of Israel was a "desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds—a silent mournful expanse."

ZIONIST MOVEMENT

Both pre-Zionist and Zionist movements began with the goal to revive the Jewish land physically through agricultural production, as well as create and support a national state.

FIRST ALIYAH (1882-1903)

Approximately 35,000 Jews migrated to Israel. The arid climate made growing crops difficult. The initial settlement in the land founded moshavim (farming communities), and through an investment banker in France, began to thrive.

SECOND ALIYAH (1904-1914)

Approximately 40,000 Jews migrated to Israel. Most of these immigrants were young people. The first kibbutz was established. Kibbutz means "gathering" in Hebrew. These settlements in Israel consisted of Jews whose communities were based on agricultural production.

THIRD ALIYAH (1919-1923)

Another approximately 40,000 Jews migrated to Israel. The population reached over 90,000 at this point. The Jewish economy began to grow from agricultural production and subsidiary businesses.

WORLD WAR I (1914-1918)

Hostile attitudes toward Jews increased, and their demographics in Israel changed. Migration slowed, and Jews dispersed within Europe.

BALFOUR DECLARATION (1917)

The British government announced support for Jews to return and establish their homeland.

FOURTH ALIYAH (1924-1929)

Another roughly 82,000 Jews migrated to Israel. The return was largely due to the Immigration Restriction Act of 1924 when the United States closed its doors to refugees. Jews who moved at this time were mostly middle class and rounded out the economy with small family businesses.

FIFTH ALIYAH (1929-1939)

The largest Aliyah to date, this was the time leading up to World War II. Jews who moved at this time were primarily professionals: doctors, lawyers, writers, and artists. The Jews brought innovative engineering and architecture, boosting the economy once again.

HOLOCAUST (1933-1945)

Approximately 6 million Jews, about 2/3 of the Jewish population, were systematically and brutally killed.

SIMCHA BLASS DISCOVERED DRIP IRRIGATION (1930s)

A Jewish inventor and chief water engineer of Israel in the 1930s made the accidental discovery of drip irrigation, resulting in a process that provided plants with healthy water flow while conserving water.

ALIYAH BET (1939-1948)

This movement was done in "secret" because it was a time in which Jews couldn't enter their homeland due to British intervention.

INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (1948-present)

Agricultural communities grew from 400-900, and production increased sevenfold, keeping ahead of the population.

JEWISH STATE ESTABLISHED (May 14, 1948)

David Ben-Gurion became the first prime minister of Israel, and the nation was officially established.

KIBBUTZIM STRUGGLE (1950s, 60s, 70s)

With many Israelis moving to cities for jobs, the once thriving communities struggled.

KIBBUTZIM POPULATION GREW (1950s)

Approximately 67,000 Israelis lived on kibbutzim, which made up 7.5% of the population. As military bases were designed, the early kibbutzim were placed along the borders to help defend the country.

KIBBUTZIM PEAK (1989)

Approximately 129,000 people lived on 270 kibbutzim.

MY OLIVE TREE ESTABLISHED (2004)

Founder Curt Landry met with Prime Minister Ben Netanyahu and discussed Israel's economic independence.

KIBBUTZIM TODAY (1990s-present)

In recent years there has been a movement to return to kibbutzim, and young families desire the community and slower pace in contrast to the city.

MY OLIVE TREE PLANTING (2016)

Planted 20,000 olive trees in Israel, furthering the goal of 1 million.

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT (2015)

California farmers experienced a drought and began looking for innovative ways to conserve water. They used drip irrigation, discovered by a Jewish inventor in the 1930s, and saved 35% water and produced 70% more tomatoes per 1,000 gallons of water.

UNITED STATES EMBASSY MOVED TO JERUSALEM (2018)

President Trump kept his promise and stood with Israel, moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem during Israel's 70th year of Independence.

MY OLIVE TREE PLANTING IN KIBBUTZIM (present)

My Olive Tree provides trees to kibbutz farmers. The farmers plant, care for, and harvest the trees, reaping 100% profit from the olive production.

Throughout history, the Jewish people have demonstrated their ability to withstand incredible adversity and still emerge with strength and prosperity. While there is a debate about the rights of Israel's to the land, there is no doubt the nation flourished when they returned and called it home. The Lord's steadfast promises remain with His people.

MOVING FORWARD:

It is our vision to continue standing with Israel just as God calls us to do according to His will and purpose.

Do you want to know more about Israel's agriculture and how to personally get involved?



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