



SME Development & Job Creation, Food Security, Agro-Technology and Cleantech: A Cooperative Outlook

A professional tour organized by the Weitz Center for Sustainable Development

The Israeli Experience



The development of Israel's cooperative movement is unique in that it rose alongside the formation of the country's Jewish national entity. What started out as an organization focused on dealing with the conditions of the peripheral reality, evolved into both a practical and ideological approach to handling citizens' common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations, as well as helped foster a system of mutual assistance between laborers.

Economic, environmental and social challenges required adopting a comprehensive approach in order to strengthen community livelihoods. As such, throughout the process, Israel accumulated wealth of experiences and best practices across major themes, including: community building & income generation, food security, agricultural technologies, and clean energy. For instance, Israel's Kibbutz cooperative structures are seen as efficient models of agricultural communities combining rural community empowerment and developed local governance. These structures, in addition to other forms of cooperatives, are the backbone for the development of viable communities that are able to confront and adapt to pressing challenges.

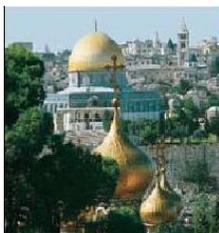
To best share knowledge and disseminate information to the participants, this tour will focus on the following themes, while paying close attention to the cooperative framework: Job Creation & SME Development, Food Security, Agro-Technology and Innovation, and Cleantech and Carbon Neutrality.

Learning Objectives

This professional tour will focus on 4 themes within the framework of cooperatives:

1. SME Development & Job Creation: Income generation, opportunities for development and growth
2. Food Security: Improving farmers' livelihoods and meeting demand
3. Agro-Technology and Innovation: New technologies, developmental challenges, meeting increasing demand via innovation
4. Cleantech & Carbon Neutrality: Environmental management and clean energy

Visits to Holy Sites



Israel holds in its territory sites considered sacred by the three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. During the professional tour, participants will tour the ancient streets of Jerusalem and the stunning scenery surrounding the Sea of Galilee. Throughout the trip, participants will have an opportunity to go back to biblical times, connect with the deep spirituality of the sites and take away an unforgettable experience in the 'Holy Land'.

The professional tour includes:

- Field visit and professional meetings;
- Pickup from airport and complete transport to accommodation & meetings;
- Entrance to sites and locations;
- Professional guides;
- Health Insurance;
- Half Board pension (Breakfast and lunch);
- Accommodation in 4 star hotel in the city center of Tel Aviv;
- Tourism to Jerusalem and Nazareth.

For a tentative program, further information and cost estimates, please

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