

Agriculture, Food and Environment

helping to feed the world
learn more...



Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment

The Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment is the only institute of higher education in Israel offering university degrees in agriculture and is also home to the only Schools of Nutritional Sciences and of Veterinary Medicine. Established in 1942 as the Institute for Agricultural Sciences with 21 masters students, the Faculty today has a student body of 2,300 students.

Some of the Faculty research achievements and innovations include methods of drip irrigation and fertigation; tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables bred with long shelf life, improved taste and disease resistance; returning the fragrance to flowers; intensive arid-zone agriculture; soil solarisation - a non-chemical method of controlling soil borne plant diseases; green-farming techniques - use of natural biofertilisers and biocontrol by biofungicides and parasitic insects - to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, fungicides and pesticides; recycling technologies for waste-water reclamation and composting of solid municipal and agricultural wastes; using plants to purify water polluted by heavy metals.



Research at the Faculty has improved and increased yields of fruits, vegetables, grain crops, flowers and cotton; helped overcome problems of pest damage and soil contamination; led to the most efficient use of water for agriculture; produced ground-breaking innovations in irrigation techniques; helped develop Israel's annual flower export from almost nil in the 1960's, to its current status as one of the largest exporters of flowers in the world, and much more.