

## Israel- A Revolution In Agriculture

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**ARTICLE ID: 014**

### **History of Agriculture in Israel**

Israel was established on 14<sup>th</sup> may 1948 and Jews from all over the world became the permanent residents of Israel. Jews considered Israel as their own homeland. Jews never know the farming system but the onslaught of World War – II has forced the residents of Israel to do farming. They converted the barren lands into useful one keeping beside all the unsuitable conditions.

### **Status of Agriculture in Israel**

Now a day, Israel produces 90% of its own food requirement and feeds major parts of the world. It is the major exporter of fresh foods and leader of the world in agriculture technology. Israel has its independent food security. In Israel, 17% of the total agriculture budget is allocated to research and development only. Israel doesn't import anything except some tropical foods.

As it is well known that geographical conditions of Israel are not suitable for agriculture but despite that the development in agriculture sector over there is at its peak and tremendous. The climatic conditions are worst as seen from agriculture perspective. The water availability is too poor and most of it is saline in nature. Over half of the total soil found there is either arid or semiarid. In beginning only 20% of the total land was arable but now Israel tripled the territory use of farming. Its production has multiplied 16 times since then changing the whole scenario of Israel. Israel is the home to two main agriculture communities i.e. Kibbutz and Moshav community. A very successful practice is noticed for water conservation in Israel which can be implemented on any type of crops.

### **Successful examples of Agriculture from Israel:**

Here are some examples related to the success of agriculture in Israel

1. **Use of Plastic Tunnel:** Plastic tunnel is a device used to save plants from excessive water. Holes present in the tunnel help to respire the plants. It is well said that a country facing water scarcity for years knows how to save each single drop.
2. Mandarins are a special type of orange cultivated in Israel having thin skin, seedless and very sweet. The plants are covered with a special type of plastics to protect them from acid rain and hailstorms. After harvesting the trees are trained and pruned to allow more and more sunlight.
3. Cactus is the major plantation in Israel. It can be eaten and can be used in many more ways like as ornamental plant.
4. They also produce fishes in deserts and grow wheat in low quantity of sand.

### **What Israel used to do?**

As we know that Indian farmers mainly depend upon monsoon for farming but on the other hand Israel farmers don't wait for the perfect weather. Israel also employs Thai labourers as it is a very small country having small population. They praise their farmers very well. Israel exports agriculture technology all over the world. As agricultural equipments are the backbone of agriculture so Israel produces most of these equipments locally. They don't depend upon other countries for import of latest & advanced machines and technologies. Scientific and proper use of these equipments under complete expert guidance leads to successful journey of agriculture sector over there. Now, here are some of the key points highlighting the key of success of Israel-

- Use of different sprayers, sprinklers and drip irrigation system for different crops under properly controlled computerized system.
- Computerized early warning system for leaks in the pipes and nozzles.
- Thermal imaging for crop water stress detection.
- Biological pest control.
- Introduction of new varieties of fruits and vegetables.
- Dairy and desert farming practices are superb.
- 86% of water is reused and stored after desalination through plants.
- Livestock farming is a big source of income for Israelis. Israel Holstein breed is high milk yielding breed.

- All the agricultural inputs i.e from seed to sprayers etc everything is available in one shop/store.

**Conclusion:**

If a country like Israel which is having very limited resources can develop its agriculture sector at such a faster rate then why can't our country with such a wide range of diversification. Though India is also one of the leading countries in the production of vegetables and fruits but still the productivity per unit area is very low. In addition to this, India also exports some agricultural commodities and machineries from foreign countries. Indian farmers are still poor because they do not get the appropriate price for their produce. Productivity of crops per unit area & farmer's satisfaction can also be increased in India too but for this Government has to come with strong agricultural policies and it will require higher investment in beginning but this will be beneficial in long run.

