Indo-Israel Agriculture Project (IIAP)
Concept paper

Policy

India has chosen Israel as a strategic partner (G2G) in the field of agriculture. This partnership evolved into the Indo-Israel Agricultural Project (IIAP), whose Objectives are as following:

- Increasing crop diversity
- Increasing productivity
- Increasing resources use efficiency

IIAP is implemented via establishment of Centers of Excellence (CoE), in which Technologies and know-how are disseminated.

IIAP is operating within the framework of a 2nd Green Revolution.

Stakeholders

- **National Horticulture Mission** (NHM) – Defining IIAP’s goals, Authorizing and budgeting activity.
- **State Governments** - allocating staff, land (state owned) and budget.
- **Mashav** - Providing professional leadership in the shape of experts, know-how and technologies.

CoEs are jointly set up according to defined gaps & needs of the Indian Government.

Implementation

IIAP has been initiated (phase 01) during 2009 after signing a bilateral agreement between Indian and Israeli ministers of Agriculture (2006).

Each phase lasts for three years (2009-2012; 2012-2015). During Phase 01 (2009-2012) 4 Centers of Excellence in Haryana and Maharashtra were established.

During Phase 02 (2012-2015) 8 more states joined the project with 25 additional CoE.
**Concept**

Four pillars are at the base of the IIAP:

1. **Applied Research** - provides solutions to the farmers, mapping the challenges and closing the gap.
   
   Example 1: Increasing water use efficiency through the use of Drip irrigation, as a result saving energy, water, nutrients and labor and achieving better yield.
   
   Example 2: CoE conducts comparative test of different varieties which includes parameters such as yield, quality, and suitability to local conditions. The Center will recommend the best performing varieties for use by the farmers.
   
   Example 3: CoE produces high-quality, healthy, virus and pest-free Seedlings and vegetables plugs. As a high quality seedling is a base for a strong and productive plant.

2. **Field Extension** (SMS) - the linking element between the applied research and the farmers.

   Carried out by the government extension officers. The purpose of this important link is double: first, to disseminate the knowledge and second, to make sure that the new technologies are assimilated and implemented by the farmers in the field.

3. **Progressive Farmers** - IIAP Target Audience is both small and large farm holders.

   Farmers implement the technologies demonstrated at the CoE and they set an example, becoming role models to other farmers.

4. **Sustainability** - IIAP aims to develop into a self-sufficient platform in the aspect of HR, accumulated knowledge & operating capabilities. The CoE acts as a meeting point and working environment for Academy, Government and farmers to cooperate towards fruitful achievements.
CoE scope of activity

CoE acts as platform to achieve the following goals:

- **Trial and Error**- introduce and evaluate new crops, cultivation techniques, and practices
- **Innovation**- lead "out of the box" approach
- **Training**- enhance knowledge via hands-on and in-class training both in India & Israel
- **Demonstration**- Exhibit new technologies, practices and their outcome in open days, publications and seminars
- **Extension**- Spread knowledge accumulated within the CoE to farmers by having a strong and capable extension officers

IIAP Agricultural segments

**Protected cultivation**-

- **Crops**: Capsicum, Tomato, Cucumber and more
- **Structure**: Hi-tech Greenhouse, Naturally Ventilated Polyhouses (NVPH), Anti Insect Net house (AINH), Walk-in Tunnels

**Orchards, Fruit trees**-

- **Crops**: Citrus, Pomegranate, Mango, Dates

**Cut Flowers, Integrated Beekeeping (IBDC)**

**Practices**: increase quality, infrastructure, Enhance technical knowledge, quality control