

**MASHAV - Israel's Agency for International
Development Cooperation**

with

The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies

invite English-speaking professionals to participate in the



STATE OF ISRAEL



Israel's Agency for International
Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Arava Institute for
Environmental Studies

Kibbutz Ketura, Israel

International Course on

**Integrated Solutions to Environmental
Challenges in Developing Communities**

November 12 – December 1 , 2023



About the Course

Background

Environmental challenges have a variety of causes with multiple effects. These effects manifest themselves locally, regionally, or globally. Dealing with these challenges is often complicated, involving many elements, such as society, locale, time scale, and multiple scientific disciplines.

Communities consist of systems, subsystems, and other components in a complex hierarchy. In this course, we will learn how "design thinking" offers a more appropriate mindset than deterministic and reductionist thinking when addressing the various stages of environmental projects. Such an approach to environmental problem-solving helps build a system- and complexity-aware approach when considering project initiating, planning, executing, monitoring, controlling, and closing. The "design" approach, including the life-cycle analysis approach, will be used in this course to show the integration and interaction of different components, and how to utilize them to design sustainable integrated solutions in local communities.

The training course will be held at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, located on Kibbutz Ketura in the south of Israel, and provides an opportunity for mid-level professionals from the public and private sectors to gain knowledge about integrated solutions for environmental problems. Primary topics include the principles of design thinking for environmental solutions, sustainable project planning, design, and project implementation, while introducing relevant technologies.

Main subjects

The training course has four main pillars:

- I. Design thinking
- II. Sustainability and sustainable development
- III. The Nexus concept
- IV. Integrated technological solutions

In addition to frontal lectures, site visits will convey the importance of integrated environmental solutions through field trips to factories, projects, research centers in the north of the country and the Dead Sea region. Participants will also visit several sites in the southern Arava region, including landfills, waste sorting facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, renewable energy fields, aquaponics and permaculture centers.

Participants will take part in organized tours of the holy sites and locations of general and historical interest as well. Social and cultural activities will also be arranged.

Aims

Course participants will learn to:

- Promote participatory decision-making;
- Develop community needs assessments;
- Identify and develop appropriate tools (e.g., inventories, monitoring techniques, analysis, questionnaires etc.);
- Define various suitable technologies based on existing knowledge and need within the community (including economic parameters and priorities);
- Identify metrics for a project design, including project success vs. failure;
- Develop monitoring and evaluation procedures for a built system;
- Create transparent communication between different stakeholders.



Application

Application Requirements

The course is designed for individuals who are interested in expanding their knowledge and developing initiatives regarding integrated environmental solutions, design thinking, environmental management, and sustainable community governance. It is intended for mid-level professionals working for government or non-governmental organizations, decision-making bodies, academia, and the private sector. It is also beneficial for those who are involved in community development and are directly involved in the search for practical community solutions.

The program will be conducted in English, so participants must have a high level of English reading, writing, and speaking.

Participants should have at least the equivalent of a university degree or professional diploma and a desire to leverage their knowledge in a field related to integrated environmental solutions.

Competition for the MASHAV Courses is merit-based and selection will be made on the basis of applicants' achievements, interest, added value of the program to the participant, professional aptitude, leadership potential in the field of sustainability, and knowledge of English.

Funding for the MASHAV Courses is limited and the program is highly competitive; not all qualified applicants will receive awards.

Application forms

Application forms and other information may be obtained at the nearest Israeli Embassy or at the MASHAV or Arava Institute websites. Completed application forms, including medical forms, should be submitted no later than September 1st, 2023 to the Israeli Embassy nearest to you.

General Information

MASHAV awards a limited number of scholarships. The scholarship covers the cost of the training program including lectures and site visits, full-board accommodation in double rooms (two participants per room), health insurance (see next page) and transportation to and from the airport. Airfares and daily spending allowance are not included in the scholarship.

Arrival and Departure

Arrival date: Sunday, November 12th, 2023

Opening date: Monday, November 13th, 2023

Closing date: Thursday, November 30th, 2023

Departure date: Friday, December 1st, 2023

Participants must arrive in Israel on the arrival date, and leave on the departure date. Early arrivals/late departures (if required) must be arranged directly with the hotel/center, and must be paid for by the participant.

Location and Accommodation

The course will be held at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, situated at Kibbutz Ketura in the Arava Desert, a four-hour drive from the center of Israel. Kibbutz Ketura is a collective community, located in the Arava valley of Israel. It is approximately 50 kilometers from the Red Sea resort city of Eilat in the south of Israel. In November and December, the weather will be nice; temperatures will range from around 20°-30°C during the day and can get down to about 15°C at night. For more information on Kibbutz Ketura, you can access the website at: ketura.org.il

Health Services

1. **MASHAV'S Medical form/declaration** must be completed and submitted to the Embassy of Israel together with the application form.
2. **MASHAV'S Medical insurance** covers only medical services and hospitalization in case of emergency. It does not cover the treatment of chronic or existing conditions, specific medications taken by the participant on a regular basis, dental care and eyeglasses. Participants will be responsible for all other expenses, which are not covered by the insurance policy. Israeli Health authorities recommend that all visitors to Israel make sure they **have been vaccinated against tetanus in the last ten years.**

About MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation is dedicated to providing developing countries with the best of Israel’s experience in development and planning. As a member of the family of nations, The State of Israel is committed to fulfilling its responsibility to contribute to the fight against poverty and to the global efforts to achieve sustainable development. MASHAV, representing Israel and its people, focuses its efforts on capacity building, sharing relevant expertise accumulated during Israel's own development experience to empower governments, communities and individuals to improve their own lives.

MASHAV’s approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, and is taking active part in the international community’s process of shaping the Post-2015 Agenda, to define the new set of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MASHAV’s activities focus primarily on areas in which Israel has a competitive advantage, including agriculture and rural development; water resources management; entrepreneurship and innovation; community development; medicine and public health, empowerment of women and education. Professional programs are based on a “train the trainers” approach to institutional and human capacity building, and are conducted both in Israel and abroad. Since its establishment, MASHAV has promoted the centrality of human resource enrichment and institutional capacity building in the development process – an approach which has attained global consensus.

About the Arava Institute

The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies is the premier environmental teaching and research program in the Middle East, preparing future Arab and Jewish leaders to cooperatively solve the region’s environmental challenges. Located in the heart of Israel’s Arava desert, the Arava Institute is a unique oasis of environmental education, research, and international cooperation.

Students and researchers at the Arava Institute explore a range of environmental issues from a regional, interdisciplinary perspective while learning peace-building and leadership skills. The studies are international in scope, with a student body comprised of Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis, and North Americans, as well as other nationalities. The Arava Institute gives Jewish, Arab and other students and researchers a unique opportunity to study and live together for an extended period of time; building networks and understanding that will enable future cooperative work and activism in the Middle East and beyond. Here, the idea that nature knows no borders is more than a belief. It is a fact, a curriculum, and a way of life.

Website: arava.org