

The Institute for the Study of Agriculture

The Institute for the Study of Agriculture According to the Torah

The Institute has been operating for over sixty years in all areas involving agriculture in the Land of Israel according to halachah. It began with experiments in growing hydroponics, then providing a solution to farmers who keep Shmitta, and continuing to preventing orlah consumption throughout the country. The institute was founded in 1957, and since then has turned into a central information clearing-house concerning agriculture and halachah.

For years, the Institute's members, led by Dr. Zaks and the members of the halachic department, have focused on building a solution for preparing and planting seedlings in such a way that the count of the orlah year would only occur in the original nursery and most orchards in Israel would not have orlah plants. Only one familiar with agriculture would know that the Institute's activities to prevent any stumbling-blocks in this area were pivotal. The Minister of Agriculture stated that without the Institute's activities, there would have been no fruit with kosher certification.

The Institute's researchers accompany new plantings in Eretz Israel and map and catalog them. The information is accessible and is used as a primary tool by the Israeli Chief Rabbinate in mapping orlah in Israel. The Institute employs agronomists to supervise fruit trees from their planting to marketing and preventing the entry of orlah fruits to the markets. The Institute's instructions and its studies in the field of the mitzvos involving the Land of Israel and related daily affairs are distributed in a regular bulletin. The Institute also issues calendars of the dates relevant to Shmitta and orlah. This year is a Shmitta year, and the Institute's activities and information gathering is especially prolific. This information is provided to tens of thousands of households who need this information.

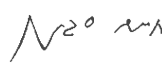
For their special integration of halachah and science, responsibility for society and the use of modern tools to observe the Torah, we decided to award the 5782-2022 Katz Prize to the Institute for the Study of Agriculture According to the Torah.



Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson



Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski



Rabbi Haim Sabato