

I. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

A brief History

The dream of the establishment of a Jewish university in the Land of Israel was part and parcel of the early Zionist vision. With the acquisition of the Gray Hill estate atop Mount Scopus, and the laying of the cornerstone for the university-to-be in 1918, the realization of the dream was on its way. Seven years later, on April 1, 1925, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was opened at a gala ceremony.

The University's first three research institutes were in microbiology, chemistry and Jewish studies, with a total of 33 faculty members and 141 students. A teaching program was inaugurated soon after. In 1931 the University awarded its first degrees, the Master of Arts, to 13 graduates, to be followed by the awarding of Ph.D. and B.A. degrees.

By 1947, the University had grown to the stature of a large, well established research and teaching institution. It comprised faculties or other units in humanities, science, medicine, education and **agriculture, (the last at a campus in Rehovot)**; the Jewish National and University Library; a University press; and an adult education center. Student enrollment exceeded 1,000 and there were some 200 members of the faculty.

The War of Independence in 1948 left the University cut off from the main Israeli-held sector of Jerusalem. The University was forced to seek other quarters, and its various components were scattered in buildings throughout Jerusalem. In 1953 construction began on a new main campus at Givat Ram in the heart of Jerusalem. A few years later, work began, together with the Hadassah Medical Organization, on a medical science campus in Ein Kerem in southwest Jerusalem. By the beginning of 1967, the number of faculties and schools had been greatly expanded, and enrollment exceeded 12,500, spread among the two campuses in Jerusalem and in **Rehovot**.

Following the Six-Day War of June 1967, the University's exile from Mount Scopus was ended. Work began immediately on restoring and expanding the original campus, and a Rothberg International School was opened there in 1971. In 1981, the construction work was completed, and the Mount Scopus campus again became the main campus of the University.

Brief Facts and Figures

- **Campuses:** Mount Scopus, Edmond Safra campus - Givat Ram, Ein Kerem (all in Jerusalem) and **Rehovot**
- **Academic staff:** 1,400 senior faculty members
- **Students:** nearly 23,000 full-time students, of whom one-third are graduate students and about 1,500 overseas students. An additional 14,000 students are enrolled in continuing education and extension courses.
- **Degrees granted:** over 90,000
- **Faculties:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, **Agriculture**, Medicine, Dental Medicine, and Law
- **Schools:** School of Education, Jerusalem School of Business Administration Sponsored by the Israel Discount Bank, Paul Baerwald School of Social

Work, Fredy and Nadine Herrmann Graduate School of Applied Science, School of Nutritional Sciences, Koret School of Veterinary Medicine, Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, Henrietta Szold-Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing, Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Occupational Therapy, School of Pharmacy, Braun Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine Founded by the Alpha Omega Fraternity, School of Library Science, Archive and Information Studies, Rothberg School for Overseas Students

- **Other units:** Jewish National and University Library, Joseph Saltiel Center for Pre-academic Studies, Martin Buber Center for Continuing Education, [Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace](#), Institute for Advanced Studies, Cosell Center for Physical Education, Leisure and Health Promotion, Authority for Research and Development, Yisum Research Development Corp., Magnes Press, Jerusalem and University Botanical Garden (Edmond Safra campus - Givat Ram), Montague Lamport Botanical Garden (Mount Scopus)
- **Research:** Over 2,500 projects, close to 40 percent of all civilian research conducted in Israel

II. The Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences/ Department of Agricultural Economics and Management.

The Faculty, which was founded in 1942 in the city of Rehovot with 21 students, is the only institution of higher education in Israel offering university degrees in agriculture, nutritional sciences and veterinary medicine. It has a current student body of 2200 students and it is comprised of 8 departments, one school and two institutes. The Faculty has some 120 lecturers and professors. Since its founding, the Faculty has been in the forefront of fostering research and education-bonding scientific knowledge and human innovation to create green spaces and developing Israeli agriculture.

The mission of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Management is to support the needs of the society for economic analysis related to agricultural and rural issues, food and agribusiness, and natural resources and the environment. The mission is advanced through an integrated program of teaching and research activities that focus on these issues. The program emphasizes basic economic knowledge, quantitative methods, and applied analysis, with the purpose of improving the quality of public and private decisions. Today, about 200 undergraduate students, 70 M.Sc. students and 10 Ph.D. students are enrolled in the program. The department is also responsible for all the Faculty's mathematics, statistics and computer courses. The department has 14 faculty members (lecturers, senior-lecturers and professors). Some relevant recent research efforts of the department's staff, which is relevant for the project WaterStrategyMan are detailed below.

A great deal of effort in the department is devoted to research on the water economy. Examples: the quest for the optimal use of brackish water for irrigation in a way that takes into account the future damage caused by irrigating with brackish water; The

optimal recycling of effluent for irrigation purposes, and the question of who should bear the cost of recycling – the polluter or the user of the recycled product; The formation of water policy political pressure groups. Hence, the method of regulation is important, and the question examined was whether regulation should be carried out by quantitative means (quotas) or by prices.

Environmental quality questions are dealt with besides their water-related context. For example, a method for choosing land-fill sites was developed, taking into account the political power that various groups bring to bear (NIMBY).

The farm sector in Israel has undergone considerable change. This prompted investigation of subjects pertaining to farm-families' allocation of time between on-farm labor and off-farm employment, with the objective of identifying the factors determining allocation, such as the demographic characteristics of households. Since land under cultivation has shrunk considerably, and there is fear of over-urbanization, research is done into the economic value of open spaces, as playgrounds for city dwellers.

The structure of agricultural export from Israel has also changed a lot. The question of how much power citrus exporters have in the EU markets is being investigated. On the international level, reforms in the farm sector in countries of the former Communist block are being researched, including a detailed recording of the transition processes from collective to private and cooperative farming, with an emphasis on land reform.