



STATE OF ISRAEL



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



The Weitz Center for
Sustainable Development

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

with

The Weitz Center for Sustainable Development

invite professionals
to participate in the

International Course:

**“Policies, Strategies and Support Systems for Rural
Revitalization”**

November 28 - December 22, 2016



About the Course

Background

The decline in the profitability of agriculture and environmental degradation has jeopardized the health and success of rural areas and their residents. Processes of urbanization, trade liberalization, government investment elsewhere and industrialization have left many rural areas in developing countries and transition economies with limited income or employment opportunities for rural residents.

The international training *Policies, Strategies and Support Systems for Rural Revitalization* is designed to empower participants to approach these difficulties by identifying channels for rural development and revitalization, specifically through the diversification of economic activities; improvement of social services; the establishment of an effective system of support for economic and social development and strengthening agricultural production. The course adopts the integrated approach for rural development – The Rehovot Approach, which stresses the importance of integrating economic activities, integrating national policies with local interests, and utilizing local assets for the development process.

Aims

The course aims to:

- Provide participants with knowledge, tools and strategies related to rural revitalization
- Inspire and energize participants to be agents for positive change in their countries
- Expose participants to new approaches and opportunities in the field of rural revitalization
- Present Israel as a case study from which to draw valuable lessons about rural revitalization
- Enrich participants with professional skills with which to develop their careers and best benefit their communities and countries
- Connect participants with an international network of professionals in their field

Application

Main Subjects

The program will provide participants with knowledge and tools in the following subjects:

- + The role of agriculture in rural revitalization (information and communication technologies, agricultural R&D, extension work, market access and competitiveness)
- + Economic development and diversification of economic niches in the rural realm (eco/agro-tourism, agro-industry, stimulating entrepreneurship).
- + Ways to address the challenges posed by the provision of social services to dispersed rural populations. (community participation, empowerment and resilience)
- + Sustainable development approaches (Green growth, asset-based development, sound environmental practices, adapting to climate change risks).
- + Partnerships, financial and organizational tools for rural revitalization (the role for local government, infrastructure investments, SME support, settlement upgrading, PPP's).
- + Israeli examples and case studies which illustrate the above-mentioned concepts.

The Israeli experience

Israel has gained significant experience in rural development and revitalization. This includes national policies for rural development, the establishment of cooperative rural settlements, adopting novel technologies for agricultural production, and contemporary economic diversification in various rural areas.

The methodology

Participants will participate in both classroom based lectures and study visits, benefiting from the experience and knowledge of high-level Israeli experts and consultants. Israeli case studies and practice will be discussed throughout the program. Additionally, participants will be required to formulate and present a project of interest relevant to the topic of this course. For this purpose, some pre-course work will be required. Detailed instructions will be sent to the selected participants.

Remark: Please take into consideration that the program involves daily walking on the campus as well as during field visits.

Application Requirements

The training targets highly motivated individuals working to upgrade declined rural areas. Typically we are looking for: decision makers and policy makers working in governmental ministries, specifically in the field of rural development, environment, agriculture and resource management, planning and economics; Employees of local authorities in the relevant fields; Representatives of rural association; Managers of cooperatives, NGOs or CBOs; Key representatives from private sector businesses operating in the field.

Application forms

Application forms and other information may be obtained at the nearest Israeli mission or at MASHAV's website: <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il/MFA/mashav/Courses/Pages/default.aspx>.

Completed application forms, including the medical form, should be sent to the relevant Israeli mission in the respective country **until September 9th, 2016.**

General Information

Arrival and Departure

Arrival date:	November 27 <u>afternoon</u> - 28, 2016
Opening date:	November 28, 2016
Closing date:	December 21, 2016
Departure date:	December 22, 2016 <u>morning</u>

Participants must arrive at the training center on the arrival date, and leave on the departure date. Early arrivals/late departures if required, must be arranged by the participants themselves, directly with the hotel/center, and must be paid for by the participant him/herself.

Location and Accommodation

MASHAV awards a limited number of scholarships. The scholarship covers the cost of the training program including lectures and field visits, full board accommodation in double rooms (two participants per room), health insurance (see below) and transfers to and from the airport. Please note that airfares and daily allowance are not included in the scholarship.

Health Services

Medical insurance covers medical services and hospitalization in case of emergency. It does not cover the treatment of chronic or serious diseases, specific medications taken by the participant on a regular basis, dental care and eyeglasses. Health authorities recommend that visitors to Israel make sure they have been inoculated against tetanus in the last ten years. Subject to the full binding policy conditions. Participants are responsible for all other expenses.

The course will be held at **the Weitz Center for Sustainable Development**, situated within the campus of **the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, Israel**. Participants will be accommodated at **the Reisfeld Residence** in single rooms in shared apartments (4-5 participants per apartment).

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. Project development is supported by the seconding of short and long-term experts, as well as on-site interventions. 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.

<http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>

<https://www.facebook.com/MASHAVisrael>

About the Weitz Center for Sustainable Development

The Weitz Center for Sustainable Development is a leader in capacity building for sustainable development. Our work is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of international agencies, governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to achieve positive social and economic change both in Israel and abroad across developing and transitioning countries. Towards this end, we offer high quality training and consulting services, highlighting our practical, assets-based and integrated approach to development.

<http://www.weitz-center.org/>

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