



MASHAV - Israel's Agency for International
Development Cooperation

together with

MATC - MASHAV Agricultural Training Center

invite English-speaking professionals to participate in the

International Course on:

**Small Ruminant Farming:
Sheep and Goats as Multipurpose
Livestock Species for Meat and Milk
Production**

Israel, 15th June – 26th June, 2026



Background

Goat farming is a cornerstone of livestock production in many countries, playing a central role in food security, rural livelihoods, and climate resilience. Israel's experience in goat production offers a relevant and practical model for strengthening these systems through applied management, genetic improvement, and efficient use of limited resources.

In Israel, goat production is practiced under a wide range of systems, including intensive dairy operations, semi-intensive mixed systems, and extensive grazing-based systems. This diversity enables the transfer of adaptable knowledge to various production contexts, where environmental constraints, feed availability, and infrastructure limitations require flexible and realistic solutions.

About the Course

The course provides a comprehensive and applied training program with a primary focus on goat production. Sheep production will be addressed only where relevant to mixed small-ruminant systems.

The main objective of the course is to support professionals in developing and strengthening goat production systems, improving productivity, resilience, and genetic potential while working within existing local resources. The course emphasizes practical and field-oriented decision making for flock management.

The course emphasizes:

- Intensive, semi-intensive, and grazing-based goat systems
- Genetic improvement using realistic and accessible tools
- Adaptation of management practices rather than high-input solutions

Main Subjects

The course will include discussions and field visits on:

- Overview of Goat Production Systems in Israel
- Intensive, Semi-Intensive, and Grazing-Based Goat Farming Models
- Applied Goat Breeding and Genetics under Resource Constraints
- Reproductive Management and Genetic Improvement Tools
- Nutrition Strategies Using Locally Available Feed Resources
- Kid Management, Colostrum Practices, and Early Growth
- Herd Health, Disease Prevention, and Biosecurity
- Dairy and Meat Goat Production
- Climate Adaptation and Sustainability
- Farm Economics and Value Chain Development
- Technology Transfer Adapted to Developing

Pedagogical Approach

The course follows a “train-the-trainers” approach, enabling participants to return to their countries with the capacity to apply, adapt, and disseminate the knowledge acquired.

General Information

Arrival and Departure

Arrival date: 15th June 2026 (Hotel rooms available from 14:00)
Official Opening date: 16th June, 2026
Departure date: 26th June, 2026 (Check out until 11:00am)

Participants must arrive in Israel on the arrival date, and leave on the departure date. Early arrivals/late departures if required, must be fully coordinated in advance with the Embassy of Israel. Participants will have to cover any additional costs that may be incurred from early/late arrival/departure.

Location and Accommodation

The training program will take place at - or near MATC - MASHAV's International Agricultural Training Center in Kibbutz Shefayim situated 20 km north of Tel Aviv and near the coastal city of Netanya. Participants will be accommodated in double rooms on a FB basis. (The specific hotel will be confirmed)

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, health insurance and transfers to and from the airport. Airfares and daily allowance are not included in the scholarship.

Application Requirements

The course is geared towards professionals from governmental and non-governmental institutions, universities, research institutes and/or private sector, involved in the development of the small ruminants sector on a national, regional or local level.

Candidates should hold an academic degree in related disciplines and at least two years of professional experience. A full command of **English** is required.

Application form

Interested candidates are asked to complete the Online Application Form:

<https://mashav-mfa.formtitan.com/ftproject/mashavhome>

Select the language and enter the course code: **7273**. The completed application form, including the health declaration & other documents, must be submitted until **17.5.2026**

General Health Services:

1. **MASHAV'S Medical form/declaration** must be completed and submitted to the Embassy of Israel together with the application form.
2. Participants will be covered by a medical insurance contracted by MASHAV. The medical insurance coverage is for the exact duration of the training, and does not include additional days, in cases of early arrivals or late departures.

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 (SDG).

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 that has attained global consensus.

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

About MATC

MATC - MASHAV's International Agricultural Training Center - specializes since 1963 in human capacity building and training programs in the fields of agriculture, water management, environment and rural development. **MATC** conducts international, regional and country tailor made training programs as well as professional visits, workshops and conferences based on Israel's development experience, sharing both agricultural know-how, and Israel's unique spirit of innovation. MATC's training programs conducted in English, Spanish, French, Russian and Arabic, are specifically designed to improve agricultural production in developing countries, to promote food security and to create partnerships through ongoing international cooperation, for enhancing global sustainable development. To this purpose, **MATC** works in close cooperation with Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and its Agricultural Research Organization (ARO), as well as with Israel's universities, agricultural organizations, farmers and the private sector.

<https://matc.mfa.gov.il/>

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