

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme and the past

Your country joined the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme in 1963. Why did it decide to become Member in that time?

R. B D: *The export of fresh fruit and vegetables was very important at that time to Israel. Joining the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme enabled the Israeli Inspection Service and the export industry to become more familiar with international quality standards, inspection methods etc. It also enabled Israel to meet exporting and importing Scheme Member Countries and learn about their activities, working procedures etc.*

Could you mention briefly some developments in the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme in the years following your country's membership? (international exchanges, standards, explanatory brochures....)

R. B D: *Developments in the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme in Israel:*

- *Israel, since joining the scheme, was the rapporteur of the following produce: avocados, mangoes, Chinese cabbage and lately, the new citrus brochure.*
- *Israeli membership contributes to harmonization with the Israeli produce-importing countries.*
- *Organising and participating in Heads of National Inspection Services Meetings and other International Training Courses sponsored by the OECD had a significant and important contribution to the Israeli export of fruit and vegetables.*

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Schemes and the present

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2012. Now that 25 countries are Members of the Scheme in 2011, what are the advantages offered today by the Scheme? (particularly for new countries from Europe, Asia or Africa wishing to join).

R. B D: *The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme allow the member countries:*

- *To contribute to and influence the creation and updating of new and existing quality standards, brochures and inspection methods.*
- *To meet and integrate with leading and very experienced exporting and importing Scheme Member Countries. For example, Heads of National Inspection Services Meetings and Peer Reviews of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection Systems of different Scheme Member Countries.*
- *A forum to introduce and reflect the member country needs and experience.*
- *To learn from the work and discussion procedures of the OECD Scheme.*

The member country can implement the knowledge gained on the national level for the sake of its Inspection Service and industry.



For the 50th Anniversary of OECD, Mr. Ran Ben David, Israel, (Chair, OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme), with his high level of expertise, provides his views on past, present and future of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme.

This valuable statement is much appreciated in the context of the 50th Anniversary of OECD.

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Schemes and the future

The concept for the 50th Anniversary is “**Better policies for better lives**”. Based on your expertise and knowledge in the Fruit and Vegetables field, what are your views on future challenges and developments in a changing environment? (taking into account modern communication, globalization, green growth, and international trade).

R. B D: The future in a changing world environment looks very interesting and offers some very important challenges to the OECD Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, such as:

- *Collaboration with more international organizations in order to cover new quality standards and to reach a wider range of exporting and importing countries.*
- *To interest new developing countries with rising economies in the Scheme's activities expecting they will recognise the importance of joining the Scheme.*
- *To update existing brochures, guidelines, working methods and Scheme's activities, for example: Electronic versions of existing brochures, implementing range concept brochures for relevant produce, improving OECD website, promoting the Scheme activities in general and especially the brochures.*
- *To put on the agenda, to discuss and to examine the possibility of defining new categories for lower quality, for the existing fruit and vegetables standards, while taking into consideration the expected shortage and increasing food prices in the world.*

(Continued)

*Mr. Ran Ben David,
Israel, Chair, OECD
Fruit and Vegetables
Scheme.*