

FATHI ABD EL-HADI

Dr. Fathi Abd El-Hadi is an agribusiness and agricultural extension specialist, who brings both a public and private sector perspective. He has worked on his family farm raising field crops and fruit trees, then after the high school he served as a manager for field crops cotton and corn crops in Moshav Tel Adashim.

Dr. Abd El-Hadi is intimately familiar with both the physical and political challenges of managing a successful agribusiness in the private sector. During studying for the Masters and Ph.D. in Entomology and Biochemistry from The Hebrew University, he began working within the Extension Service Department within the Ministry of Agriculture. During this period Dr. Abd El-Hadi serves as teaching assistant for general chemistry for 1st year studies and organic chemistry for the 2nd year studies for the first degree in the Agriculture Faculty.

Dr. Abd El-Hadi has experience in a number of agricultural sub-sectors; initially, he provided extension services to farmers operating in vegetables production, then fruit tree production, and currently, serves as the Chief Specialist for olive and almond growing, olive oil quality, pomegranate and fig growing.

Over the last 10 years, Dr. Abd El-Hadi has worked with Ahali, and ElHawakeer an Israeli Arab center for community development. One of the center's major projects was organizing Arab farmers in Israel, a successful endeavor that led to the establishment of a farmer organization and more than 50 agricultural committees.

Dr. Abd El-Hadi has also succeeded in establishing a 120 member-strong local cooperative for olive and almond production within an area of 300 Has. With Dr. Abd El-Hadi's assistance, the cooperative undertook a project to meet the recycled irrigation water quota of 1,300,000 quibeq/meter as well as lay the main irrigation pipes and irrigation systems for about 220 plots at a total cost of roughly \$1.5 million USD. Since the irrigation system has been in place, more than 100 families now have sustainable livelihoods through agricultural production. The cooperative is producing 150+ tons of almond kernel with an economic value of more than \$1 million USD and producing 180 tons of olive oil with an economic value of \$650,000 USD.

Dr. Abd El-Hadi also created the Israeli Olive Oil Tasting Panel and in less than 7 years of collaboration with the Israeli Olive Oil Board, he was successful in receiving recognition of Israeli olive oil by the International Olive Oil Council. He serves as a tasting panel supervisor for the Israeli tasting panel, after getting education in Italy and Spain.

Moreover, Israeli olive oil increased its quality by 40% through Dr. Abd El-Hadi's lobbying efforts and introduction of new methods for adding value to olive oil during production.

Dr. Abd El-Hadi is serving in Tel Hai College as an academic manager of an academic course for olive and olive oil production (220 hours).

Dr. Abd El-Hadi is also teaching at the biotechnology department at Tel Hai college for 3rd year students (Biotechnology and Agriculture) for the biology of the olive tree.

At June 2006, Dr Abd El Hadi left his position in the ministry of Agriculture to the private sector to Netafim and joins the company in the agribusiness department in the corporate as an expert in olives almonds and pomegranates and he share his big experience with all the countries that grow these crops with Netafim projects.

He get involved in the olive big projects in Australia, Argentina, Chile, Europe, Israel and North Africa. His experience in all production aspects: growing systems (intensive and super intensive), variety selection, plant protection, olive oil production, olive oil quality and the olive Nutrigation.

Since 2010 Dr. Abd ElHadi is a free lance consultant, that consulting and managing for the main big farms in Israel and abroad

At the last 3 years Dr. Abd ElHadi was one of the main judges for the International olive oil competition Terra olive which take place at Jerusalem in Israel.

Each year participated in the competition more than 300 olive oils from many countries around the world