

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Report Highlights:

- Brought to You Directly From the Farmer
- A Bitter-Sweet Ending
- Indian Prime Minister Makes Historic Visit to Israel

Brought to You Directly From the Farmer

The Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) issued a draft procedure for government participation in financing farmer's markets, to encourage direct marketing of agricultural products. Behind the procedure are a number of objectives: First, shortening the supply chain and reducing the potential markup is expected to reduce consumer prices. Second, increasing consumption of locally produced fruits and vegetables will further support domestic agricultural production. Third, more direct marketing will promote cooperation between farmers and those marketing, while expanding and strengthening existing farmer markets.

A Bitter-Sweet Ending

Sugat, an Israel food company, announced that it will be closing its sugar refinery as a direct result of the reopening of the market to European exports. Sugat's sugar refinery was established in 2008 after Europe stopped exporting sugar into the Israeli market. The reopening of European sugar exports to the Israeli market caused Sugat's sugar refinery operation to no longer be economically feasible. Sugat's refinery has an annual production capacity of 400 thousand metric tons, all of which will be replaced by imported product.

Indian Prime Minister Makes Historic Visit to Israel

The historic visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel commenced with an agricultural tour. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Minister of Agriculture Ariel accompanied Modi on the tour, which highlighted a number of Israeli agro-technologies.

An agricultural tour kicking off Modi's visit underlines the strong cooperation between Israel and India in the field of agriculture. This cooperation includes, for example, assimilating Israeli agro-technologies in Indian agriculture, as well as increasing exports of agricultural products from Israel to India, with an emphasis on avocado, red grapefruit and dates. As small-holder farmers are still a key piece of Indian food production, many of the technologies seen focused on assisting small family farms. These technologies included assistance in scheduling the maturity of agricultural produce, increasing yields, and improving produce quality.

Israeli-Indian Agricultural Trade (USD Thousands)

Product	Israel's exports to India		
	Value in 2014	Value in 2015	Value in 2016
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal	551	4,009	3,073
Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	2,369	4,326	3,019
Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,856	2,948	2,977
Sugars and sugar confectionery	2,885	2,500	2,152
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	972	1,185	1,209

Product	Israel's imports from India		
	Value in 2014	Value in 2015	Value in 2016
Cereals	14,380	16,211	15,638
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal	19,913	15,865	11,169
Coffee, tea, maté and spices	10,218	10,744	8,114
Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts	12,158	11,958	4,507
Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	2,583	2,875	2,882

Source: ITC Trade Map