



# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



מרכז האוניברסיטה העברית לקיימות  
The Hebrew University Center for Sustainability  
مركز الجامعة العبرية للاستدامة



## Scientific Progress

Population growth and climate variability are leaving multiple regions without water to grow adequate food. To scale up international attempts in securing freshwater resources, a team involving the University of Maryland (USA), HUJI (Israel) and CultivAid (Ethiopia) in cooperation with Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia), Kathmandu University (Nepal), the Environment and Public Health Organization (Nepal), joined forces to facilitate the adoption of transformative on-farm treatment solutions that enable safe use of non-traditional irrigation water on food crops. This multinational team comprises the Global Alliance for Sustainable Water Reuse, Food and Health, a unique group of agricultural, public health, environmental, social/behavioral, engineering, and policy experts, working to alleviate global food and water insecurity, improve public health, and build climate resilience.

HUJI has partnered with Freie Universität Berlin, Peking University, St. Petersburg State University, and the University of British Columbia to establish the University Alliance for Sustainability. This alliance focuses on sustainability as a theme for collaborating in research, teaching, and campus management. In November 2022, a conference for emerging researchers is being held in Berlin on “Building Digital Bridges and Exploring the SDG Discourse,” including the workshop “Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Sustainable Development Research.”

## Community Impact

Even though Israel has adopted the sustainable development goals of the UN, it is evident that the use and implementation of the SDGs is still preliminary and partial both in the public sector and in civil society. HUJI's Minerva Center for Human Rights seeks to increase the number of governmental bodies and civil society organizations, including academic entities, that implement SDGs to promote social, economic, and political change in Israel. In order to deal with the dilemmas and difficulties that implementation of SDGs raises, the Minerva Center established a forum led by Prof. Tomer Broude of the Faculty of Law, including civil society, government, and the academy, promoting discourse regarding SDGs to advance SDGs-focused policy changes. Additionally, the center prepared and published SDG implementation guides for governmental bodies and for civil society, to promote the implementation of SDGs and create social, economic, and political change that will benefit disadvantaged communities in Israel.

## Studies and Learning Initiatives

HUJI offers a number of international master's degree courses dedicated to promoting health and wellbeing in developing countries. The Faculty of Social Sciences offers a flagship international 18-month graduate program, called Glocal. This interdisciplinary program focuses on growth in developing countries and cooperates with international organizations and local communities.

The International School of Agricultural Sciences, in cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Agency for International Development, offers short-term professional training courses in partnership with MASHAV. MASHAV training promotes effective partnerships for development implementation of cooperative projects by focusing on promoting food security and environmental protection in developing countries, as well as food security and sustainability. In 2022, “Feeding the Future: Food, Safety and Technology in Times of Global Change” was the topic of MASHAV, which included 27 professionals from 19 countries. In past years, the topics were water management, crop production under saline stress, Agri-Green management and other areas in which Israel has a comparative advantage and accumulated expertise.

## Actions on Campus

In 2021, HUJI launched the Hebrew University Center for Sustainability as part of a strategic decision to place global sustainability at the top of the academic institution's priorities. The Center is directed by Prof. Yael Mishael and serves as an umbrella for all activities at the university in the field of sustainability in the broadest sense. The Center is affiliated with over 100 faculty members from varied faculties and disciplines, and promotes interdisciplinary research through funding projects with potential to make a difference on the subjects of food, social sciences, air and soil quality, human health, consumption, fauna, and many other related topics.

A major goal of the Center is to promote and implement sustainability beyond the borders of the university. To this end, the Center cooperates with industry, the private sector, civil society, academia, and government, in Israel and internationally. Thus, it benefits the promotion and development of technological solutions, raising public awareness, policy and implementation in the fields of sustainability, and providing innovative solutions for addressing Sustainable Development Goals.