



# TORAH VEHA'ARETZ

## INSTITUTE

BY RABBI MOSHE BLOOM

[en.toroland.org.il](http://en.toroland.org.il)



# Heads of OU Kosher Visit Torah VeHa'aretz Institute

Instead of writing on a halachic issue, this time I wanted to write about an exceptional encounter with far-reaching ramifications.

During the Nine Days, rabbis of OU Israel visited Torah VeHa'aretz Institute, where they met the rabbis of the institute.

Present at the meeting were: Rabbi Avi Berman, executive director of OU Israel; Rabbi Yissachar Dov Krakowski, director of OU Kosher in Israel; and Rabbi Ezra Freidman, director of the OU Israel Gustave and Carol Jacobs Center for Kashrut Education.

Over the course of the meeting we discussed collaboration possibilities ahead of the shemita year; specifically, the possibility for the OU to certify the *otzar beit*



*din* produce with *kedushat shevi'it*. Many halachic issues were discussed and honed, and they decided to confer with the OU kashrut agency in the United States (Rabbi Menachem Genack, Rabbi Moshe Elefant, and others) to receive their ruling on the very complex topic of purchasing shemita produce.

Aside from that many factories under OU supervision in Israel, there are also restaurants and catering services with OU certification. These and thousands of people who buy fruits and vegetables in Israel during the *shemita* year are waiting to hear what the largest kashrut agency in the world has to say about buying produce with *kedushat shevi'it* in general, and the proper ranking of which types of produce to buy during *shemita*, in particular. This topic is very sensitive on a halachic level and in many other ways, which is why this meeting with the rabbis of Torah VeHa'aretz Institute went on for several hours.

The visiting rabbis received the recently published book *Katif Shevi'it*, and will

Mazal Tov to  
Dr. Joel Luber and family  
on the marriage of his granddaughter

receive the *Consumer's Guide to Shemitah*, which come out, G-d willing, on *Rosh Chodesh Elul*.

The delegation also toured our research hothouse, where we grow produce on detached platforms, and the precise halachic conditions for growing in this fashion were discussed.

Through the visit, we stressed the deep bond and similarity between the two organizations, which connect halachah and Zionism.

Thank you to my dear friend, Rabbi Ezra Friedman, for coordinating and initiating the tour. ■

## Are you interested in a high-level Gemara shiur in English on Zoom?

The shiur is given by Rabbi Hillel Ruvel

- Rosh Kollel at Yeshivas Beis Yisroel

in Neve Yaakov - from 4:30-5:30pm,

Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays &

Thursdays. Zoom details are in Torah

Tidbits (see schedule). If you have

further questions, please contact Danny Taragin, 052 8464249 (also whatsapp).

- Now learning Masechet Temura -

ת"ב

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