

The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel

Judaism, Science, and Agriculture All in One Hothouse



The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel for Children—That's How I Like to Learn

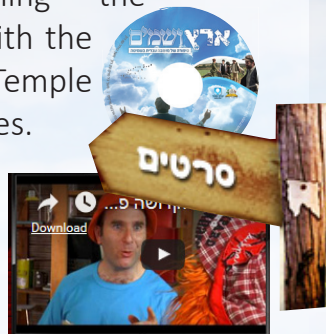
Children's Movies

The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel produces a series of educational videos that helps connect children to the Land of Israel and its precepts through their own world:

In Our Holy Land. A children's series starring Uncle Yehoshua and the puppet Davidi. The series already has ten episodes.

A Mitzvah in a Minute. An animated series about fulfilling the precepts associated with the Land of Israel during Temple and contemporary times.

Land and Sky. A drama series for the whole family about the Sabbatical year. And more!



The Land of Mitzvot

The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel's website for children was built to expose children to the values of the Land of Israel, its sanctity, and its special precepts through games, videos, and interactive learning that makes its way into their hearts and encourages them to learn more and more.



Children's Books:

The Institute's publishing house caters to children, featuring study booklets on shemitta, two comics series Lamekhira (for sale) and Shomrei Ha'aretz (keepers of the Land), the book Gefen Anavim (Grapevine) for young children, and more.



Amitai in the Land of Mitzvot

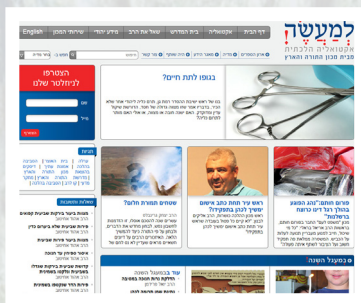
A monthly online newsletter for children that includes a comics series, video clips, riddles, games, and an "Ask the Rabbi" forum for children.



Contact Information

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Public Education Unit: the Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel in Service of the Public



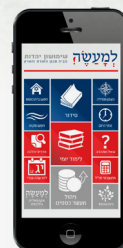
The website LeMa'aseh

(In Practice): www.toraland.org.il

The website presents halakhic current events and provides answers to questions in all areas of life. On the website it is possible to find out about halakhic solutions and innovations, to receive current Torah-related information, to read articles that connect theoretical halakha to everyday life, and to ask questions to distinguished rabbis on all topics.

Application “LeMa’aseh” (In Practice)—A Jewish App

A unique app developed to provide information and a variety of Judaism-related services. The app includes daily study: Talmud, Jewish thought, halakha, the weekly Torah portion, ask-the-rabbi forum online, a Jewish-Gregorian calendar, halakhic times of the day, a manager for monetary tithes, a smart prayer book, a prayer compass, a “find a synagogue and mikvah” feature with a navigation option, halakhic guidelines, and more. The application, developed by the Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel, is available to the public free of charge.



Online Newsletters

Bikkurim. A newsletter with Torah-related articles and halakhic updates on diverse topics. Articles, halakhic responsa, news and updates, and special deals and services provided by the Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel for the general.

Parasha and the Land of Israel. The weekly Torah portion through the lens of the precepts associated with the Land of Israel. Every week a different location is covered, along with its special story.

(New!) Bikkurim is now also available in a special English edition

Emunat Itekh Light. The abridged version of the Torah and Science periodical Emunat Itekh is e-mailed to thousands of subscribers.

ONLINE RABBI Q&A Service. An information service hotline for the general public that addresses diverse halakhic issues. The rabbis of the Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel, headed by Rabbi Yaakov Ariel, provide professional and comprehensive responses to the public’s halakhic queries. This service can be accessed through several channels: through the Institute’s website, via e-mail, or over the phone.



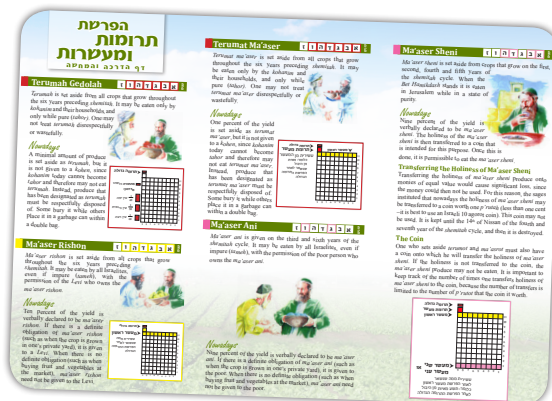
Study Days and Learning Programs. The Institute’s Public Education Unit reaches out to many communities, with: study days and conferences for the general public; professional courses for farmers; study programs for yeshiva students and rabbis to develop in-depth study and research on precepts associated with the Land of Israel; programs for schools; the publication of study pamphlets and educational aids tailored to children, and more.



The Beit HaOtzar Fund for Separating Terumot and Ma'asrot

The Beit HaOtzar Fund endeavors to increase awareness on the topics of terumot and ma'asrot (offerings and tithes), and to assist the public in to observe these precepts that we once again have the merit to perform in the Land of Israel.

Terumot and Ma'asrot. Separating terumot and ma'asrot in this generation requires extensive halakhic expertise. The Beit HaOtzar, which specializes in this field, makes it possible for its members to give a loan to a Levite for the purpose of fulfilling ma'aser rishon (first tithe) and to redeem ma'aser sheni (second tithe) in the most exemplary manner. During years of ma'aser ani (poor tithe), the Fund works with organizations that help rehabilitate families in crisis, therefore making it possible to perform the precept of ma'aser ani in the most optimal manner while giving charity in its highest form.



Center for Torah and the State of Israel

The Center for Torah and the State of Israel was established by the Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel in order to study, research, and develop the halakhic perspective on running the State of Israel and national life in the Land of Israel. The Center's activities include three areas: the Torah Research Institute—where distinguished Torah scholars, rabbis, and researchers work to clarify the topics that form the basis for running the State in keeping with halakha. Torah and the State of Israel Programs—involved in developing study programs and enrichment materials for teachers, rabbis, and students as well as school curriculums. Public Education Unit—involved in bringing issues discussed in the research institute to the public discourse.

Environment and Halakha

The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel sees environmental protection and ecology issues as closely tied to the precepts associated with the Land of Israel. As such, the Institute employs various means of public education, study programs, and activities to reinforce environmental awareness, to prevent the destruction of the world around us, and to explain the ramifications of our behavior on coming generations.



Institute Initiatives: Practical Halacha

Torah Department

Publishing House

The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel has published to date dozens of Torah books and hundreds of articles on diverse topics: research, halakha, Jewish thought, and history, professional guidance for farmers, informative halakhic pamphlets, teachers' aids, and more.

The Halakhic Research Institute

probes halakhic issues regarding the precepts associated with the Land of Israel, with an emphasis on providing practical solutions to issues that arise in the field related to agriculture and environmental protection as well as many other areas of private and public life.

Emunat Itecha

This periodical brings together articles and research produced by Israel's leading Torah research institutes. The articles in the periodical explore halachic topics in various fields, such as: agriculture, finance, law, medicine, and technology. Emunat Itecha presents current issues on Israel's agenda from a comprehensive halakhic perspective; it serves as a platform for rich and fruitful halakhic discussions presented to the public in clear, comprehensible terminology.



Science Research and Development Unit

The Research and Development Unit has accompanied Israel's agriculture for 25 years, specializing in its unique aspects, and providing innovative technological solutions that have been successfully implemented in hundreds of farms in Israel and around the world. The Unit has produced exclusive developments in the areas of cutting down growing costs, water usage reduction, insect-free vegetable cultivation, and pesticide use reduction. All of these developments have significantly advanced Israeli agriculture and have given the Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel a reputation as a leader in the scientific and agronomist communities in Israel and throughout the world.

Through its collaboration with the Halakhic Research Institute, the Research and Development Unit also provides solutions to halachic problems that arise in farms. Examples include growing crops in the Sabbatical year through hydroponics and solutions for calculating the orlah years in nurseries.

Torah and the Land of Israel— Not Just a Slogan

The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel is involved in the special bond between Torah and the Land of Israel in our day. At the crux of this bond are the precepts associated with the Land of Israel, which have once again become an integral part of the life of the Jewish People upon its return to its land. There is fruitful cooperation among the Institute's rabbis, scientists, and agronomists to thoroughly probe halakhic issues, provide practical solutions, and educate the public about these precepts—stressing their immense value to the public at large.

Connected to the Field

The many innovations in modern life raise a multitude of novel issues related to the special bond among Torah and various areas in both individual and public life. The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel plays an active role in the spiritual, scientific, and social development of the nation by its involvement in various issues discussed in the public discourse; it also works together with other Torah research institutes on diverse initiatives to provide halakhic solutions for novel issues that arise in the field.



Kfar Darom-Shavei Darom: Expulsion and Rebuilding

The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel was established in 1985 in Kfar Darom, situated in the former Gush Katif region. After the expulsion from Gush Katif it temporarily continued operations in Ashkelon. Nine years later, the Institute moved to Shavei Darom and currently operates within the Kfar Darom community, which is now building its home in its new location.

Staff

The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel boasts a unique and diverse interdisciplinary staff of rabbis and distinguished Torah scholars along with researchers, scientists, and expert agronomists who all work together to integrate agriculture with halakha. The president of the Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel is Rabbi Yaakov Ariel, Chief Rabbi of Ramat Gan. The association chairman is Rabbi Yigal Kaminitzky, former the rabbi of the Gush Katif region. Rabbi Yehuda Amichai heads the Halakhic Research Institute, while agronomist Motti Shomron heads the Agricultural Research and Development Unit.

