

REGROW

Beyond Recovery
www.regrowisrael.org

IMPACT REPORT 2025

Grow Back Stronger

“The land of Israel was built with the sweat and toil of pioneers who refused to give up. We do not dream of the future, we build it.”

– David Ben Gurion

A Note from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

When I first walked the fields on the border of Gaza after October 7th, the destruction was impossible to comprehend. Burnt tractors stood where families had once farmed. Irrigation systems lay in ruins. Greenhouses had become twisted steel. The war was still raging.

Yet amidst that devastation I heard something remarkable.

EVERY FARMER TOLD ME THE SAME THING: “WE’RE NOT JUST GOING TO REBUILD. WE’RE GOING TO GROW BACK STRONGER.”

At the time, those words felt impossible to believe.

Looking back now, with immense pride, they became the defining story of 2025.

Together we built smarter dairies, introduced innovative greenhouse technologies, improved water systems, expanded production and launched our response to replant across the entire northern border.

By the end of the year, we had supported **336 farms across 109 communities** and were already seeing the impact: farms becoming more productive, more climate resilient and more profitable.

This success is a beautiful testament to the determination of Israel’s frontline farmers and the generosity of those who believed in them.

None of this would have been possible without your unwavering support. Thank you for standing alongside Israel’s farmers as they build a stronger future for their communities and our country.

Serving the State of Israel through this work remains the privilege of a lifetime. May we be blessed with the opportunity to continue this effort together, to strengthen our communities and the State of Israel.

With gratitude, hope, and confidence for a brighter future,



Danielle Abraham
Executive Director, ReGrow

Danielle Abraham standing alongside friends and farmers Amir Dagan and Eran Braverman at Kibbutz Alumim.





Two brothers in the farm fields of Moshav Dishon

OUR MODEL: BUILT FOR THE REALITY AHEAD

2025 AT A GLANCE

ReGrow’s model was shaped by the realities facing Israel’s agricultural sector.

What began as an effort to stabilize farms after October 7 quickly revealed a broader need: long-term recovery would require stronger systems and greater resilience across the sector.

ReGrow responded with a phased approach, moving

intentionally from urgent stabilization, to restoring capacity and to strengthening long-term outcomes. This shift allowed the organization to move beyond immediate recovery efforts and invest in the conditions necessary for lasting impact.

In 2025, that transition became fully operational, as ReGrow worked to help farmers **Grow Back Stronger**.

Our Three-Phase Approach

01	Farming First Aid Stabilize farms. Restart operations.	• Replace damaged infrastructure and equipment • Restore water and production systems
02	Grow Back Stronger Modernize for better performance.	• Introduce proven technologies • Improve efficiency, capacity and sustainability
03	Secure the Future Build long-term resilience	• Invest in research and innovation • Prepare agriculture for climate and next-generation needs

Directly Supported
336
Farms

Directly Impacted
109
Communities

Hosted
36
Delegations

Funded
21
Scholarships

4

Water Infrastructure
Projects Initiated

to strengthen and expand
local agriculture

154
**Bomb
Shelters**

Installed in open fields to
Protect Workers

2

Research Papers
Published

[Northern Needs Assessment](#)
[Farmer Engagement Study](#)

68
**Tech
Innovations**

Implemented



2025 Impact Highlights

Project Snapshots

- 09 Emergency Equipment
- 13 New Equipment
- 17 A Reservoir Restored
- 21 A Shared Resource Strengthened
- 25 Dairy Expansion
- 29 Dairy Innovation
- 33 Greenhouse Innovation
- 37 Replant the North

41 Research Reports

43 Research & Scholarships

49 Acknowledgments



Kibbutz Malkiya farmer Amit Cohen with Amit Fahima, ReGrow's Northern Israel Project Manager, in the kibbutz vineyards.



Project Snapshot

Emergency Equipment

Hamas’s agricultural terrorism left tractors burned, equipment stolen, irrigation systems destroyed.

With government compensation covering only the depreciated value of the equipment, farmers were left overwhelmed and in crisis, unable to replace what they lost.

ReGrow, together with the Jewish Federations of North America, covered the difference so farmers could get back on their feet without going into debt.

KEY IMPACT METRICS

126 pieces of damaged equipment were replaced across all farming sectors in the Western Negev.

35 agricultural communities served

+50 farms supported

Moshav Netiv Ha'asara tractor.
Photo credit to Yitzchak Woolf.

“ ReGrow’s equipment initiative brought farmers back from the brink.

DR. EYAL BLUM, CEO, MOSHAVEI HA'NEGEV

”

Boaz Koom, Orchard Manager,
Moshavei Ha'Negev

מכשירי חנוכה



Project Snapshot

New Equipment

Following October 7, farms were left without enough labor to sustain operations. Timing was critical.

At the farmers' request, ReGrow invested in new, more efficient equipment so farms could keep operating, while simultaneously improving productivity for decades to come.

KEY IMPACT METRICS

13 pieces of new equipment delivered

24 communities supported

Kibbutz Alumim Orchard Manager
Noam Kaselbrener in his new tractor



Harvesting pomelos in the Hadarei
Ma'on Cooperative

“ This tractor is a game-changer for us. We finally have the equipment we need to work more efficiently and independently. ”

TOMER, MANAGER OF COOPERATIVE HADAREI
MA'ON, SUPPORTING 12 KIBBUTZIM IN
THE WESTERN NEGEV

Project Snapshot

KIBBUTZ NAHAL OZ

A Reservoir Restored

Renowned for making the desert bloom, Israel has demonstrated the ability to thrive even in the harshest conditions.

On October 7, the very resource that enables this was targeted. Reservoirs were blown up, irrigation pipes set alight and irrigation control boxes smashed.

Without the return of water, fields could not survive.

With the support of generous donors, ReGrow advanced reservoir restoration and pipeline expansion in Kibbutz Nahal Oz. Rebuilding what was lost and strengthening the system, enabling the desert to bloom once again.

KEY IMPACT METRICS

1

reservoir
rebuilt

300

acres
irrigated

100

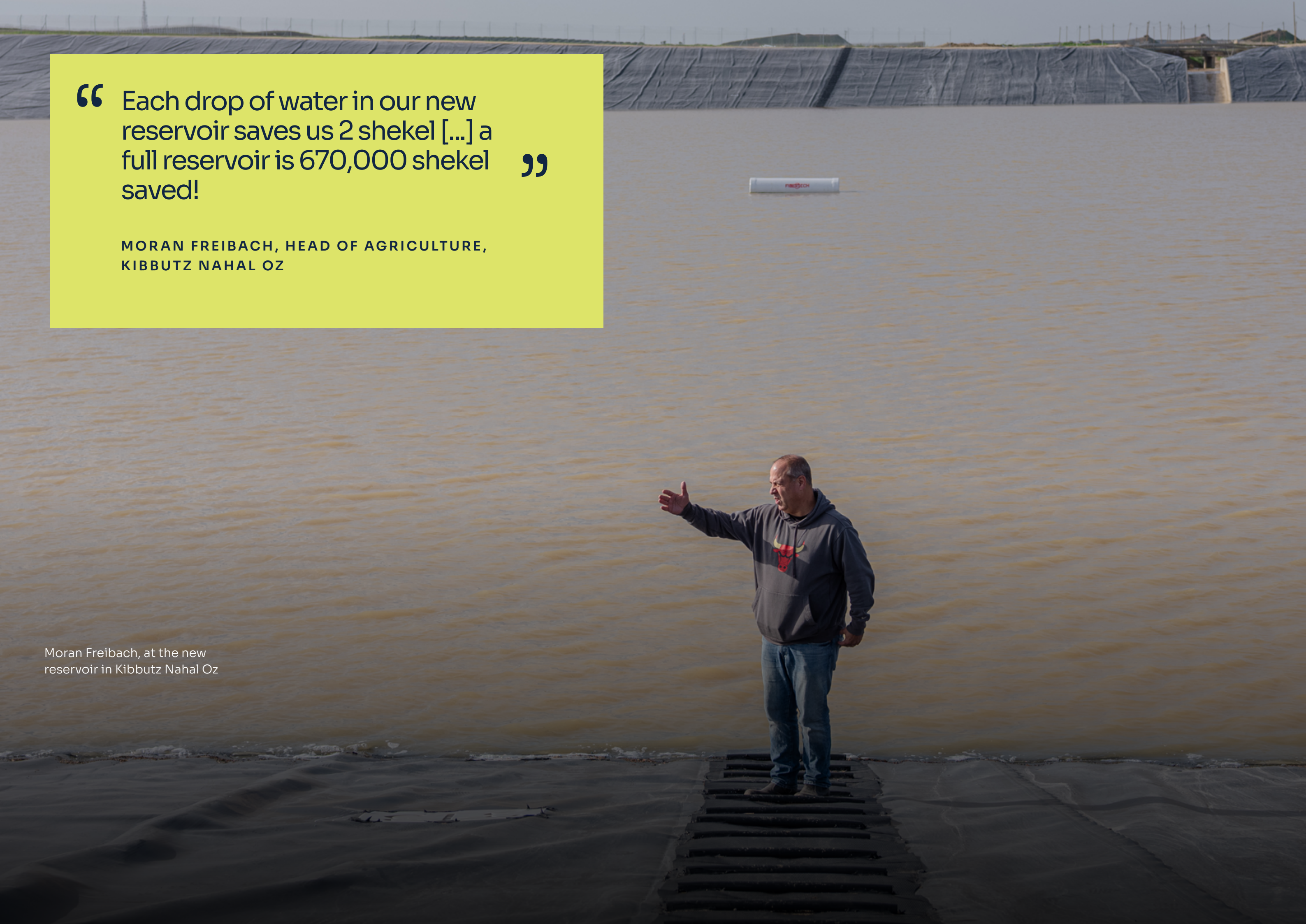
acres irrigated
for the first time

New reservoir and piping in
Kibbutz Nahal Oz

“ Each drop of water in our new reservoir saves us 2 shekel [...] a full reservoir is 670,000 shekel saved! ”

MORAN FREIBACH, HEAD OF AGRICULTURE,
KIBBUTZ NAHAL OZ

Moran Freibach, at the new
reservoir in Kibbutz Nahal Oz



Project Snapshot

MOSHAV NETIV HA'ASARA

A Shared Resource Strengthened

Across the Western Negev, moshavim made up of independent farms rely on one shared resource: water.

To best help these farmers Grow Back Stronger, ReGrow supported community-level water projects across the region, each designed around a different local vulnerability.

In Netiv Ha'asara, repeated power disruptions threatened water access for the community's greenhouses, which are responsible for supplying over 60% of the country's vegetable seeds.

ReGrow supported the installation of an independent emergency water system, made up of two parts that ensure continuous water access for the community's greenhouses, strengthen resilience, and seed secure production for the wider region and country.

KEY IMPACT METRICS

32 greenhouse farms secured through a dedicated emergency water system

692 acres irrigated

Well pump expansion as part of new water system, Moshav Netiv Ha'asara

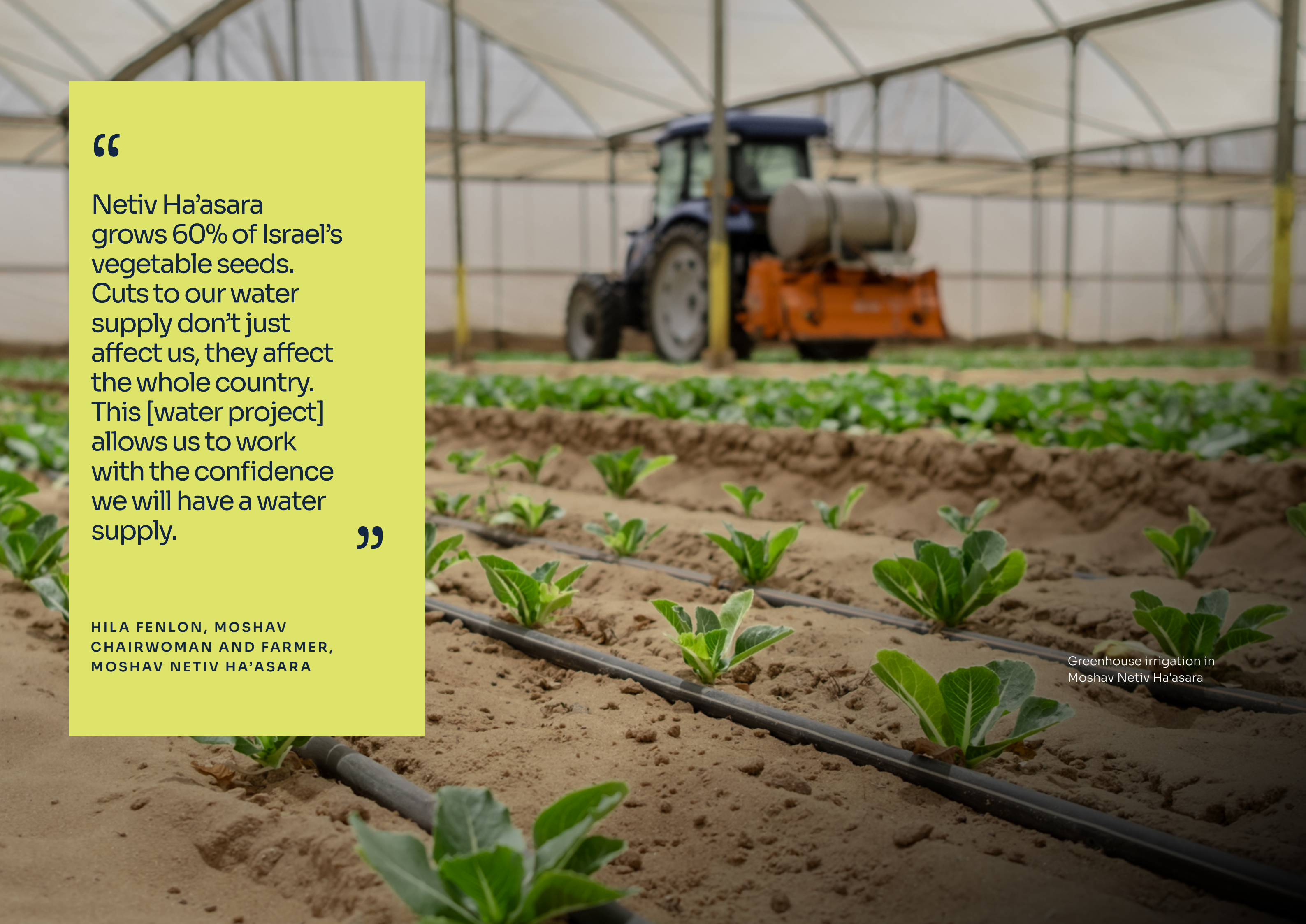
“

Netiv Ha'asara grows 60% of Israel's vegetable seeds. Cuts to our water supply don't just affect us, they affect the whole country. This [water project] allows us to work with the confidence we will have a water supply.

”

HILA FENLON, MOSHAV
CHAIRWOMAN AND FARMER,
MOSHAV NETIV HA'ASARA

Greenhouse irrigation in
Moshav Netiv Ha'asara





Project Snapshot

Dairy Expansion

Dairies are the heart of the Kibbutz. They provide stable, predictable income for entire communities.

After October 7, the government increased dairy quotas by 20% – an unprecedented move to accelerate recovery.

But meeting that increase required more cows, more infrastructure, and significant upfront investment. Returns would take years.

ReGrow introduced a blended finance model using philanthropy to bridge that gap and accelerate the return on investment to the communities.

KEY IMPACT METRICS

5M

additional liters of milk can be produced annually

~16.5M

in value generated from production increase and improved efficiency

1.6x

return on every philanthropic dollar

-50%

average reduction in investment payback period

Cows at Perah Dairy, co-owned by Kibbutz Re'im and Kibbutz Holit



Reuven Ashernitsky
at Perah Dairy

“ Finally, I see a little light at the end. ”

REUVEN ASHERNITSKY,
DAIRY MANAGER, PERAH DAIRY



Project Snapshot

Dairy Innovation

To Grow Back Stronger, dairies needed to become more productive, efficient, and climate-resilient.

Adopting new technologies and modern protocols is a clear priority. But adoption comes with real risk, and farmers cannot afford to get it wrong.

ReGrow reduces that risk by piloting what works and then scaling proven solutions.

Phase I introduced 16 solutions across 10 dairy farms in the Western Negev, with the program poised to scale in 2026.

KEY IMPACT METRICS *

3%	increase in annual milk yield
50%	labor reduction
\$66K	labor cost reduction

(*) Figures reflect the highest measured outcomes observed within the pilot cohort.

Advanced calf monitoring tag, Kibbutz Alumim



“ [Technologies implemented] advanced the dairy farm at least 10 years forward. We had plans to grow, but there’s no way we could have done this much all at once. ”

GADI ORSHEHOVSKY,
DAIRY MANAGER,
KIBBUTZ EIN HA'SHLOSHA

Smart Cattle Collector,
Kibbutz Ein Ha'shlosha



Project Snapshot

Greenhouse Innovation

The Western Negev’s greenhouse sector supplies the majority of Israel’s fresh vegetables. Despite being one of the country’s highest-output farming systems, it runs on thin margins.

Following October 7, many farmers could not invest in the technology needed to strengthen their greenhouses. But without those upgrades, performance decline was inevitable.

ReGrow tested a different path: funding simple, high-impact technologies and testing a new tomato variety across a pilot group of farmers. Yields improved, input costs dropped and profits increased.

ReGrow is now scaling those solutions across the sector.

KEY IMPACT METRICS

Pilot data was used to model the impact on a typical 50 dunam farm. The results showed:

23%	reduction in production costs
\$50.8K	in projected annual savings
+50%	increase in yields
66x	greater profit per dunam for new tomato varieties

Dudi Alon, greenhouse farmer, Moshav Yated



15

“ I wanted to buy these motorized carts for so long, but I couldn’t risk the capital. ReGrow enabled and encouraged me, and now I can’t imagine not having them. ”

OFER BUCHNIK, GREENHOUSE FARMER,
MOSHAV YATED

Motorized trolley carrying tomatoés,
Moshav Yated

Project Snapshot

Replant the North

Beyond the human toll, conflict in the north has left the heart and spirit of the region – its agriculture – in jeopardy. This devastation is more than economic; it is an assault on the identity of families who have cultivated these lands for generations.

ReGrow conducted the region's first agricultural needs assessment to understand the scale of damage and what recovery would require.

Orchard and vineyard recovery was determined to be the most strategic entry point for recovery efforts. Without rapid replanting, the loss would compound for years.

ReGrow launched a two-year, \$14M recovery initiative to help farmers clear damaged land, plant new trees and vines, and introduce improved growing methods from the start.

KEY IMPACT METRICS

+468 applications from farmers

+63 communities represented

550K fruit trees to be replanted

260K grapevines to be replanted

Ofer 'Pushko' Moscovitz, Z"L, at the site of his newly planted avocado trees. Ofer was tragically killed in crossfire with Hezbollah in March 2026. May his memory be a blessing.



Paul Stahl viewing orchards at sunrise, Kibbutz Bar'am

“ I’ve passed the mourning phase.
Now I rebuild. ”

PAUL STAHL, ORCHARD MANAGER,
KIBBUTZ BAR’AM

Building Knowledge for the Reality Ahead

Recognizing data gaps, ReGrow makes field-based research a core practice, using farmer engagement and sector assessments to design scalable interventions.

Research Reports



ReGrow team with Avi Frieman, Dairy Manager at Kibbutz Alumim

REGROW FRAMEWORK FOR INNOVATION ADOPTION

Farmers are open to innovation, but adoption isn’t happening at scale.

ReGrow conducted field research, surveys, and interviews to understand why. The findings showed that financial constraints, information gaps, and limited access to professional guidance are holding farmers back.

Without addressing these barriers, innovation stays on the shelf.

ReGrow is translating these insights into targeted projects that help farmers move from interest to adoption, and from adoption to measurable impact.

KEY FINDINGS

- 67%** of farmers cite financial constraints as the primary barrier to adoption
- 28%** report insufficient professional guidance (rising to 40% among older farmers)
- +20%** lack familiarity with suitable technologies and solutions

NORTHERN NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Northern farmers are expressing unwavering commitment to rehabilitate, but have made it clear recovery is impossible without support.

ReGrow launched a large-scale research effort in 2024 to map the region’s core challenges, on-the-ground needs, and strategic opportunities for recovery.

Through engagement with farmers, experts, government officials, and agricultural organizations, ReGrow gathered critical field insights to help guide effective intervention efforts.

KEY FINDINGS

- 76%** of communities within 9km of the border are inherently agricultural
- 35K** tons of fresh produce from the north were lost in only the first 6 months (~25% of total national food loss).
- +\$108M** in conservative estimated agricultural damages across select sectors

Replanting

is the immediate, strategic intervention for philanthropic support

550K trees
260K vines

Research, Scholarships and Future Innovation

Strong communities on the border depend on strong agriculture, which depends on strong research. ReGrow, together with the Volcani Institute, supports the next generation of scientists and advances applied research to help develop practical solutions that strengthen the future of farming.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships support those who will carry the sector forward: researchers, professionals, and young farmers.

In 2025, ReGrow funded 21 scholarships:

- 16 scholarships awarded to young agricultural researchers
- 5 scholarships awarded to young dairy farmers entering a key agricultural sector

Beyond the Field



Gal Levi,
dairy scholarship recipient,
Kibbutz Alumim

Addressing a Warmer Future

In partnership with the Volcani Institute, ReGrow is supporting practical research that prepares farmers for a hotter, more unstable future.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Wetlands and Carbon

Together with Yad HaNadiv, researchers are studying how wetlands in Israel can serve as carbon sinks without becoming a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Bringing together researchers, universities, and environmental bodies, the project aims to generate the scientific knowledge needed to guide wetland restoration, climate resilience, and land management efforts in Israel.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Fruit Trees and Extreme Heat

Together with JNF Holland, the climate tree project is developing first-of-their-kind portable climate chambers to study how fruit trees respond to extreme heat conditions in the field. The project aims to identify which tree varieties are most resilient to climate change and generate the knowledge needed to support future food production in an ever-warming world.

Acknowledgments

This work would not have been possible without the bold and strategic support of ReGrow’s philanthropic partners, staff, board members, experts, farmers, researchers, and community leaders.

Together, they helped move Israel’s agricultural recovery from emergency response toward a stronger, more resilient future.

Supporters:

- Adnim Foundation
- Anonymous Family Foundation
- Beverly Foundation
- Chaviva Levin & Jeremy Wieder
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP)
- Fingerhut Family Foundation
- Franco Family Fund
- Jeffrey M. Talpins Foundation
- Jewish Federations of North America
- JNF Holland
- John & Judy Craig
- Ron & Gigi Fingerhut Foundation
- Samis Foundation
- Samuel M. Baker Memorial Fund
- Tony Felzen
- UJA–JCC Greenwich
- UJIA (UK)
- Wayne Woodman

Staff members:

- Amit Fahima, Project Manager Northern Israel
- Dana Oppenheimer, Senior Manager – Dairy Projects
- Danielle Abraham, Executive Director
- David Chapot, Director of Strategy
- Elana Eyal, Operations & Administrative Support Coordinator
- Ellen Steel, Director of Business Operations & Chief of Staff
- Gal Peer, Director of Financial Controls and Operations
- Gladys Cohen, Head of International Affairs
- Itamar Glazer, Chief Innovation Officer
- Leora Wine, Project Manager
- Lisa Rahmani, Director of Programs
- Naama Hecht, Head of Impact
- Niv Kalmi, Greenhouse Project Manager
- Orel Belo, Volcani Development Lead
- Sarit Baum, Head of Philanthropic Giving
- Shaked Saffar, Project Manager
- Tamara Maynard, Development Associate
- Yael Morris, Donor Relations Manager

Board members:

- Avinoam Brog
- Daniel Ben Yehuda
- Prof. Dov Prusky
- Joanne Moore
- Prof. Uri Mingelgrin
- Prof. Zohara Yaniv

Experts:

- Arbel Levin, Mishkey HaNegev
- David Silverman, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Extension Services
- Dr. Anat Zisovitch Charitt, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Extension Services
- Dr. Ephraim Ezra, Israeli Cattle Breeders Association
- Dr. Michal Ackerman–Lavert, MOP Tzafon
- Dr. Omer Crane, MOP Tzafon
- Dr. Shmuel Gross, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, ret.
- Dr. Talli Ilani, MOP Darom
- Dr. Yamit Asulin, Agricultural Economist
- Dr. Yaniv Lavon, Israeli Cattle Breeders Association
- Dr. Yuval Kay, MOP Ramat Hanegev
- Dr. Gaby Adin, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, ret.
- Elad Shamir, Kinneret Innovation Center
- Eric Ben Meir, MIGAL Galilee Research Institute
- Farouk Dabour, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
- Gadi Kliger, Kinneret Innovation Center
- Hagar Kon, Dairy Manager, Tze’elim
- Hagay Snir, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Extension Services
- MIGAL Galilee Research Institute
- Moshe Broner, Water Engineer
- Or Sha'alitiei, Water Engineer
- Ori Ben Herzl, MIGAL Galilee Research Institute
- Prof. Avraham Gamliel, Volcani Institute, ret.
- Prof. Uzi Mualem, Volcani Institute
- Shabtai Cohen, MOP Ramat Hanegev
- Shahaf Maroodi, AgroNegev
- Shaul Zaban, Agricultural Economist
- Shmil Blaberman, regional dairy farmers’ representative in the national Dairy Board
- Uri Dorman, Israeli Farmer Federation
- Yaron Belhassan, Israel Fruit Growers Association
- Yaron Geffen, Water Engineer
- Yoav Shaani, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Extension Services
- YoeI Messika, MOP Darom
- Zahi Dotan, Israel Wine & Grapes Board

Looking Ahead

By the end of 2025, the work across the Western Negev has shifted from urgent stabilization to modernization.

Strategic interventions are now rolling out to enable farmers and communities to Grow Back Stronger. From new equipment to innovations in the dairy and greenhouse sectors and upgraded water infrastructure, we are seeing firsthand how stronger agriculture on the border leads to stronger communities and to a stronger Israel.

The north, however, faces an ongoing crisis and urgent stabilization is still the priority of the day. Farmers there are desperate for support to replant 550,000 fruit trees and 260,000 vines that were totally destroyed. As we look ahead, we plan to stand alongside Israel's northern farmers, just as we did in the south.

Beyond this emergency effort, we are now focused on system change. The emphasis is on infrastructure that holds up under pressure, on practices that improve day-to-day performance, and on reducing the vulnerabilities that were exposed over the past two years. ReGrow will continue this work alongside farmers and communities, investing in the systems that agriculture depends on to ensure that the sector is not only functioning again, but better positioned for what comes next for farmers, for communities, and for Israel's future.

Amit Fahima, ReGrow's Northern Project Manager, in a nectarine plot in Metula

