

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Israel

**Post:** Tel Aviv

### Tel Aviv Tidbits

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

The following developments in Israel's Agriculture and Food Sectors are summarized in this report:

- Russia's Economic Woes Affect Israeli Exports of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
- Gaza Strip Fruit Importers Huddle with Israeli Suppliers
- Agritech 2015
- Turkey's Loss is Israel's Gain: DDGs at a Discount

**Russia's Economic Woes Affect Israeli Exports of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables** An emergency conference was called by the Farmers Union (FU) to discuss the crisis in exports of fresh fruits and vegetables from Israel to Russia. The economic crisis in Russia, which resulted from the economic sanctions imposed by the West and reduced oil prices, caused a significant slow-down in exports of fresh agricultural products. In the conference, in which more than 150 farmers and exporters took part, the FU's secretary warned that if the situation does not improve the agricultural sector is going to suffer losses of between \$200 million and \$250 million, i.e., 15% of total agricultural exports. In 2013, agricultural product exports totaled close to \$1.5 billion compared to \$1.37 billion in 2012). The recent slowing of exports is of particular concern for growers and exporters in two areas: the Arava Valley and the Western Negev. The main products that are exported to Russia are potatoes, carrots, peppers, radish, avocado and citrus.

**Gaza Strip Fruit Importers Huddle with Israeli Suppliers** After more than a year in which no contacts were held between Gaza fruit traders and Israeli exporters, a meeting was held close to the Erez Pass in December. Thirty Palestinian buyers and one hundred Israeli growers attended the meeting, including Israeli Army officers. The purpose of the meeting was to plan fruit exports for 2015. The Gaza Strip consumes over 15% of Israeli fruit production and the closure of Gaza has caused significant losses to Israeli growers. In the meeting the Gaza importers asked for easier merchandise movement in both directions and for renewed issuance of work permits for workers from Gaza on Israeli farms.

**Agritech 2015** The next "[Agritech](#)" trade show will take place April 28 – 30, 2015. The show, one of the biggest and best known agricultural shows occurs every three years at the Tel Aviv Show Grounds. This year's show will focus on post-harvest techniques, food safety and technological developments. Thirty five thousand visitors are expected, of whom about 8,000 will come from abroad, mainly from developing countries. Israel, a superpower in agricultural technology, ships advanced agricultural technologies worldwide, and some like drip irrigation and monitoring applications are in the forefront of the global struggling against hunger and poverty.

**Turkey's Loss is Israel's Gain** Due to the enforcement of a rigid control policy on products derived from biotech seed commodities, the Government of Turkey recently rejected over 100,000 tons of U.S. DDG derived from certain biotech corn varieties. Most of the rejected DDGs was offered to Israeli buyers at reduced prices and was reshipped from Turkey to Israel. The value of the product moved was close to \$25 million. Given this DDG windfall, Israel now has high stocks of this feed product, and additional imports through the first half of 2015 for DDGS and CGF (Corn Gluten Feed) will likely be negligible. Total annual Israeli consumption of DDGS and CGF reached 170,000 and 223,000 tons, respectively in 2013.