



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE
FOOD SECURITY AND
IMPROVED NUTRITION
AND PROMOTE
SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH

Promoting Health via Education

Dr. Noga Cohen, from the Department of Special Education and the Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities, together with her lab team, researches the reciprocal links between cognitive control and emotion and how these links can be strengthened through training. [Their findings](#) show that cognitive reappraisal is an effective technique, not only for reducing negative affect, but also for modulating links between emotions and their consequences.

New Publication: Transforming Culture and Religion to Eradicate Food Waste

A multi-disciplinary team of UofH researchers recently published an article titled, '[Between perceptions and practices: The Religious and Cultural aspects of food wastage in households](#)', published in *Appetite*, explores how cultural and religious views shape food waste practices. Interviews with influential individual subsects of Israeli society, including secular Jews; religious Jews; and Muslim Arabs unveil the conflict between values and waste. The research seeks to identify factors that



Planting at the food forest in Bethlehem of Galilee (Credit: Yuli and Nitzan Betzer)

lead to household food waste include past scarcity, consumer culture, and hospitality in hopes to demonstrate how dissonance can be reconciled, both on the level of justification and action.

New Study: Lengthening Wheat Roots

[A new study](#) conducted by Prof. Tzion Fahima, from the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, in collaboration with researchers from the University of California Davis, was published in *Nature Communications*. Their work identifies the genes (OPR11) responsible for regulating the length of the roots in bread wheat, which will allow wheat with longer roots to reach the water found in

deeper soil layers and yield more crops in dry conditions.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Opposing Judicial Overhaul for National Food Security

Considering the ongoing judicial overhaul in Israel, the National Council for Food Security, led by Prof. Emeritus Roni Strier from the School of Social Work, [released an opinion](#) highlighting the implications for food-insecure populations. The council emphasized that without a robust and independent legal system, the most vulnerable individuals lack adequate protection. This underscores the importance of maintaining an independent judiciary to ensure the well-being

of socially and economically disadvantaged segments of society.

Addressing Soil Degradation: Ecosystem Restoration Living Lab

In December 2022, [REACT4MED convened for its first workshop at the Food Forest in Bethlehem of Galilee](#). With the leadership of Prof. Anna Brook, of the Spectroscopy and Remote Sensing Lab at the School of Environmental Sciences, the group was introduced to the Ecosystem Restoration Living Lab which addresses soil degradation by evaluating and disseminating knowledge about sustainable soil management practices. Participants received an overview of the project, through which they will engage with local, national, and international actors over the

next three years. By sharing their soil management experience, they help to ensure that project outcomes are most impactful.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Training for National Food Security

Twenty-eight students graduated from the first cohort of the new training program for food security.

under the Unit of Continued Education and the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, is unique in its aim to train coordinators from across the country and diverse backgrounds that work for the national initiative for food security. The initiative operates under Eshel Chabad, together with the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs, who grant services to thousands of families nationwide.

Teaching for Sustainable Food Practices

Courses such as 'Dieticians for underserved populations' with Dr. Roni Elran-Barak; 'Seven Skinny Years: Food Security in the Mediterranean Region' with Prof. Guy Bar-Oz and Prof. Gil Gambash; and 'Nutrition Policy in Present Times' by Prof. Ronit Endevelt, all play a vital role in addressing and advancing food security by equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to tackle the challenges of nutrition and sustainable food practices, ultimately contributing to a more secure and equitable food future.

OPERATIONS

Student Union Cafe

In response to student protests on living costs, the Student Union established [the 'Union Cafe'](#) on campus, offering a diverse range of affordable and subsidized food options. The clean, organized dining area provides students with a comfortable space to enjoy sandwiches, chocolates, snacks, hot/cold drinks, as well as hot meals like pizzas, pastas, salads, and pastries throughout the year.

Discounted Vouchers for Staff

Discounted vouchers for a variety of groceries stores in Israel are offered to the University's Staff.