May 28, 2019

Proposal for Moshav and Kibbutz Project in Mexico

Israel’s great success in agriculture originates in a unique combination of human entrepreneurship, social structure, and professional and academic stewarding—in addition to open channels of information and training that farmers may call on at all times.

When agricultural settlement in Israel began in the early twentieth century, two forms of cooperatives were created—the moshav and the kibbutz.

**The kibbutz** is a commune in which all means of production are shared, all property belongs to members who are paid commensurate with family size, marketing is handled jointly, and income is available to the kibbutz.

**The moshav** is a cooperative in which each farmer has a smallholding and agricultural produce is marketed cooperatively by a jointly owned agricultural association; every farmer receiving h/her money and share in the sale of the produce and remaining responsible for h/her expenses.

The kibbutzim and the moshavim (plural of kibbutz and moshav, respectively) also established a jointly owned national instrumentality for the marketing of their agricultutral output: Tnuva, which deals with vegetables of all kinds, fruit, eggs, meat, etc. Tnuva was a cooperative of 600 agricultural settlements in which the members were the settlements themselves. It was through this entity that they delivered their produce to market in the cities.

The settlements also established a national purchasing organization along the same lines, through which they bought tractors, combines, seeds, pesticides, and so on, as well as regional organizations that served as cooperative banks.

After 110 years of experience, one may say with certainty that this method of cooperation, partnership, and organized marketing remains relevant today for countries that are interested in joint production and marketing that assures a profit and social security for members of the cooperative, as has been the case on the kibbutz and the moshav.

Israel’s 273 kibbutzim and 600 moshavim turn out 93 percent of the country’s [כן?] produce—vegetables, fruit, milk, eggs, meat, avocados, mangos, fish, and much more. They are home to 6 percent of the national population, among which are many experts in agriculture, irrigation, water, marketing, cooperative enterprise, etc.

If Mexico is interested in launching large innovative agricultural projects, I estimate that several teams of experienced professionals in the fields of agriculture, economics, and social affairs can be organized in Israel to create models that may offer practical responses to the great challenge that you are facing.

I myself am a member of Kibb utz Negba. My occupation is dairy farmer. I used to be secretary of the Kibbutz Movement, a Member of Parliament, and head, for around ten years, of the agricultural lobby. In the past decade, I have been secretary-general of the Israel Farmers Association, an umbrella organization that represents all farmers in Israel vis-à-vis the state authorities—the government and the parliament.

The Association amalgamates all rural settlement movements in Israel as well as the national organizations of growers—fruit, vegetables, dairy, poultry, etc.—and is the authorized representative of all farmers countrywide.

It will be our pleasure to contribute our experience insofar as the project takes off.

I am well acquainted with our national leadership and the ministers in the government, and if as you wish to cooperate at the policy level as well, I can bring the matter to the attention of the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture.

Sincerely,  
Avshalom (Abu) Vilan