

Community and Technology in Project Wadi Attir

Convener and Moderator: Dr. Michael Ben-Eli, The Sustainability Laboratory

Thursday, November 20, 12:00-13:30

Old Administration Building

This session will underscore the significance of the project to the Bedouin Community and will offer an overview of the project's integrated infrastructure of green technologies with its "waste into resources" approach. It will briefly review key components of the system with emphasis on green buildings, soil enhancement, solar/wind energy production, and waste water and organic waste treatment. The session will allow for open discussion with the audience about the project and its universal significance.

Panel Participants

Dr. Mohammed Alnabari, Mayor of Hura

Ms. Mariaam Abu Rakayek, Founding Member of Project Wadi Attir

Prof. Isaac Meir, Ben-Gurion University

Prof. Amit Gross, Ben-Gurion University

Dr. Stefan Leu, Ben-Gurion University

Dr. Or Yogev, Augwind Inc.

About Project Wadi Attir

Project Wadi Attir is a groundbreaking initiative of the Bedouin community in the Negev, for establishing a model sustainable agricultural operation. The project was initiated by The Sustainability Laboratory, a US-based non-profit, and the Hura Municipal Council, the governing body of a local Bedouin township. Designed to leverage Bedouin traditional values, aspirations, know-how and experience with modern-day science and cutting edge technologies, Project Wadi Attir showcases implementation of holistic sustainability principles developed by The Lab. It demonstrates an approach to sustainable development in an arid environment, valid and replicable locally as well as in other similar regions around the world.

The core of the project includes an organic farming enterprise involving animal husbandry and the production of dairy products; cultivation of medicinal plants and the development of a related line of health products; and the reintroduction of nutritious, indigenous vegetables to common use. At its heart, the project will include a visitor, training and education center, with a focus on

ecology, sustainability innovation and entrepreneurship. The project site will be supported by an integrated infrastructure of green technologies including a soil enhancement program; solar energy and bio-gas production; the production of compost from organic waste; advanced irrigation management; and waste water treatment and recycling.

Implementation of the project has been supported by a uniquely broad coalition involving a government consortium led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and including the Ministry of Development of the Negev and the Galilee; the Economic Development Authority in the Minority Sector, PM's Office; and the Authority of Bedouin Settlement in the Negev; as well as researchers from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, JNF-KKL, local NGOs and Kibbutzims, private sector companies, foundations, and individual donors,