

JEPH ODHIAMBO: ARAVA INSTITUTE ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

November 2023



Mr. Jeph Odhiambo, BSc. Management of Agroecosystems and Environment, Graduated in 2023

**A student at Arava International Center for Agricultural Training - Israel, Arava Region.
(Higher Diploma Program in Sustainable Agriculture)**

Jeph Odhiambo is an extraordinary individual who embodies the epitome of excellence in every aspect of his life. With an unwavering dedication to his craft, Jeph has established himself as a

true trailblazer in his chosen field. His unparalleled passion and tireless work ethic have propelled him to the pinnacle of success, leaving an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to witness his brilliance. Jeph's innate ability to inspire and empower others is matched only by his profound humility, making him a beacon of light in a world often overshadowed by self-interest. Whether it is his remarkable achievements, his compassionate nature, or his unwavering commitment to making a positive impact, Jeph Odhiambo stands as a shining example of what it means to be an outstanding individual.

Jeph Odhiambo has always dreamt of expanding his horizons and acquiring knowledge in the field, he was passionate about- agriculture. Born and raised in Kenya, he knew that in order to make a significant impact in the agricultural sector, he needed to pursue higher education beyond his undergraduate degree. After months of research and planning, Jeph decided to set his sights on Israel, a country renowned for its advanced agricultural practices and cutting-edge research in arid regions. He had heard about the Arava International Center for Agriculture Training, located in the Arava Region of Israel, which offered a Higher Diploma Program in Sustainable Agriculture. This program was exactly what Jeph was looking for, as it focused on sustainable farming techniques tailored for arid environments.

Leaving behind his family and the familiar landscapes of Kenya, Jeph embarked on a life-changing journey to Israel on 22nd August, 2023. He arrived in the Arava Region with a mix of excitement and trepidation. The unfamiliar terrain and a language barrier presented their own challenges, but Jeph was determined to make the most of this opportunity. The program is

rigorous, demanding both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Jeph finds himself in a diverse classroom, surrounded by students from various countries, each bringing their unique perspectives and experiences. It is a melting pot of cultures and ideas, and Jeph relished the chance to learn from his peers. Outside of the classroom, Jeph embraced Israeli culture and formed lasting friendships with his classmates. He has learnt about the importance of community in agriculture, something that resonated deeply with his Kenyan roots. Together, they explored the unique landscapes of the Arava Region, from the Dead Sea's salt-laden waters to the Negev Desert's rugged terrain.

The Arava Region itself is a revelation to him. The harsh desert landscape, with its scorching sun and minimal rainfall, seemed like an unlikely place to learn about agriculture. However, he soon realized that it is precisely this challenging environment that makes the Arava Institute the perfect place to study sustainable agriculture. He has learned about cutting-edge techniques such as drip irrigation, hydroponics, and desert permaculture, all designed to maximize crop yields while conserving precious water resources.





Jeph Odhiambo with other Students from Kenya, Thailand, Laos and Indonesia.

Over the course of the program, his perspective on agriculture evolved. He has seen the potential for sustainable farming practices to transform arid regions, not just in Israel but back in Kenya as well. Armed with newfound knowledge and skills, he envisioned himself returning to his homeland to implement what he had learned, helping his community thrive in the face of climate challenges.

As the days pass, his skills continue to grow, and his confidence soars. He knows that he is gaining the tools and knowledge needed to make a difference in his community. Thanking the University of Nairobi through the department of LARMAT for giving me a chance together with other students to participate in the noble course.

