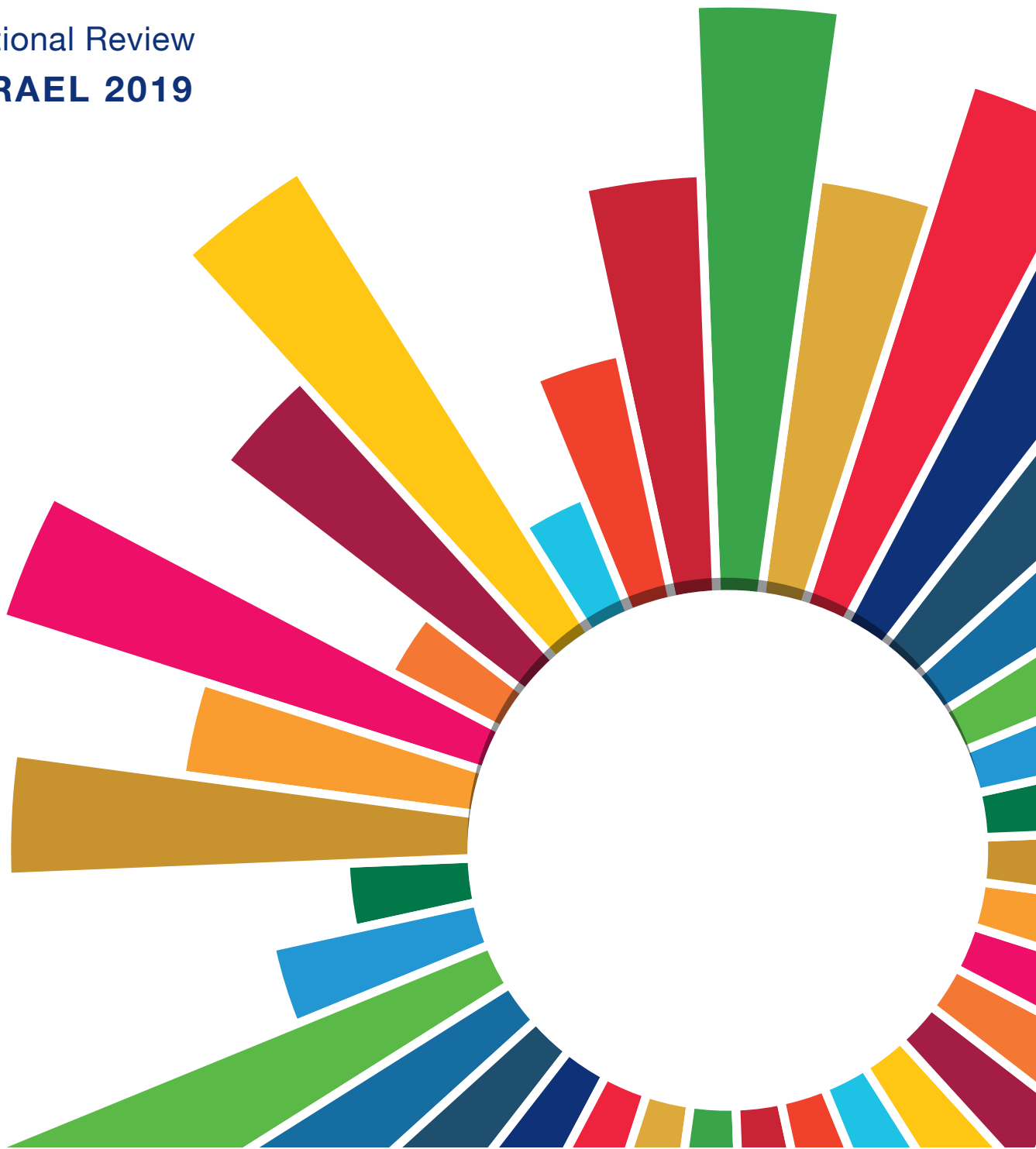




IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

National Review
ISRAEL 2019



Recognizing the importance of enhancing scientific research (**SDG 9.5**), Israel's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) is implementing some 30 scientific agreements with governments in Asia, Europe and Latin America to promote cooperation on research projects. Examples include:

- **Vietnam:** An MOU on Scientific and Technological Cooperation was signed (2017) with the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam. Areas of cooperation include: agriculture and food technology; aquaculture and fishery processing; quality of life and environment; material technology; IT and communication; biotechnology; health and medical science; and new and renewable energy. In 2018, a delegation of Israeli scientists visited Vietnam and attended a joint conference on Clinical Aspects, Diagnostic and Prevention of Vector-Borne Diseases Focusing on Malaria, Zika and Dengue Diseases. In addition, Israeli experts visited five research institutions, universities and hospitals involved in the initiative, and the first call for proposals is expected to be published in the near future;
- **Belarus:** Israel and the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus signed (2018) an MOU on Scientific Cooperation to promote a joint program on scientific research. A joint call for proposals was issued on digital agriculture as well as social sciences;
- **Ukraine:** A Program for Scientific and Technological Cooperation was signed (2015) with Ukraine on Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics. The call for proposals was recently published;
- **Argentina:** An MOU on a Scientific Cooperation Program was signed (2017) with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina, followed by a Work Program for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, aimed at funding joint research projects. Areas of cooperation are under discussion;
- **Brazil:** A Protocol of Intent with the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communication of Brazil was signed (2018) on Cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation to fund joint research proposals. The first call

for proposals is expected to focus on renewable energy and atmosphere-ocean interaction;

- **Philippines:** An MOU on a Scientific Cooperation Program was signed (2018) between Israel and the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines, supporting research projects and the exchange of best practices. A delegation of scientists visited Israel to discuss further implementation of the MOU in possible areas including aquaculture and air pollution;
- **Middle East:** Regional cooperation with Israel's neighbors in the Middle East is an important component in Israel's overseas assistance. Israel is one of the founding member countries of the Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME), a "third-generation" synchrotron light source that opened officially (2017) in Allan, Jordan. It is the first major international research center in the Middle East, with member countries including Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Cyprus, the Palestinian Authority, Pakistan and Iran. Research focuses on disciplines including biology, archaeology, medicine, physics, chemistry, material engineering and life sciences.

A new initiative in Israeli academia complements government efforts to promote innovation and sustainability in developing economies. The Nitsan Innovation Villages Program, based at Tel Aviv University, and supported by the Boris Mints Institute, enables the adaptation of Israeli innovations to the needs of low-income populations in developing countries while achieving widespread impact. Nitsan harnesses the resources of the entrepreneurial student community to form a bridge between the Israeli innovation ecosystem – in both the private and public sectors – and the realities of developing countries. Nitsan graduate students are based in communities throughout the developing world, working together with their peers from local partner universities. University experts lead scientifically rigorous, data-driven and evidence-based processes. The flagship program is currently carried out in India, in collaboration with Tata Trusts, and aims at increasing the income of smallholder farmers. (**SDG 9.b**)