

TO

PROFESSOR I. ELAZARI-VOLCANI

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY

PROFESSOR J. ELIAZAR V. GILCANT

JOINTER AND DIRECTOR OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Professor I. Elazari-Volcani (born in Lithuania in 1880) studied Agriculture, Natural Sciences, Political Economy and Philosophy in Berne (Switzerland), Berlin and Koenigsberg (Germany).

Shortly upon his arrival in Palestine (1908), he established demonstration farms at Ben-Shemen and Hulda and administered them for ten years. At Ben-Shemen he engaged in extensive experimental work in animal husbandry, poultry keeping, production of forage crops and fruit growing. Particularly noteworthy in his achievement in crossing local and foreign breeds of cattle, to the great advantage of the dairy industry.

During these years Professor Volcani also investigated the various types of farm management in Palestine. These researches resulted in the following publications: "The Fellah's Farm", "The Organized Mixed Farm in Palestine" (in Hebrew), "The Transition from Primitive to Modern Agriculture in Palestine", "The Dairy industry as a Basis for Colonization in Palestine".

Side by side with his professional attainments he took an active part in Zionist reconstruction work. He attended most Zionist Congresses, making valuable contributions in discussions on colonization and land-settlement programs. His "Baderech" (in Hebrew) is recognized as a fundamental reference-book to problems of Jewish agricultural colonization. Under the title "Middoth" (in Hebrew) he published a collection of essays on various aspects of land-settlement and rural economics.

After the First World War (1919) he went together with late Aron Aronson on a scientific mission to the Negev to explore the agricultural prospects of that region. In the same year he participated in a Zionist delegation which went to Paris and London for negotiations on the Palestine Mandate.

In 1921 Professor Volcani founded the Agricultural Experiment Station in Tel-Aviv, later the Agricultural Research Station of the Jewish Agency, Rehovot. He has been director of the Station since its inception as well as head of the Rural Economics Division. His principal publications during this period are: "The Communistic Settlements in the Jewish Colonization in Palestine", "The Transition to a Dairy Industry in Palestine", "Key for the Settlement of Various Zones in Palestine", and "Planned Mixed Farming".

Professor Volcani was instrumental in the establishment of the School of Agriculture of the Hebrew University and acted as dean of the Agricultural Faculty as well as professor of Rural Economics until 1950.

He travelled extensively in various American and European countries exploring agricultural problems and studying experimental and educational methods.

During the mandatory period Professor Volcani was member of the General Agricultural Council and of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Government. He is a member of the International Conference of Agricultural Economists, member of the Editorial Board of the Empire Journal of Experimental Agriculture and member-correspondent of the Agricultural Economics Research Industry, University of Oxford. He holds the M. B. E. award.