

The Israeli Irrigation and Agricultural Projects in China

Israel is one of the most densely populated countries in the world and 80% of its land need to be irrigated. Israeli farmers and scientists have to contest against a difficult environment and limited water resources to develop efficient water management, water recycling, and advanced irrigation technologies such as large-scale utilization of drip irrigation, sprinkle irrigation etc.

Similarly China is one of the driest countries and the average person's water resource is only about 25% of the world average. The dry and semidry land accounts for more than 20% of all cultivatable land in China. Therefore implementing water saving technologies, such as irrigation, to overcome the water issue is of great interest to the Chinese government.

Since the 1990's Israeli water technology companies have worked with the Chinese government and companies. As a result Israeli irrigation and agricultural projects can now be found all over the China, and not just in the northwest dry land areas.

The following are examples of major Israeli irrigation projects and technologies that have been implemented in China over the past five years.

1. Xinjiang, the biggest province in China, has a desert climate with a low annual rainfall of only 150mm. A large number of Israeli irrigation projects have been implemented in the area, mostly drip irrigation systems.

2. In November 2007, Zhejiang province installed a set of drip irrigation demonstration equipment from Israel. They later purchased 22 systems and installed them across the province.

3. In March 2008, Longzhou city in Guangxi province adapted Israel water-saving technologies and setup in its WU-LONG tea campus, which covers the area of 1500MU (each MU is 667 square meters).

4. Ningxia province began implementing water saving irrigation systems from Israel since 1996. So far more than 20,000 MU of cultivation land uses the drip & sprinkle irrigation system.

5. In 2009 an Israeli firm has been contracted to provide wastewater treatment to Shandong and Hebei provinces, Tianjin city and the west Yangtze River area in Sichuan.

6. Since 2007 an Israeli company has set up joint venture to supply the technology in making automated, wireless water meters and water management systems to monitor and control water in Shanxi province.

7. In a recent venture, the Chinese company Haier partnered with an Israeli firm to produce high-quality drinking water using advanced filtering devices.

Many more Chinese companies and local governments are seeking new water saving and irrigation technologies to implement in their various water-related projects.

Based on the plan of the Chinese government, 300 million people are to be relocated from rural to urban areas over the next decade. This migration will not only put great pressure on the existing infrastructures and water systems, but also brings great perspectives for innovative solutions.

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