Monday, February 6th, 2023
The Shimshon and Chana Feldman International Conference Center, Building 301, Weisfeld Hall, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan

08:30 Gathering and Refreshments
09:00 Session 1: Opening Talks
Chair: Joel Roskin (BIU)
GREETINGS
09:30 KEYNOTE Gideon Avni (IAA): The Mechanism of Penetration of New Agricultural technologies to the Southern Levant during the Early Islamic Period – an Overview
10:10 Itamar TAxel (IAA): Early Islamic Settlement and Land-Use Patterns Along the Mediterranean Coast of Israel
10:35 Sefi Porat (IAA): 'Classic Agriculture Under Irrigation' and 'Plot- and-Berm Agroecosystems' at Caesarea
11:00 Coffee Break
11:20 Session 2: Contexts of Plot- and-Berm Agroecosystems along the Coast of Israel
Chair: Gideon Avni (IAA)
Revital Bookman (U. of Haifa) and Joel Roskin (BIU): The Levant climate during the Holocene
12:10 Joel Roskin (BIU) and Itamar TAxel (IAA): Possible Links between Three Traditional Groundwater Harvesting Agroecosystems along the Mediterranean Coast of Israel
12:40 Ehud Weiss (BIU): Tour of Archaeobotanical Laboratory Lunch
14:15 Session 3: Ancient Agricultural Enterprises in the Eastern Mediterranean Basin and Middle East
Chair: Guy Bar-Oz (U. of Haifa)
KEYNOTE Bethany J. Walker (U. of Bonn): Putting Knowledge to Practice: “Reading” Ancient Landscapes
14:55 Luca Zavagno (Bilkent U.): The Transformation of the Byzantine Insular Agroecosystems in the early Middle Ages (ca. 600-ca.900): The Cases of Sicily, Cyprus, and Crete
15:20 A. Katharina Rieger (U. of Graz) and Thomas Vetter (U. of Greifswald): Regional Constraints and Local Options for Dryland Agriculture in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean: The Eastern Marmarica (NW-Egypt) as Case Study for Discontinuities
15:45 Peter Brown (Radboud U.): Ridges, Canals and Tidal Irrigation: Exploring a Possible Early Islamic Agricultural System in the Hinterland of the Medieval City of Basra, Southern Iraq
16:10 Coffee Break
16:30 Session 4: Early Islamic Agriculture in Israel
Chair: Ehud Weiss (BIU)
Kathleen M. Forster (Boston U.): Urban orchards and Rural Fields: Agricultural Specialization and Land-use in the Early Islamic Levant
16:55 Daniel Fuks (U. of Cambridge): The 'Islamic Green Revolution' and the Archaeobotanical Evidence from the Negev Highlands, Israel
17:20 Uzi Avner (DSASC): Hyper-Arid Desert Agriculture in the Southern Arabah Valley, Israel
17:45 Synthesis, Outlook and Brief Discussion moderated by Jed O. Kaplan (U. of Hong Kong)
18:30 Dinner on Campus

Tuesday, February 7th, 2023
Field trip
09:00 Field Excursion
Caesarea P&L Agroecosystem – Itamar TAxel (IAA), Joel Roskin (BIU)
12:00 Lunch and Discussion - Caesarea National Park
12:45 Caesarea National Park
Excursion focusing on Early Islamic finds - Peter Gendelman (IAA)
15:30 Return to Kfar Maccabiah Hotel

Wednesday, February 8th, 2023
The Shimshon and Chana Feldman International Conference Center, Building 301, Weisfeld Hall, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan

08:30 Gathering and Refreshments
09:00 Session 5: Detail and Integration of Plot-and-Berm Agroecosystems
Chair: Daniel Fuchs (U. of Cambridge)
Joel Roskin (BIU), Lotem Robins (BIU), Itamar TAxel (IAA), Alvero Campelo (U. Fernando Pessoa), Helder L. Chaminé (Polytechnic of Porto) and Manuel Abrunhosa (U. of Coimbra): Plot-and-Berm Agroecosystems from Iran to Iberia: Possibly Linked?
09:30 Rubén Sanchez (Independent agroecologist): Multidisciplinary Approach to the Navajo as a Traditional Agroecosystem in Sanlucar de Barrameda (Spain)
09:55 Lotem Robins (BIU), Joel Roskin (BIU), Adam Ostrowski (U. of Haifa), Itamar TAxel (IAA), Naomi Porat (GSI), Sarah Pariente (BIU) and Revital Bookman (U. of Haifa): Geospatial, Stratigraphic and Chronological Analysis of the Development Stages of the Caesarea Plot-and-Berm Agroecosystem
10:45 Coffee Break
11:00 Session 6: Inception and Proliferation of Agricultural Terraces in Israel and Transjordan
Chair: Luca Zavagno (Bilkent U.)
Yuval Gadot (TAU), Nitsan Ben Melech (TAU) and Omer Zeevi (TAU): Knowledge Transfer and the Terrace Culture of Jerusalem’s Highlands between the Iron Age and the Late Islamic Periods
11:25 Naomi Porat (GSI) and Yuval Gadot (TAU): Soil Erosion, Preservation and Recycling in Mountain Bench Terraces, Judea Mountains, Israel
11:50 Oren Ackermann (AU), Yaakov Anker (AU), Helena M. Zhevelev (BIU), and Tal Svoray (BGU): Terracing between Sub-humid Mediterranean to Arid Climate Zones – Optimization of Past to Future Environmental Conditions
12:40 Lunch
13:40 Session 7: Broadening the Picture
Chair: Bethany J. Walker (U. of Bonn)
14:05 Joshua Schmidt (U. of Haifa), Yuval Ben-Bassat (U. of Haifa) Meiav Meiri (TAU) and Guy Bar-Oz (U. of Haifa): Notes on the Indigenous Viticultural Heritage of the Dabouki Cultivar
14:30 Danon Halevy (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute): A Waste Land? Sand Dwellers and their Cultivation in the Gaza Region during Late Ottoman Times
15:20 Coffee Break
15:30 Session 8: Wrap-up
Lessons Learned – Panel and Discussion: moderated by Bethany J. Walker (U. of Bonn), Itamar TAxel (IAA) and Joel Roskin (BIU)
16:45 Summary and Farewell: Joel Roskin (BIU) and Itamar TAxel (IAA)