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TZAHY ARIEL presents his 289-gram strawberry after it set a new Guinness record, in Kadima-Zoran, last week. (Amir Cohen/Reuters)

Israeli farmer boasts largest strawberry in the world

• Jerusalem Post Staff and Reuters

Israeli farmer Chahi Ariel has grown the world's heaviest strawberry, according to Guinness World Records.

At 289 grams, Ariel's strawberry weighs 39 gr. more than the previous record-holder, Koji Nakao from Japan.

The strawberry is of the Ilan variety, which is known for producing relatively large fruit and was originally bred by Dr.

Nir Dai of the Agricultural Research Organization, who was present at the weighing.

"During this strawberry season in late January and early February, it was particularly cold," Dai explained to Guinness World Records. "The strawberry developed slowly for more than 45 days from flowering which caused its large size at full ripening."

Most likely, the large size of the straw-

berry resulted from multiple strawberries growing close to each other and fusing into one large one.

Ariel's family farm, "Strawberries in the Field" is in Kadima-Zoran in the center of the country.

"When we heard, it was an amazing feeling. I jumped in the car, laughed and sang," said Ariel, proudly displaying his certificate on a laptop. "We've been waiting for this for a long time."

