



**FELDMAN, SHELDON (SHAUL)**

Sheldon (Shaul) Feldman was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1921, and immigrated with his parents to the US at an early age.

He completed his education in the United States. Graduated the practical National Jewish Boys' Farm School in Doylestown, Pennsylvania in 1942, received his BSc in agriculture at Ohio State University in 1948, and MSc and PhD in 1949 and 1952 respectively from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

A staunch Zionist, he made 'Aliyah' to Israel immediately following his studies in 1952 and began working as a researcher in the Field Crops Division at the agricultural Research Station in Rehovot. After a serious bout with Infantile Paralysis (Polio) he returned to work and was appointed in 1954 as Director of Field Crops and then as Director of Gilat Regional Experiment Farm near Beer Sheva in the Negev.

Dr. Feldman received in 1959 the Work Prize of the General Union ('Histadrut') for his devotion and contribution. He had a very unique gift – had what is called a total photographic memory – which he often put to good use. He was a virtual walking encyclopedia. In the late 1950s a mysterious ailment caused havoc in Hula Valley's (Northern Galilee) dairy cattle herds. No solution was found. Sheldon heard of it and immediately associated it with what he once read years earlier, and suggested it may be Selenium poisoning which it indeed turned out to be, and the problem was immediately tackled and solved.

In the early 1960s Dr. Feldman helped set up the new Mivtahim Regional Sub-Station in the sandy Western Negev, and took over its management. He worked mainly on tomato and potato research. Here again, his special gift came into play. Yields there were very low. Calling upon his exceptional memory, he suggested trying multiplying the amounts of nitrogen several-fold – to quantities never heard of here before – and the results were



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astonishing.. Not only did potato yields go up, but they surpassed all expectations, and thus the major agricultural branch of the region was born. He also changed entirely the fertilization regime of groundnuts, which also became a major regional crop.

Sheldon was sent on consulting missions to Iran and Zambia by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs's Center for International Cooperation

The sub-station was placed in 1978 under the aegis of the Regional R&D System where Sheldon continued working till retirement in 1982.

He passed away in 1999 at the age of 78.