

Showing the way in farming

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Agritech 83, the largest display to be staged at the exhibition grounds here, opened last week with a colourful parade of tractors and other agricultural mechanical equipment.

The organizers expected over 150,000 visitors, including 2,500 from abroad. The foreign visitors include high-ranking government officials, business people and farmers, and also experts from countries which do not have diplomatic ties with Israel.

Over 500 exhibitors are taking part and about 100 new developments in farming and irrigation equipment are being shown for the first time at this year's biannual show.

* Three international scientific congresses are being held during the exhibition, and cover irrigation, plant protection, and fruit and vegetable harvesting.

Bernard Josephs reports:

Israel's farmers now have a new weapon to use against the pests that ravage their crops: biotechnologists have come up with an extract of pheromones, the natural scent that makes lady bugs attractive to male bugs, and local farmers are now using it to lure the insects to their deaths.

Using the pheromones extract allows farmers to stamp out crop-nibbling pests without toxic pesticides, and the extract is ex-

pected to be one of the centres of attraction at Agritech.

The main focus of Agritech is irrigation, in which Israel is the recognized world leader. Netafim is displaying a new, regulated dripper pipe that releases precisely measured amounts of water regardless of the pressure in the pipe. Thus, growers in areas with unstable water pressure can maintain control over the amount of water their crops are receiving.

At the heavy end of irrigation, Tsamash Enterprises is showing off its range of huge water and sewage pipes — some big enough for even the tallest man to stand in without stooping.

In the past, such pipes were produced from either asbestos — which is a health hazard — or steel, which corrodes. The Tsamash product is made of fibreglass reinforced polyester which, according to Yisrael Shenkar, head of the company, is light, virtually indestructible and corrosion-free.

The pipes — also capable of carrying chemicals — are the product of 10 years' research at his company, says Shenkar, and he believes their export potential is tremendous. He is also interested in joint development with an overseas company and reports considerable interest from the U.S., where Tsamash has opened a plant in California.

Of course, says Rafi Glick, who is organizer of Agritech and director

of the Israel Export Institute's Agricultural Centre, not all the 500 exhibits at the fair are local — they come from 50 countries. Yet, despite the generally gloomy atmosphere in Israeli agriculture lately, it is the home-made product that is expected to make the most impact.

For example, a tractor produced by Granot, based on the hydrostatic designs of both the IDF's Merkava tank and the U.S. lunar vehicle, is generating a lot of excitement. It is intended to travel along tracks set in fields, ending the problem of tractors crushing irrigation equipment. In addition, the eight metre-wide vehicle straddles crops instead of ploughing through them.

To lighten the load for livestock farmers, Lachish Industries has been showing off their new feed mixer which takes over the entire back-breaking feeding business. A single, self-propelled piece of machinery, the new mixer combines any variety of feed — from hay to concentrated pellets — in predetermined proportions, and produces exactly the nutritional and roughage level the animals need, serving it up in individual portions.

For farmers who don't know what to do with farmyard refuse and are looking for a way to cut back on their electricity bills, Ma'agareh Technologia's display could provide the answers.

The company has devised a small-scale energy system fuelled by garbage, farm waste and anything that



A role for the computer down at the farm.

burns. It is an alternative to the larger power plants of a similar type now under production, and is designed to fit the needs of individual farms and remote rural communities.

Other exotic examples of the biologist's art are on exhibit at the fair apart from the love-bug catcher.

Maristem marks the approach of 1984, by displaying its range of disease-free, clone-propagated plants.

And, at a less Orwellian level, developments in agrochemicals, new systems for harvesting and sorting and advances in computer usage are being shown.

Israeli sales reported to Saudis, China

TEL AVIV (AP). — Israel is selling agricultural equipment to Saudi Arabia and China, most of it irrigation machinery, a government source said last week.

The source, who spoke on condition that he not be named, said that

ing the equipment is also being sold to China through a European intermediary.

Neither the source nor the newspaper had details of the amount of trade involved. According to of-

Drop in exports

Exports during September declined by 13 per cent compared with September 1982, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced on Friday. Last month's exports totalled \$319 million as against \$369m in

Electronic publishing tool wins industrial-innovation award

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HERZLIYA. — For the fourth time in nine years, Scitex Corporation

December 1982 at Time headquarters in New York City.

All page design and page layout