Name: Ofir Degani **Date: 20 October 2026**

CURRICULUM VITAE

1. Personal Details

Permanent Home Address: **Hativat Givati 43/1, Karmiel, 2199243**

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2. Higher Education

a. Undergraduate and Graduate Studies

Period of Study	Name of Institution and Department	Degree	Year of Approval of Degree
2001 - 2005	Technion Institute of Technology (Israel).	Ph.D.	2005
1998 - 2001	Technion Institute of Technology (Israel).	M.Sc.	2001
1993 - 1997	Haifa University (Oranim campus, Israel)	B.Sc. and teaching certification	1997

b. Post-Doctoral Studies

Period of Study	Name of Institution, Department, and Host	Degree	Year of Completion
2005 - 2006	Migal - Galilee Research Institute (Israel), Dr. Doron Goldberg	-	2006

3. Academic Ranks and Tenure in Institutes of Higher Education

Dates	Name of Institution and Department	Rank/Position
2019 - today	Tel-Hai University of Kiryat Shmona in the Galilee (Israel)	Senior lecturer and Senior staff member
2017 - today	Migal - Galilee Research Institute, Phytopathology and Biological Control Lab (Israel)	Senior researcher and principal investigator
2015 - 2017	Ohalo College (Israel)	Senior lecturer and Senior staff member
2009 - 2012	Tel-Hai Technology College (Israel)	Lecturer and staff member
2007 - 2017	Migal - Galilee Research Institute, Phytopathology and Crop Protection Lab (Israel)	Research group leader
2006 - 2019	Tel-Hai College (Israel)	Lecturer and staff member
2005 - 2006	Migal - Galilee Research Institute (Israel)	Post-doctoral fellow at the laboratory of Dr. Doron Goldberg
2001 - 2015	Ohalo College (Israel)	Lecturer and staff member

4. Offices in Academic Administration

2025 - today – Head of the B.Sc. Biotechnology Department, Tel-Hai University of Kiryat Shmona in the Galilee (Israel).

2025 - today – Chair of the Teaching Committee, B.Sc. Biotechnology Department, Tel-Hai University of Kiryat Shmona in the Galilee (Israel).

2025 – Faculty representative on the committee for establishing regulations at the future Tel-Hai College (Israel).

2024 - 2025 – Accompanying the IDF reserve servants' students on behalf of the Faculty of Sciences, Tel-Hai College.

2021 - 2022 – Chairman of the Committee for the Advancement of Online Laboratory Courses in collaboration with universities in Israel and abroad.

2007 - 2012 – Member of the pre-veterinary program leading committee.

2007 - 2008 – Member of the research committee of Ohalo College (Israel).

2007 – Led the master's degree program preparation at Ohalo College (Israel).

5. Scholarly Positions and Activities outside the Institution

a. Representation in academic committees

2026 - 2030 – Israel's representative in the COST Action Management: CA25147, Bacteriophages for crop protection: Discovery, Exploration, Application & Society (Phage4Crops). (Link).

2022 - 2026 – Israel's representative in the COST Action Management: CA21134, Towards zer0 Pesticide AGRIculture: European Network for Sustainability (T0P-AGRI-Network), European Cooperation in Science & Technology. (Link).

b. Academic Editorial Positions

Editorial Board positions

Processed and finalized editorial decisions for about 180 manuscripts.

2024 - today – Editorial Board member, *Journal of Fungi*. (Link).

2022 - today – Associate Editor Board member, *Frontiers in Fungal Biology*, Fungi-Plant Interactions. (Link).

2022 - 2024 – Editorial Board member, *Agrochemicals*. (Link).

Academic Editing of Special Issue/Topic

2026 – today – Academic Editor, Research Topic: "Fungal Biofertilizers for Regenerative and Sustainable Crop Production," *Frontiers in Fungal Biology*, Fungi-Plant Interactions. (Link).

2026 - today – Academic Editor, Special Issue: "Plant Fungal Diseases and Crop Protection 3rd Edition," *Journal of Fungi*. (Link).

2025 - 2026 – Academic Editor, Research Topic: "Insights into the Molecular Dynamics of Stress Physiology in Allium Crops." *Frontiers in Plant Science* (Link).

2025 - 2026 – Academic Editor, Special Issue: "Plant Fungal Diseases and Crop Protection 2nd Edition," *Journal of Fungi*. (Link).

2024 – Academic Editor, Special Issue: "Plant Fungal Diseases and Crop Protection," *Journal of Fungi*. (Link).

2023 - 2024 – Academic Editor, Special Issue: "Roles of Soil and Roots Biotic and Abiotic Conditions in Fungal-Plant Interactions and Plant Performance 3.0," *Journal of Fungi*. (Link).

2023 - 2025 – Academic Editor, Research Topic: "Plant-friendly microorganisms as a bio-barrier against pathogens," *Frontiers in Fungal Biology*, Fungi-Plant Interactions. (Link).

2021 - 2023 – Academic Editor, Special Issue: "Roles of Soil and Roots Biotic and Abiotic Conditions in Fungal-Plant Interactions and Plant Performance 2.0," *Journal of Fungi*. (Link).

2021 - 2022 – Academic Editor, Special Issue: "Interactions between Microorganisms in Plant Diseases," *Agriculture*. (Link).

2021 - 2022 – Academic Editor, Special Issue: "Roles of Soil and Roots Biotic and Abiotic Conditions in Fungal-Plant Interactions and Plant Performance," *Journal of Fungi*. (Link).

c. **Reviewing scientific papers**

Most reviews can be found on the Web of Science at:

https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/F-3978-2014

18/08/2025 *Plant Disease*, **10/01/2025** *Plant Disease*, **23/10/2024** *Cereal Research Communications*, **17/09/2024** *Fungal Biology Reviews*, **06/06/2024** *Fungal Biology Reviews*, **16/12/2023** *BMC Plant Biology*, **21/04/2023** *Plant Disease*, **16/01/2023** *Plant Pathogen Interaction*. Springer, **24/11/2021** *European Journal of Plant Pathology*, **30/12/2020** *Microorganisms*, **11/12/2020** *Microorganisms*, **3/09/2020** *Journal of Fungi*, **06/08/2020** *BMC Genomics*, **12/06/2020** *Plants*, **13/05/2020** *Journal of Fungi*, **20/04/2019** – *New Pest Response Guidelines*. US Department of Agriculture, **31/03/2019** *Plant Pathology*, **10/03/2018** *European Journal of Plant Pathology*, **13/02/2015** *Biocontrol Science and Technology*, **29/09/2014** *Phytopathology*, **05/04/2014** *Phytoparasitica*.

d. **Membership in scientific societies**

2008 - today (with a few years of non-membership in between) – Israel Phytopathology Society (IPS).

1999 - today (with a few years of non-membership in between) – Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM).

2019, 2026 – The American Phytopathological Society (APS).

2010, 2019, 2023 – Israel Scientific Society of Field Crops and Vegetables

2005, 2011, 2023 – Israel Societies for Experimental Biology - FISEB (ILANIT)

2022, 2025, 2026 – Israel Scientific Society of Science and the Environment

2012 – Mediterranean Phytopathological Union

6. Participation in Scholarly Conferences

a. Active Participation

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

International Conferences

Year	Name of Conference and Program link	Place of Conference	The subject of the Lecture/Discussion	Role	Documentation links
* 2026	6th International Scientific Conference AGROECO2026	Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy, Lithuania	Combining *Trichoderma* biocontrol with clay-based slow-release azoxystrobin for sustainable management of maize late wilt disease	**Invited lecture**	Conference Program Invitation Letter
* 2025	FUNGA fest 2025	Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, Israel	Fungal Dynamics in Maize Late Wilt Disease: Intra-Species Interactions and Crosstalk with *Fusarium verticillioides*	**Selected lecture**	Conference Program Invitation Letter
* 2025	XVII Meeting of the Working Group 'Biological and integrated control of plant pathogens.'	Torino, Italy	Integrated biological-chemical interface for eco-friendly control of maize late wilt and cotton charcoal rot diseases Antagonistic Interactions between Maize Seeds Microbiome Species and the Late Wilt Disease Agent, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*	**Selected lecture** and Poster	Conference Program Certificate of Participation
* 2025	COST 5th General Assembly and conference and ACPI &ACROPICS joint workshop	Bucharest, Romania	Towards Zero Pesticides Agriculture Network - Management Committee meeting and European Research Alliance Event	Management committee member	Conference Program Invitation Letter Participant list COST action page

* 2025	European Conference on Fungal Genetics (ECFG17)	Dublin, Ireland	Impact of *Fusarium* Species Composition and Incidence on Onion Basal Rot in Northeastern Israel The maize late wilt pathogen *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* interspecies interactions, and its combined influence with *Fusarium verticillioides*	**Selected lecture** and Poster	Conference Program Certificate of Participation
* 2025	The 4th World Biological Science and Technology (BioST-2025)	Macau China Hybrid	Integrated management of the Cotton Charcoal Rot Disease using biological and chemical inducers	**Invited lecture** and Session chair	Conference Program Invitation Letter Certificate of Participation
* 2024	Green Chemistry Conferences 2024	Paris, France Hybrid	6-Pentyl-α-Pyrone, a Strong Antifungal Compound, against the Maize Late Wilt Pathogen, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*	**Invited lecture**	Conference Program Invitation Letter
* 2024	3rd International Meet on Food Science and Technology FOODTECH MEET2024	Frankfurt, Germany Hybrid	Integrated Biological and Chemical Control against the Maize Late Wilt Agent *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*	**Invited lecture**	Conference Program Invitation Letter Certificate of Participation as invited lecturer
* 2024	COST 4th General Assembly and conference and ACPI &ACROPICS joint workshop	Zagreb, Croatia	Towards Zer0 Pesticides Agriculture Network - Management Committee meeting	Management committee member	Conference Program The ACPI &ACROPICS joint workshop Invitation Letter COST action page
* 2023	COST 2nd General Assembly and conference	Uppsala, Sweden	Towards Zer0 Pesticides Agriculture Network - Management Committee meeting	Management committee member	Conference Program Invitation Letter COST action page
* 2023	The 12th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP)	Lyon, France	*Trichoderma asperellum* secreted 6-pentyl-alpha-pyrone protects maize plants from the late wilt pathogen, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*.	**Selected lecture**	Conference Website Conference Program Invitation Letter

			The maize late wilt fungus *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* in Israel consists of aggressive strains that can specialize in disrupting growth or plant health.	Poster	Conference Program Invitation Letter
* 2023	The 10th Israel Societies for Experimental Biology - FISEB (ILANIT)	Eilat, Israel	*Trichoderma asperellum* secreted 6-pentyl-α-pyrone protects maize plants from the late wilt pathogen, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*.	Poster	Conference Program Invitation Letter
* 2022	The 2nd International Conference on Plant Sciences and Biology	Webinar	A green solution to maize late wilt disease.	**Invited lecture**	Conference Program Invitation Letter Acceptance Letter
* 2019	12th Annual International Symposium on Agricultural Research	Athens, Greece	The secret life of the maize pathogen, *Harpophora maydis*	**Invited lecture**	Conference Program Invitation Letter
2018	1st Annual Congress on Plant Science and Biosecurity (ACPB)	Valencia, Spain	Chemical protection using drip irrigation and seed coating against maize late wilt disease in the field	**Invited lecture**	Conference Program Invitation Letter Acceptance letter
2018	The 14th European Conference on Fungal Genetics (ECFG14)	Haifa, Israel	*Trichoderma* workshop	Co-chair	Conference Program Abstract
			Chemical protection using drip irrigation and seed coating against maize late wilt disease in the field	Poster	
2018	The 11th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP)	Boston, USA	Uncovering host range for the maize pathogen *Harpophora maydis*	Poster	Conference Program Acceptance letter
2017	The 10th Annual International Symposium on Agricultural Research	Athens, Greece	A qPCR-based method for evaluating the efficiency of seed coating against maize Late wilt disease	**Invited lecture** and Session chair	Conference Program Invitation Letter

2011	Israel Societies for Experimental Biology - FISEB (ILANIT)	Eilat, Israel	Diagnosis and control of maize late wilt disease	Poster	Official conference program no longer available
2005	Israel Societies for Experimental Biology - FISEB (ILANIT)	Eilat, Israel	G protein and MAPK pathways in the maize pathogen *Cochliobolus heterostrophus*: signaling for gene expression, development and virulence	**Selected lecture**	Official conference program no longer available
2005	The US-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD) workshop	California, USA	Signal Transduction and Hydrophobin Gene Expression in the Maize Pathogen *Cochliobolus heterostrophus*	Poster	Official conference program no longer available
2005	XXIII Fungal Genetics Conference	California, USA	Signal Transduction and Hydrophobin Gene Expression in the Maize Pathogen *Cochliobolus heterostrophus*	Poster	Conference Program Abstract

Israel Conferences

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

Year	**Name of Conference**	**Place of Conference**	**Subject of Lecture/Discussion**	**Role**
* 2026	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM) annual meeting	Be'er Sheva, Israel	Cotton Root Microbiome Dynamics Under Charcoal Rot Disease and Biological Preventive Treatments	Poster (Abstract book link)
* 2026	The 54th Israel Annual Conference on Science and the Environment	The International Convention Center, Jerusalem, Israel	Biological Control of Onion Basal Rot Using *Trichoderma* Species	Poster
* 2026	The 45th Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	New Azoxystrobin Clay Carrier to Eco-Friendly Control Corn Late Wilt Disease Eco-Friendly *Trichoderma* Management of Fusarium Basal Rot in Onion	**Selected lecture** and Poster
* 2025	Agricultural Science Conference in Israel	Jerusalem, Israel	Environmentally friendly control against the most challenging diseases in corn and cotton crops in Israel	**Selected lecture**

* 2025	The 53rd Israel Annual Conference on Science and the Environment	Tel-Aviv University, Israel	Integrated biological-chemical interface for eco-friendly control of maize late wilt and cotton charcoal rot diseases	**Selected lecture**
* 2025	The 44th Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	Intra-species Interaction and Relationship with *Fusarium verticillioides* in the Maize Wilt Late Disease Agent, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* Development of an Azoxystrobin Slow-Release Clay Carrier Against the Maize Late Wilt Disease Agent, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*	**Selected lecture** and Poster (Abstract book link)
* 2024	The 43rd Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	*Fusarium* species composition in agricultural fields in northeastern Israel and its effect on the onion basal rot disease	Poster (Abstract book link)
* 2023	The 25th Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	Discovery of a new antifungal compound, 6-Pentyl-α-Pyrone, against the corn late wilt pathogen.	**Selected lecture** and session chair
* 2023	Israel Scientific Society of Field Crops and Vegetables annual seminar	Rehovot, Israel	Interactions between *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* and *Macrophomina phaseolina*, the causes of wilt diseases in maize and cotton.	**Invited Lecture**
* 2022	The 50th Israel Annual Conference on Science and the Environment	Tel-Aviv, Israel	Pathogenic interactions between *Macrophomina phaseolina* and *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* in mutually infected cotton sprouts.	Poster
* 2022	The 24th Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	Assessment of susceptibility of maize varieties to late wilt disease caused by *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* using remote sensing tools	**Selected lecture** and session chair
* 2022	The 42nd Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	Isolation, Identification, and Control of *Fusarium* spp., the Causal Agents of Onion Basal Rot in Northeastern Israel Pathogenic variations and geographic distribution in Israel of Magnaporthiopsis maydis, the causal agent of late wilt of maize	**Selected lecture** and Poster (Abstract book link)
* 2022	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM) annual meeting	Be'er Sheva, Israel	A green solution to maize late wilt disease	Poster
* 2022	Functional Mycology Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	Fungi and the Environment Session	Session chair

* 2021	Agricultural Science Conference in Israel	Ramat-Gan, Israel	A green solution to maize late wilt disease	**Selected lecture**
* 2020	The 22nd Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	Study of the interactions between *Macrophomina phaseolina* and *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*, as pathogens in cotton and corn	**Selected lecture**
* 2020	Shamir Research Institute, Conference on land reclamation and conservation	Katzrin, Israel	The interaction between *Macrophomina phaseolina* and *Harpophora maydis* as pathogens in corn and cotton	**Selected lecture**
* 2019	The 21st Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	The interaction between *Macrophomina phaseolina* and *Harpophora maydis* as pathogens in corn and cotton	**Selected lecture** and session chair
* 2019	The 40th Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	New host range for the maize pathogen *Harpophora maydis* Interactions between *Harpophora maydis* and *Macrophomina phaseolina*, the causes of wilt diseases, in cotton and maize	**Selected lecture** and Poster (Abstract book link)
* 2019	The 10th Annual Conference of Excellence in Education, Israel Ministry of Education	Online meeting	Session - The Courage to be Equal	Session chair
* 2019	Israel Scientific Society of Field Crops and Vegetables, an annual seminar	Rehovot, Israel	Combining pesticides to prevent late wilt disease in corn in the field	**Selected lecture**
2018	The 20th Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	Seed coating and drip protection against *Harpophora maydis* in the field	**Selected lecture** and session chair
2018	The 39th Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	Seed coating and drip protection against *Harpophora maydis* in the field	**Selected lecture** (Abstract book link)
2017	The 38th Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	qPCR-based method for detecting and monitoring *Harpophora maydis* inside host tissues	**Selected lecture** (Abstract book link)
2017	The 19th Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	qPCR-based method for detecting and monitoring *Harpophora maydis* inside host tissues	**Selected lecture**

2017	The 9th Conference of Excellence in Education	Ramat Gan, Israel	The Division for Gifted and Outstanding Students	Session chair
2016	The 18th Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	Plant growth hormones suppress the development of *Harpophora maydis*, the cause of late wilt in maize	**Selected lecture**
2016	Israel Molecular Mycology Meeting (MMM)	Haifa, Israel	A qPCR-based method for detection and monitoring *Harpophora maydis* inside the host tissues	**Selected lecture**
2016	The 37th Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	Plant hormones regulate the development of *Harpophora maydis*, the cause of late wilt in maize	**Selected lecture** (Abstract book link)
2016	Israel Plant Ecology	Tel-Hai, Israel	Ambient stresses regulate the development of the maize late wilt-causing agent, *Harpophora maydis*	**Selected lecture**
2015	The 17th Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	*Cochliobolus heterostrophus* G-protein and MAPK signaling pathways control the fludioxonil fungicide activity and resistance	**Selected lecture**
2015	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM), annual meeting	Ramat-Gan, Israel	The agent of late wilt of corn, *Harpophora maydis*, pathogenesis and control	Poster
2015	the 36th Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	*Cochliobolus heterostrophus* G-protein and MAPK signaling pathways control the fludioxonil fungicide activity and resistance	**Selected lecture**
2015	The 8th Conference of Excellence in Education	Ramat-Gan, Israel	Enzymatic hydrolysis of cotton fabrics cuticle components	**Invited Lecturer**
2014	The 16th Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	The late wilt causal agent, *Harpophora maydis*, pathogenesis and control	**Selected lecture**
2013	The 15th Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	The agent of late wilt of corn, *Harpophora maydis*, pathogenesis and control	**Selected lecture**
2013	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM), annual meeting	Ramat-Gan, Israel	The agent of late wilt of corn, *Harpophora maydis*, pathogenesis and control	Poster (Abstract book link)
2011	The 13th Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	Late wilt of maize: Characterization of the pathogenesis and identifying means of control	**Selected lecture**

2010	The 31st Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	Late wilt of maize: Characterization of the pathogenesis and identifying means of control	**Selected lecture** (Abstract book link)
2010	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM), annual meeting	Ramat-Gan, Israel	Late wilt of maize: characterization of the pathogenesis and identifying means of control	Poster
2010	Israel Scientific Society of field crops and vegetables annual seminar	Rehovot, Israel	The late wilt causal agent, *Harpophora maydis*, pathogenesis and control	**Selected lecture**
2009	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM), annual meeting	Ramat-Gan, Israel	Plants' hormone effect on the development of the maize late wilt agent, *Harpophora maydis*	Poster
2009	The 30th Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	Effect of plant hormones on the development of the maize late wilt agent, *Harpophora maydis* Molecular diagnostic for *Harpophora maydis*, the cause of maize late wilt disease in Israel	**Selected lecture** and Poster (Abstract book link)
2008	The 10th Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	Development of molecular and biological tests for detecting and characterizing late wilt in corn	**Selected lecture**
2008	The 29th Congress of the Israeli Phytopathological Society	Beit Dagan, Israel	Hydrophobin gene expression in the maize pathogen *Cochliobolus heterostrophus*	**Selected lecture**
2005	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM), annual meeting	Ramat-Gan, Israel	Enzymatic hydrolysis of cotton fibers	Poster
2004	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM), annual meeting	Ramat-Gan, Israel	Enzymatic hydrolysis of cotton fibers	Poster
2001	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM), annual meeting	Tel-Aviv, Israel	Phytopathogenic Enzymes and Their Potential Use in Scouring of Natural Fibers	Poster
2000	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM), annual meeting	Tel-Aviv, Israel	Enzymatic hydrolysis of cotton fiber cuticle in textile fabrics	Poster

1999	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM), annual meeting	Tel-Aviv, Israel	Enzymatic hydrolysis of cotton fiber cuticle in textile fabrics	Poster
1999	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM), annual meeting	Haifa, Israel	Enzymatic hydrolysis of cotton fiber cuticle in textile fabrics	**Selected lecture**

b. **Organization of Conferences or Sessions**

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

Year	**Name of Conference**	**Place of Conference**	**Subject of Conference**	**Role**
2027	Mycological research	Katzrin, Israel	The diverse ecological roles of fungi, including decomposition, symbiosis, microbial interactions, natural-product production, and effects on plants, animals, and human health.	Organizing committee member
* 2011-2023, 2026	Tel-Hai Research Conference	Tel-Hai, Israel	Session - Fungal Diseases in Plants in the Galilee	Session organizing committee head
2022	functional mycology research	Hula Visitors' Centre, Hula Lake, Israel	The diverse ecological roles of fungi, including decomposition, symbiosis, microbial interactions, natural-product production, and effects on plants, animals, and human health.	Organizing committee member
2010	The US-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD)	Haifa, Israel	*Trichoderma* Workshop	Organizing committee member

7. Invited Lectures\ Colloquium Talks

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

Year	Place of Lecture	Name of Forum	Presentation/Comments
* 2025	The Ohalo Manor Hotel, Kinneret, Israel	The Israel Ministry of Agriculture Plant Diseases Course for Growers	Integrated management of the Maize Late Wilt and Cotton Charcoal Rot diseases, using biological and chemical inducers
* 2023	Hazera Seeds, Brurim Farm, Israel	Hazera Seeds Seminar	Isolation, characterization, and control of *Fusarium* spp., the cause of onion (Allium cepa) Basal rot in northeast Israel
* 2023	Southern farm hall, Misamia, Israel	Macrophomina Seminar	The charcoal rot disease in cotton, challenges and possible solutions
2018	Spanish National Research Council, Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (IAS), Cordoba, Spain	Institutional seminar	Economic and effective treatment against maize late wilt disease in the field Brochure

8. Research Grants

a. Israeli grants awarded

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

All listed grant amounts represent funds awarded directly to this document's author unless otherwise specified. Related publications are cited by their number in the publications list.

Role in Research	Co-Researcher	Topic	Funded by/ Amount	Year
* PI	Dr. Ofir Benjamin	Onion Seed Microbiome Endophytic Enrichment for Basal Rot Protection	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **18,000 NIS**	2026
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Dr. Liat Avrahami Moyal	Population structure of *Macrophomina phaseolina* in Israeli cotton and integrated biological–chemical control under field conditions.	Israel Council for Cotton Production and Marketing Ltd. **70,000 NIS**	2026

* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Mr. Yoav Golan	Establishment of pathogens in wheat and their impact on summer crops in the crop cycle – corn, cotton, and sesame.	Israel's Organization of Extensive Cultivation. **25,000 NIS**	2026
* Co-PI	Dr. Mery Dafny-Yelin (PI) Dr. Roni Gafni Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Dr. Liora Shaltiel-Harpaz	Examining the effectiveness of chemical and biological treatments for controlling the fungus *Athelia rolfsii* (Southern blight) and the earwig insect *Euborellia annulipes* in peanuts.	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **63,750 NIS** (Partial share 5,000 NIS)	2025
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Development of an integrated management control for charcoal rot disease in cotton: a clay-based formula for the slow release of Azoxystrobin in the sowing strip and biological seed dressing. Publication: 5, 6	Israel Council for Cotton Production and Marketing Ltd. **60,000 NIS**	2025
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Mr. Yoav Golan	Development of an integrated management control for late wilt disease in corn: a clay-based formula for the slow release of Azoxystrobin in the sowing strip and biological seed dressing. Publication: 2, 3, 5	Israel's Organization of Extensive Cultivation. **29,000 NIS**	2025
* PI	Mr. Elyahu Margalit	Development of an Eco-Friendly Interface Using *Trichoderma* spp. to Control Onion Basal Rot Disease Publication: 4	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **25,000 NIS**	2024-2025
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Dr. Assaf Chen	Development of an eco-friendly pesticide interface, based on *Trichoderma* fungi, against the cause of cotton charcoal rot	Israel Council for Cotton Production and Marketing Ltd. **70,000 NIS**	2024

* PI	Mr. Elyahu Margalit	Chemical control of *Fusarium* spp., the causal agents of onion (*Allium cepa*) basal rot Publications: 11	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **28,000 NIS**	2023-2024
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Dr. Assaf Chen	Development of an eco-friendly pesticide interface, based on *Trichoderma* fungi, against the cause of cotton charcoal rot Publication: 1, 12	Israel Council for Cotton Production and Marketing Ltd. **50,000 NIS**	2023
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Mr. Yoav Golan	Biological enrichment of fodder corn seeds against the late wilt disease Publications: 10, 15	Israel's Organization of Extensive Cultivation. **20,000 NIS**	2023
* PI	Prof. Giora Rytwo	Developing an Azoxystrobin slow-release clay carrier for eco-friendly control of corn late wilt disease Publications: 3, 5	ICA Israel (Jewish Colonization Association) **25,000 $**	2023
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Dr. Assaf Chen	Development of an eco-friendly pesticide interface, based on *Trichoderma* fungi, against the cause of cotton charcoal rot Publications: 13, 15	Israel Council for Cotton Production and Marketing Ltd. **55,000 NIS**	2022
* Co-PI	Dr. Shaul Naschitz (PI)	Isolation and identification of apple fruits' fungal pathogens	Israel Plant Council, Fruit Branch, Ministry of Agriculture **7,000 NIS**	2022
* PI	Mr. Shaul Graph Mr. Elyahu Margalit	Isolation and Identification of *Fusarium* spp., the causal agents of onion (*Allium cepa*) basal rot in northeastern Israel Publication: 11	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **17,000 NIS**	2022

* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Combined biological-chemical pesticide to prevent late wilt in corn Publications: 16, 58	Israel's Organization of extensive cultivation **20,000 NIS**	2022
* PI	Mr. Shaul Graph Mr. Elyahu Margalit	Chemical control of *Fusarium* spp., the causal agents of onion (*Allium cepa*) basal rot Publications: 14, 18, 29	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **18,000 NIS**	2021
* PI	Mr. Shaul Graph Mr. Elyahu Margalit	Chemical control of *Fusarium* spp., the Causal Agents of Onion (*Allium cepa*) Basal Rot Publication: 18, 29	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **10,500 NIS**	2020
* PI		Biological control of *Macrophomina phaseolina*, the cotton charcoal rot disease causal agent Publications: 13, 15	Israel Council for Cotton Production and Marketing Ltd. **20,000 NIS**	2020
* PI	Prof. Soliman Khatib	Isolation and identification of active ingredient against *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*, the maize Late-wilt disease causal agent Publications: 20, 24, 58	ICA – Migal accelerator, Israel **100,000 NIS**	2020
* Co-PI	Dr. Assaf Chen (PI) Dr. Mery Dafny-Yelin	Using remote sensing tools for the early detection and prevention of soil-borne diseases in field crops while reducing the amounts of pesticides and increasing yield Publications: 21, 23, 25, 26	Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Chief Scientist **450,000 NIS** (Partial share 82,000 NIS)	2019-2021
* PI	Mr. Shaul Graph	Isolation, characterization, and control of *Fusarium spp.* f. sp. *cepae*, the cause of the onion basal plate rot in northern Israel Publications: 29, 34	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **8,000 NIS**	2019

* PI	Dr. Assaf Chen Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	The presence of *Harpophora maydis* in fodder maize, its interaction with other endophytes in the plant, and its effect on the nutritional value of the corn silage Publications: 27, 28	Israel's Organization of extensive cultivation **25,000 NIS**	2019
* PI	Dr. Roni Cohen	Interactions between *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* and *Macrophomina phaseolina*, the Causes of Wilt Diseases in Maize and Cotton Publications: 22, 35, 59	Israel Council for Cotton Production and Marketing Ltd. **15,000 NIS**	2019
PI	Mr. Shaul Graph	Isolation and Identification of *Fusarium* spp., the Causal Agents of Onion (*Allium cepa*) Basal Rot in Northeastern Israel Publication: 34	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **41,000 NIS**	2018
PI	Dr. Roni Cohen Mr. Shaul Graph	Interactions between *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* and *Macrophomina phaseolina*, the Causes of Wilt Diseases in Maize and Cotton Publications: 22, 35, 59	Israel Council for Cotton Production and Marketing Ltd. **17,000 NIS**	2018
PI	Dr. Moshe Meron Dr. Assaf Chen Mr. Shaul Graph	Thermal detection and chemical control of the maize late wilt-causing agent, *Harpophora maydis* Publications: 23, 25, 33	Israel's Organization of extensive cultivation **25,000 NIS**	2018
PI	Dr. Mery Dafny-Yelin Mr. Shaul Graph	Protection and control against *Harpophora maydis*, the causative agent of maize late wilt Publications: 31, 33, 36, 34, 38, 58, 59, 60	Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Chief Scientist **420,000 NIS**	2015-2017
PI		Ambient Stresses influence on the development of the maize late wilt causing agent, *Harpophora maydis* Publications: 43, 58, 59	Israel Northern R&D **20,000 NIS**	2014

PI	Mr. Shaul Graph	Involvement of *Harpophora maydis* in sweet corn wilt disease: characterizing the disease course and developing ways to eradicate it Publications: 31, 33, 36, 37, 38, 58, 59, 60	Israel Northern R&D **40,000 NIS**	2013
PI	Mr. Shaul Graph	*Harpophora maydis* wilt of corn: Characterization of the disease cycle and development of protection and control Publications: 41, 45, 48, 52, 58, 59	The Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael) **25,000 NIS**	2012
PI	Dr. Tsafrir Weinberg Mr. Shaul Graph Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Eradicating the late wilt disease in corn Publications: 45, 48, 52, 58, 59	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **25,000 NIS**	2011
PI	Mr. Shaul Graph	*Harpophora maydis* wilt of corn: Characterization of the disease cycle and development of protection and control Publications: 45, 48, 52, 58, 59	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **15,000 NIS**	2011
PI	Dr. Efraim Zuckerman Mr. Shaul Graph	*Harpophora maydis* wilt of corn: Characterization of the disease cycle and development of protection and control Publications: 45, 48, 52, 58, 59	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **35,000 NIS**	2010
PI	Prof. Benjamin A Horwitz Dr. Doron Goldberg Dr. Efraim Zuckerman Mr. Shaul Graph	*Harpophora maydis* wilt of corn: Characterization of the disease cycle and development of protection and control Publications: 45, 48, 52, 58, 59	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture **35,000 NIS**	2009
PI	Prof. Benjamin A Horwitz Dr. Doron Goldberg, Mr. Shaul Graph	Involvement of the fungus *Harpophora maydis* in causing late wilt disease in sweet corn: characterizing the course of the disease and finding ways to control it Publications: 48, 52, 58, 59	The Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael) **50,000 NIS**	2008

PI		Diagnosis and control of maize late wilt disease Publications: 48, 52, 58, 59	Israel Northern R&D **25,000 NIS**	2007

b. **Companies' grants awarded**
* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

Role in Research	**Co-Researcher**	**Topic**	**Funded by/ Amount**	**Year**
* PI	Dr. David Levi	Development of *Trichoderma*-Based Control for Onion Basal Rot Disease.	Hazera Seeds, Israel. **25,000 NIS**	2027
* PI	-	Isolation and identification of basal rot causative agents	Yodfat Flower Bulbs Nurseries **5,600 NIS**	2026
* PI	-	*Trichoderma* sp. Sterile Powder Supply Service	BioHarvest **14,400 NIS**	2026
* PI	Dr. David Levi	Development of *Trichoderma*-Based Control for Onion Basal Rot Disease.	Hazera Seeds, Israel. **20,000 NIS**	2025-2026
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Dr. Liron Israely	Biological enrichment of cover plants, pre-growing cotton with minimum tillage, for protection against the charcoal rot disease (*Macrophomina*)	RegenUP, Israel **16,000 NIS**	2025
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Monitoring disease symptoms and conducting molecular surveillance of charcoal rot infestations in cotton plots following the pre-growth of cover plants and implementation of minimum tillage	Adama Haya biodynamics (Living Soil), Israel **75,000 NIS**	2024-2026
* PI	Dr. Roni Gafni	Microbiome-based seed treatment of cotton for protection against Macrophomina phaseolina, the charcoal rot causal agent	ReGen (now MEND), Israel, funded by the Israel Innovation Authority **45,000 NIS**	2024

* PI	Mr. Ran Yifa Dr. Assaf Chen	Cultivars' resistance assay for maize late wilt disease Publication: 17	CTS Group **14,000 NIS**	2021
PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Mr. Shaul Graph	Improved chemical control against the cause of late wilt in corn Publications: 33, 37, 38, 58, 59, 60	Netafim Ltd. Israel **8,000 NIS**	2017

c. **Tel-Hai, Migal, and Ohalo internal grants awarded**
* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

Role in Research	**Co-Researcher**	**Topic**	**Funded by/ Amount**	**Year**
* PI	-	Establishment of a *Trichoderma* Seed Coating and Controlled-Release Seed-Zone Delivery Pilot Facility for Sustainable Agriculture	Migal – Galilee Research Institute **70,000 NIS**	2026
* PI	Prof. Giora Rytwo	Developing an Azoxystrobin slow-release clay carrier for eco-friendly control of corn late wilt and cotton charcoal rot diseases Publications: 2, 3, 5, 6	Migal – Galilee Research Institute **100,000 NIS**	2024
* PI	-	Support in funding equipment for research purposes	Tel-Hai College, Israel, Science Relations Foundation **8,000 NIS**	2023
* PI	Prof. Giora Rytwo	Developing an Azoxystrobin slow-release clay carrier for eco-friendly control of corn late wilt disease Publications: 2, 3, 5, 6	Migal – Galilee Research Institute **100,000 NIS**	2023
* PI	Dr. Shaul Naschitz Prof. Soliman Khatib Prof. Dov Prusky	The formation process of *Alternaria* black spot disease in stored persimmons and its prevention through treatments with antioxidants	Tel-Hai College, Israel, Science Relations Foundation **20,000 NIS**	2023

* PI	Prof. Giora Rytwo	Developing an Azoxystrobin slow-release clay carrier for eco-friendly control of corn late wilt disease Publications: 2, 3, 5, 6	Tel-Hai College, Israel, Science Relations Foundation **20,000 NIS**	2022
* PI	Prof. Soliman Khatib	Purification and identification of *Trichoderma asperellum* secreted ingredients with antifungal activity against *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*, the maize late-wilt disease causal agent Publications: 20, 24, 58	Migal – Galilee Research Institute **40,000 NIS**	2021
* PI	Dr. Hagai Shemesh Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Eco-friendly control against corn late wilt by strengthening the soil mycorrhizal networks Publications: 21, 25, 58, 59	Tel-Hai College, Israel, Science Relations Foundation **20,000 NIS**	2020
Co-PI	Dr. Haim Reuveni (PI) Dr. Soliman Khatib Prof. Jacob Vaya	Characterization of the profile of volatiles from the leaves and flowers of the cannabis plant in response to environmental stress	Migal – Galilee Research Institute **90,000 NIS**	2018
Co-PI	Dr. Haim Reuveni (PI) Dr. Chen Katz	Biological control of pests and diseases in cannabis	Migal – Galilee Research Institute **90,000 NIS**	2018
PI		Biological control against *Harpophora maydis*, the maize Late-wilt disease causal agent Publications: 27, 28, 58, 59	Migal – Galilee Research Institute **140,000 NIS**	2018
PI		Biological control against *Harpophora maydis*, the maize Late-wilt disease causal agent Publications: 27, 28, 58, 59	Migal – Galilee Research Institute **45,000 NIS**	2017

PI		(1) Understanding fungicide activity and resistance regulation through fungal signaling pathways. (2) Involvement of *Harpophora maydis* in causing late wilt disease in corn – diagnosis and control Publications: 37, 38, 45, 58, 59, 60	Ohalo Academic College **27,000 NIS**	2006-2012

d. **Submission of Research Proposals – Pending**
* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

Role in Research	Co-Researchers	Topic	Funded by	Year
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Biological protection of wheat against M. maydis colonization to reduce late wilt disease in the subsequent maize crop	Israel's Organization of Extensive Cultivation. **29,900 NIS**	2027

e. **Submission of Research Proposals – Not Funded (5 years)**
* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

Role in Research	Co-Researchers	Topic	Funded by	Year	Score
* PI	Dr. Collins B. Bugingo ADAMA HAYA (Living Soil), led by Dr. Liron Israeli Invasive Species Cooperation (ISC), led by Dr. Pamela Marrone	A Climate-Resilient Clay-Based Multi-Layer Seed Protection Platform for Durable Control of Soilborne Diseases	BARD Food Security Technology Accelerator Passed the first-stage review; full proposal submitted 100,000 $	2027	n.a.
* Co-Investigator	Dr. Tamar Dayan, Dr. Yael Teff Seker	Regenerative economy and agri-biotechnology in cotton production	BARD	2026	3

* Initiator and work package leader	A consortium of 14 partners from Europe and Israel	MolecuLeaf: Bio-Molecules to Protect Crops: A Sustainable Approach	HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-01-two-stage: Emerging and future risks to plant health	2026	n.a.
* PI	Ms. Netta Mor Mr. Muhammad Abu Tuama Mr. Lidan Falah	Examining the use of *Trichoderma* to control *Macrophomina* in strawberries	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture	2026	n.a.
* Co-PI	Dr. Mery Dafny-Yelin (PI) Dr. Roni Gafni Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Dr. Liora Shaltiel-Harpaz	Examining the effectiveness of chemical and biological treatments for controlling the fungus *Athelia rolfsii* (Southern blight) and the earwig insect *Euborellia annulipes* in peanuts.	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture	2026	n.a.
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Establishment of Soil-Borne Pathogens in Wheat and Their Impact on Summer Crops in the Rotation System – Maize, Cotton, and Sesame	Tel-Hai – Research and Development North District joint research	2026	n.a.
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Mr. Noam Amir	Management of *Macrophomina phaseolina* Disease in Sesame	Israel's Organization of Extensive Cultivation.	2026	n.a.
* PI	Dr. Sanaa Musa	Biocontrol of Wilt Diseases in Maize and Cotton through Fungal Extrolites	ICA Israel	2025	n.a.
* Co-Investigator	Dr. Tamar Dayan, Dr. Yael Teff Seker	Regenerative economy & Agri-biotechnology in cotton production	BARD	2025	4

* PI	Dr. Ofir Benjamin	Onion Seed Microbiome Endophytic Enrichment for Basal Rot Protection	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture	2025	n.a.
* PI	Ms. Netta Mor Mr. Muhammad Abu Tuama Mr. Lidan Falah	Examining the use of *Trichoderma* to control *Macrophomina* in strawberries	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture	2025	n.a.
* Co-PI	Gold, Scott E (PI)	From fungal chemical crosstalk to biological control in corn	BARD	2024	3
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Dr. Assaf Chen Mr. Eyal Ben Simhon	Biological enrichment of cover plants, pre-growing cotton with minimum tillage, for protection against the charcoal rot disease (Macrophomina)	Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Chief Scientist	2024	n.a.
* Co-PI	Gold, Scott E (PI)	Chemical Crosstalk Controlling the Maize Seed Fungal Pathobiome	BARD	2023	4
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Strengthening the corn seeds' microbiome to prevent late wilt diseases	ICA – Migal accelerator, Israel	2023	n.a.
* PI	Prof. Giora Rytwo Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Development of an Azoxystrobin slow-release carrier to control the maize late wilt causal agent	Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Chief Scientist	2023	n.a.
* PI	Dr. Shaul Naschitz Prof. Soliman Khatib Prof. Dov Prusky	The formation process of *Alternaria* black spot disease in stored persimmons and its prevention through treatments with antioxidants	Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Chief Scientist	2023	n.a.
* Co-PI	Dr. Elhanan Tzipilevich (PI)	Development of a Bacillus species-based biological control interface against corn diseases	Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Chief Scientist	2023	n.a.

* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz Mr. Lior Avraham	Combined biological-chemical pest control for the prevention of late wilt disease in corn	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture	2023	n.a.
* PI	Prof. Giora Rytwo Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Development of an Azoxystrobin slow-release carrier to control the maize late-wilt causal agent	Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Chief Scientist	2022	n.a.
* PI	Dr. Shaul Naschitz Prof. Soliman Khatib Prof. Dov Prusky	The formation process of *Alternaria* black spot disease in stored persimmons and its prevention through treatments with antioxidants	Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Chief Scientist	2022	n.a.
* PI	Prof. Giora Rytwo Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Developing an Azoxystrobin slow-release clay carrier for eco-friendly control of corn late wilt and cotton charcoal rot diseases	Israel Ministry of Science and Technology	2022	n.a.
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Combined biological-chemical pesticide to prevent late wilt in corn	Israel Plant Council, Ministry of Agriculture	2022	n.a.
* PI	Prof. Soliman Khatib	Purification, identification, and the first application of *Trichoderma* sp. (P1) secreted ingredients with antifungal activity against *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*, the maize late-wilt disease causal agent	Tomorrow's Crop Protection Challenge, ADAMA, and GrowingIL	2021	n.a.
* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Develop eco-friendly control interface against the late wilt disease in corn by strengthening the soil mycorrhizal networks	Israel's Organization of extensive cultivation	2021	n.a.

* PI	Dr. Onn Rabinovitz	Develop eco-friendly control interface against the late wilt disease in corn by strengthening the soil mycorrhizal networks	Nekudat-Hen	2021	n.a.

9. Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes

2015, 2018 - 2025 – **Excellence in Research Acknowledgment.** Tel-Hai College (Israel).

2016 – 2019, 2021 - 2022 – **Staff member Excellency Acknowledgment.** Tel-Hai College (Israel).

2021 – **Certificate of Appreciation for Publications Achievement, Faculty of Science.** Tel-Hai College (Israel). Accompanied by a financial grant of 3,000 NIS.

10. Teaching

a. Courses Taught in Recent Years

Year	Name of Course	Type of Course	Degree	Number of Students
2008 - today	Experimental Design, Tel-Hai University of Kiryat Shmona in the Galilee (Israel)	Lecture + lab	B.Sc.	Ca. 80/year
2008 - today	Biochemistry Lab, Tel-Hai University of Kiryat Shmona in the Galilee (Israel)	lab	B.Sc.	Ca. 90/year
2008 - 2021	Practice in Computational Biochemistry, Tel-Hai College (Israel)	Exercise	B.Sc.	Ca. 80/year
2013 - 2017	Scientific Excursions, Ohalo College (Israel)	Field study	B.Ed.	Ca. 40/year
2012- 2017	Botany, Ohalo College (Israel)	Lecture + lab	B.Ed.	Ca. 40/year

2012-2016	Molecular Biology, Ohalo College (Israel)	Lecture + lab	B.Ed.	Ca. 40/year
2012-2016	Evolution, Ohalo College (Israel)	Lecture	B.Ed.	Ca. 40/year
2001-2017	Plant Physiology, Ohalo College (Israel)	Lecture + lab	B.Ed.	Ca. 40/year
2001-2017	Life of Plants, Ohalo College (Israel)	Lecture + lab	B.Ed.	Ca. 40/year

b. **Supervision of Graduate Students**

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

Publications related to research are referenced by referring to the number in the list of publications

Name of Student	**Title of Thesis**	**Degree**	**Date of Completion / in Progress**	**Students' Achievements**
Dr. Ofra Dahar	Involvement of laccases in the maize pathogen *Harpophora maydis* - host interactions	Post-Doc.	2018	Publication: 32

Name of Student	**Title of Thesis**	**Degree**	**Date of Completion / In Progress**	**Co-supervisor**	**Students' Achievements**
* Maya Mazoui	Establishment of pathogens in wheat and their impact on summer crops in the crop cycle – corn, cotton, and sesame.	M.Sc. final project, track without a thesis	In progress	-	
* Sahed Ganaim	Onion Seed Microbiome: Pathogen Dynamics and Endophyte Enrichment for Disease Control.	M.Sc.	In progress	-	Publication: 4

* Rima Ganaim	Development of a *Trichoderma*-Based Control and Electronic Nose Method for Identifying and Analyzing Onion Basal Rot Disease.	M.Sc.	In progress	-	Publication: 4
* Eden Etedgi	The Microflora of Maize and Cotton Grains as a Biological Barrier against Israel's corn late wilt and cotton charcoal rot diseases	M.Sc.	2026	-	Publication: 1, 3, 6
* Ariel Hadad	Developing an Azoxystrobin slow-release clay carrier for eco-friendly control of corn late wilt and cotton charcoal rot diseases	M.Sc.	2026	-	Publication: 3, 5, 6
* Asaf Gordani	Combined biological-chemical treatment for eco-friendly control of corn late wilt and cotton charcoal rot diseases in Israel	M.Sc.	2024	-	Publications: 10, 12, 13, 15, 16
* Tamir Zonenberg	Vines resistant mechanism towards foliage diseases: *Powdery mildew* and *Downy mildew*	M.Sc.	2024	Dr. Meir Shlisel, Dr. Mery Dafny-Yelin, Dr. Tirtza Zahavi Tel-Hai College (Israel)	Publications: 7
* Galia Shofman	Intra-species interaction and inter-relation with *Fusarium verticillioides* in the maize pathogen *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* in causing the maize wilt diseases	M.Sc.	2024	-	Publication: 8, 9, 19

* Marlen Bahouth	The maize late wilt disease agent, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*, geographic distribution, and aggressiveness in Israel	M.Sc. final project, track without a thesis	2022	-	Publication: 19
* Ben Kalman	Involvement of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cepae* in onion rot: Characterization of the disease cycle, diagnosis, and control	M.Sc.	2020	Prof. Rafael Perl-Treves Faculty of Life Sciences, Bar-Ilan University	Publications: 29, 34
* Shlomit Dor	Inducing resistance and control against *Harpophora maydis*, the cause of the late wilt disease in maize	M.Sc.	2019	Dr. Doron Goldberg Tel-Hai College (Israel)	Publications: 22, 27, 28, 31, 33, 35, 36, 60 **Awarded by the Israel Phytopathology Society (IPS, 2019)**
Daniel Movshowitz	Chemical protection against *Harpophora maydis*, the causing agent of maize late wilt	M.Sc.	2018	Dr. Doron Goldberg Tel-Hai College (Israel)	Publications: 37, 38
Yuval Goldblat	Host physiology and environmental stress involved in the development and pathogenesis of *Harpophora maydis* and the application of seed dressing to control late wilt	M.Sc.	2015	Dr. Doron Goldberg Tel-Hai College (Israel)	Publications: 32, 37, 41, 43
Shani Cohen	Environmental conditions regulate the development of the maize late wilt-causal agent, *Harpophora maydis*	M.Sc. final project, track without a thesis	2014	-	

Gilad Cernica	Diagnosis and control of Harpophora maydis, the cause of late wilt in maize	M.Sc.	2012	Dr. Doron Goldberg Tel-Hai College (Israel)	Publication: 48
Ran Drori	Involvement of *Harpophora maydis* in wilt of sweet corn: Characterization of the disease cycle and development of protection and control *M. maydis* - host interactions	M.Sc.	2009	Dr. Maggie Levy The Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)	Publications: 41, 52 **Awarded by the Israel Phytopathology Society (IPS, 2009)**

11. Professional Experience

1. **2022 - 2023** – Leading the graduate students' program at the Tel-Hai Center of Science and Knowledge for Gifted and Excellent Children at Tel-Hai Academic College, Israel Ministry of Education, Division for Gifted and Outstanding Students (Israel).
2. **2014 - 2017** – Head of the North Israel Group of Centers for Gifted and Talented Children, Israel Ministry of Education, Division for Gifted and Outstanding Students (Israel).
3. **2008 - 2021** – Director of the Tel-Hai Center of Science and Knowledge for Gifted and Excellent Children at Tel-Hai Academic College, Israel Ministry of Education, Division for Gifted and Outstanding Students (Israel).

12. Appointed External Examiner of M.Sc. and Ph.D. Theses

1. **2026** – Ph.D., Faculty of Agriculture, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel).
2. **2023, 2026** – M.Sc., Faculty of Sciences, Tel-Hai University of Kiryat Shmona in the Galilee (Israel).

13. Community Service and Outreach

Academic and Scientific Outreach

1. **Annually –** Delivered invited lectures to growers, extension specialists, and regional R&D centers on integrated management of soil-borne diseases, including maize late wilt, onion Fusarium basal rot, and cotton charcoal rot.
2. **Annually –** Provided professional consultation and scientific support to farmers and agronomists on crop disease diagnosis and management.
3. **Annually –** Collaborated with growers and agricultural companies to implement integrated disease management strategies at the field scale.
4. **Annually –** Participated in public science events, including Researchers' Night.

Selected Public Engagement Activities

- **2023 –** Invited speaker, Delivered a series of eight community lectures on scientific topics in Kibbutz Gonen, Kibbutz Lehavot HaBashan, Kibbutz Amiad, and Yesud HaMa'ala.
- **2021 –** Invited speaker, *Academia in the Square*, Tel-Hai College – Public lecture series for the local community on "Scientific Questions."
- **2008 - 2021** – Delivered 2–4 volunteer lectures annually on scientific topics for gifted and talented children and their parents at the Northern District Gifted Education Centers, Ministry of Education, Israel.

PUBLICATIONS

Google Scholar metrics: Citations – 1835 (Since 2021 – 1375), h-index – 26, (Since 2021 – 23), i10-index – 45 (Since 2021 – 40).

Scopus metrics: Citations – 1,223, h-index – 21, Author Position for 2016 – 2025: First author 64%, Co-author 0%, Last author 18%, Single author 18%.

A. Ph.D. Dissertation

G protein and MAPK pathways in the maize pathogen *Cochliobolus heterostrophus*: signaling for gene expression, development, and virulence. (2005) Technion Institute of Technology (Israel), under the supervision of Prof. Benjamin Horwitz. English, 172 pages. Publications: 39, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 53, 55

B. Articles in Refereed Journals

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

1. Research papers

1. * Etedgi E., Demenchuk D., Dimant E., Hadari P., and **Degani O.**[a] Dynamics of Culture-Recovered Cotton Root-Associated Fungi under Charcoal Rot Disease and Preventive Management Regimes **(2026)**, *Frontiers in Fungal Biology*, 7, 1928692. (Link).

   IF (4.3) [b], 5-years-IF (3.4), CiteScore (6.3), Citation number [c] (0), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR – Q1 / CiteScore - Q1.

2. * Dimant E., Hadari P., and **Degani O.**[a] Integrated Clay-Azoxystrobin and *Trichoderma*-Based Treatments for Managing *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* Maize Late Wilt Disease. **(2026)**, *Plant Disease*, First look. (Link).

   IF (4.4) [b], 5-years-IF (4.8), CiteScore (5.2), Citation number [c] (0), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR – Q2 / CiteScore / Scopus – Q1 (Plant Sciences).

3. * Hadad A., Dimant E., Hadari P., Etedgi E., Rytwo G., and **Degani O.**[a] New azoxystrobin clay carrier to control corn late wilt disease. **(2026)**, *World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology*. 42 (3), 137. (Link).

   IF (4.7) [b], 5-years-IF (4.9), CiteScore (7.3), Citation number [c] (0), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q2 (Biotechnology & Applied Microbiology).

4. * Ghanayem R., Ghanayem S., Dimant E., and **Degani O.**[a] Sustainable control of onion Fusarium basal rot using seed-applied *Trichoderma* spp. **(2026)**, *World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology*, 42 (3),112. (Link).

   IF (4.7) [b], 5-years-IF (4.9), CiteScore (7.3), Citation number [c] (1), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q2 (Biotechnology & Applied Microbiology).

5. * **Degani O.**[a], Abramovici A., Levi-Lion A., Demenchuk D., Hadad A., and Dimant E., Sustained release of azoxystrobin from clay carriers for the management of maize late wilt disease. **(2026)**, *Journal of Fungi*, 12 (1), 21. (Link).

   IF (4.3) [b], 5-years-IF (4.8), CiteScore (8.7), Citation number [c] (1), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q1 (Mycology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics / Plant Science, Microbiology).

6. * **Degani O.**[a], Hadad A., Etedgi E., Dimant E., Levi-Lion A., Hadari P., Rabinovitz O., and Rytwo G. Clay-based azoxystrobin formulation enhances cotton protection against charcoal rot disease. **(2026)**, *Journal of Cotton Research*, 9, 10. (Link).

   IF (3.6) [b], 5-years-IF (3.8), CiteScore (5.2), Citation number [c] (0), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR – Q2 (Plant Sciences).

7. * Zonenberg T., Zahavi T., **Degani O.**, Striem M., Shlisel M., and Dafny-Yelin M. Hybrid grapevine resistance to downy and powdery mildews in Israel under warm Middle Eastern conditions. **(2026)**, *Plant Disease*, 110 (4), 1354-1367 (Link).

   IF (4.4) b, 5-years-IF (4.8), CiteScore (5.2), Citation number c (1), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR – Q2 / CiteScore / Scopus – Q1 (Plant Sciences).

8. * Shofman G., **Degani O**.[a] Interspecies crosstalk between *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* and *Fusarium verticillioides* in mutually infected maize plants. *Scientific Reports* **(2025)**, 15, 10089. (Link).

IF (4.9) [b], 5-years-IF (4.8), CiteScore (6.7), Citation number [c] (5), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q1 (Multidisciplinary Sciences).

9. * Shofman G., **Degani O**.[a] Mixed fungal strains challenge host resistance: insights into *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* pathogenicity in maize. *Frontiers in Microbiology* **(2025)**, 16, 1520237. (Link).

IF (5.8) [b], 5-years-IF (5.9), CiteScore (9.9), Citation number [c] (5), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q1 (Microbiology) / CiteScore - Q1.

10. * **Degani O**.[a], Ayoub A., Dimant E., Gordani A. Antagonistic interactions between maize seeds microbiome species and the late wilt disease agent, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*. *Frontiers in Fungal Biology* **(2024)**, 5: 1436759. (Link).

IF (4.3) [b], 5-years-IF (3.4), CiteScore (6.3), Citation number [c] (6), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR – Q1 / CiteScore - Q1.

11. * **Degani O**.[a], Dimant E., Margalit E. Impact of *Fusarium* species composition and incidence on onion basal rot in northeastern Israel. *Horticulturae* **(2024)**, 10, 373. (Link).

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27. * **Degani O**.[a], Regev D., Dor S. The microflora of maize grains as a biological barrier against the late wilt causal agent, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*. *Agronomy* **(2021)**, 11 (5), 965. (Link). **Editor's choice**.

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IF (4.3) [b], 5-years-IF (4.8), CiteScore (8.7), Citation number [c] (98), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q1 (Mycology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics / Plant Science, Microbiology).

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33. * **Degani O.**[a], Dor S., Chen A., Orlov-Levin V., Stolov-Yosef A., Regev D., Rabinovitz O. Molecular tracking and remote sensing to evaluate new chemical treatments against the maize late wilt disease causal agent, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*. *Journal of Fungi* (**2020**), 6 (2), 54. (Link).

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34. * Kalman B., Abraham D., Graph S., Perl-Treves R., Meller Harel Y., **Degani O.**[a] Isolation and identification of *Fusarium* spp., the causal agents of onion (*Allium cepa*) basal rot in northeastern Israel. *Biology* **(2020)**, 9 (4), 69. (Link). **Editor's choice**.

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35. * **Degani O**.[a], Dor S., Abraham D., Cohen R. Interactions between *Magnaporthiopsis maydis* and *Macrophomina phaseolina*, the causes of wilt diseases in maize and cotton. *Microorganisms* **(2020)**, 8 (2), 249. (Link).

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36. * Dor S., **Degani O.**[a] Uncovering the host range for maize pathogen *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*. *Plants* **(2019)**, 8 (8), 259. (Link).

IF (4.7) [b], 5-years-IF (5.1), CiteScore (8.5), Citation number [c] (34), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q1 (Plant Sciences) / CiteScore - Q1 (Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics / Plant Sciences / Ecology).

37. * **Degani O.**[a], Movshowitz D., Dor S., Meerson A., Goldblat Y., Rabinovitz O. Evaluating Azoxystrobin seed coating against maize late wilt disease using a sensitive qPCR-based method. *Plant Disease* **(2019)**, 103 (2), 238-248. (Link).

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39. **Degani O.** *Cochliobolus heterostrophus* T-toxin gene expression modulation via G protein and MAPK pathways. *Plant Protection Science* **(2015)**, 51 (2), 53–60. (Link).

IF (1.0) [b], 5-years-IF (1.4), CiteScore (3.2), Citation number [c] (3), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q3 (Agronomy). CiteScore - Q2 (Agronomy and Crop Science / Soil Science).

40. **Degani O.** Production and purification of cutinase from *Fusarium oxysporum* using modified growth media and specificity cutinase substrate. *Advances in Bioscience and Biotechnology* **(2015)**, 6 (4), 245-258. (Link).

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41. **Degani O**.[a], Drori R., Goldblat Y. Plant growth hormones suppress the development of *Harpophora maydis*, the cause of late wilt in maize. *Physiology and Molecular Biology of Plants* (**2015**), 21 (1), 137-149. (Link).

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42. **Degani O**. Mediation of fungicide fludioxonil activity and resistance through *Cochliobolus heterostrophus* G-protein and MAPK signaling pathways. *Phytoparasitica* (**2015**), 43 (2), 215-228. (Link).

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IF (1.6) [b], 5-years-IF (1.7), CiteScore (3.0), Citation number [c] (41), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR – Q2(Entomolog). CiteScore – Q2 (Insect Science / Plant Science).

46. **Degani O.** G protein and MAPK signaling pathways control the ability of *Cochliobolus heterostrophus* to exploit different carbon sources. *Advances in Biological Chemistry* (**2014**), 4 (1), 40-50. (Link).

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47. **Degani O.** Gene expression modulation of two biosynthesis pathways via signal transduction in *Cochliobolus heterostrophus*. *Advances in Bioscience and Biotechnology* (**2014**), 5 (4), 340-352. (Link).

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IF (3.6) [b], 5-years-IF (3.5), CiteScore (5.3), Citation number [c] (18), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR – Q2 / CiteScore – Q1 (Plant Sciences).

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IF (3.6) [b], 5-years-IF (3.5), CiteScore (5.3), Citation number [c] (12), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR – Q2 / CiteScore – Q1 (Plant Sciences).

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IF (1.6) [b], 5-years-IF (2.1), CiteScore (3.1), Citation number [c] (80), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR – Q3 (Plant Sciences / Agronomy). CiteScore – Q1 (Horticulture) / Q2 (Plant Sciences).

53. Igbaria A., Lev S., Rose M. S, Lee B. N., Hadar R., **Degani, O**., Horwitz B. A. Distinct and combined roles of the MAP kinases of *Cochliobolus heterostrophus* in virulence and stress responses, *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*. **(2008)**, 21 (6), 769-80. (Link).

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Biotechnology, and Bioengineering). CiteScore – Q1 (Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology / Biotechnology).

55. **Degani O.**, Maor R., Hadar R., Sharon A., Horwitz B. A. Host physiology and pathogenic variation of *Cochliobolus heterostrophus* strains with mutations in the G protein alpha subunit, CGA1. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology.* **(2004)**, 70 (8), 5005-5009. (Link).

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2. Reviews

58. * **Degani O.** Control strategies to cope with late wilt of maize. *Pathogens* **(2022)**, 11, 13. (Link).

IF (3.8) [b], 5-years-IF (3.9), CiteScore (6.7), Citation number [c] (23), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q2 (Microbiology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Infectious Diseases / General Immunology and Microbiology).

59. * **Degani O.** A Review: late wilt of maize—the pathogen, the disease, current status and future perspective. *Journal of Fungi* **(2021)**, 7 (11), 989. (Link).

IF (4.3) [b], 5-years-IF (4.8), CiteScore (8.7), Citation number [c] (39), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q1 (Mycology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics / Plant Science, Microbiology).

60. * **Degani O**.[a], Dor S., Movshovitz D., Rabinovitz O. Methods for studying *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*, the maize late wilt causal agent. *Agronomy* **(2019)**, 9 (4), 181. (Link).

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3. Editorial

61. * **Degani O.**, Plant Fungal Diseases and Crop Protection, Second Edition. *Journal of Fungi* **(2026)**; 12: 372. (Link).

IF (4.0) [b], 5-years-IF (4.5), CiteScore (8.4), Citation number [c] (0), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q1 (Mycology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics / Plant Science).

62. * **Degani O.**[a], Khandagale K., Gawande S. Editorial: Insights into the molecular dynamics of stress physiology in *Allium* crops. *Frontiers in Plant Science* **(2026)**; 17: 1825911. (Link).

IF (5.9) [b], 5-years-IF (5.7), CiteScore (10.8), Citation number [c] (0), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q1 / CiteScore - Q1 (Plant Sciences).

63. * **Degani O.**[a], Levy M., Horwitz B. A. Editorial: Plant-Friendly Microorganisms as a Bio-Barrier Against Pathogens. *Frontiers in Fungal Biology* **(2025)**; 6: 1659453. (Link).

IF (4.3) [b], 5-years-IF (3.4), CiteScore (6.3), Citation number [c] (1), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR – Q1 / CiteScore - Q1.

64. * **Degani O.** Plant Fungal Diseases and Crop Protection. *Journal of Fungi*. **(2025)**; 11 (4): 274. (Link).

IF (4.3) [b], 5-years-IF (4.8), CiteScore (8.7), Citation number [c] (14), Journal Rank and Quartile: JCR - Q1 (Mycology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics / Plant Science, Microbiology).

[a] Corresponding author. [b] Official 2023-25 impact factor – ISI Web of Science – Journal Citation Report. [c] Based on Google Scholar, accessed 14 July 2026. (see here)

C. Editing Refereed Scientific Books

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

1. * **Ofir Degani** (Ed.). Plant Fungal Diseases and Crop Protection. Reprint of the Special Issue Plant Fungal Diseases and Crop Protection that was published in the *Journal of Fungi*. June 2025. 238 pages. (Link).

D. Articles or Chapters in Refereed Scientific Books

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

1. * **Degani O.** Bio-Hydrolysis of Cotton Fibers' Cuticle Enhanced by Synergism between Cutinase and Pectinase. In Advances in Biology. **(2024)** Volume 7, Charles D. Grant (Editor), Nova Science Publishers, Inc. NY, USA, Chapter 4, pp 131-162. (Link).

2. * **Degani O.** Late Wilt of Maize: The Pathogen, the Disease, Current Status, and Future Perspective. In: Verma, P.K., Mishra, S., Srivastava, V., Mehrotra, S. (eds) Plant Pathogen Interaction. **(2024)** Springer, Singapore. (Link).
   Citation number (4)

3. * **Degani O.** A green Solution to Maize Late Wilt Disease. In *Trichoderma*: Taxonomy, Biodiversity and Applications. Nova Science Publishers, Inc. **(2023)**, chapter 3, 65-82. (Link).

4. * Chen A., Jacob M., Shoshani G., Dafny-Yelin M., **Degani O.**, Rabinovitz O. Early detection of soil-borne diseases in field crops via remote sensing. *Precision Agriculture '21* **(2021)**, Editor John V. Stafford. 217 – 224. (Link).
   Citation number (7)

5. **Degani, O.** Accurate virulence test method for *Cochliobolus heterostrophus* wild-type and mutant strains in the post-genomic era. *In* Pathogenicity of *Cochliobolus* Species in the Post-Genomic Era. 1st Edition. Bengyella L. and Devi Waikhom S. (Eds.). Stadium Press LLC, Texas, USA, **(2017)**, chapter 4, 92-111.

E. Articles in Conference Proceedings

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

1. * **Degani O.**, Gordani A., Dimant E., Rabinovitz O. Integrated biological-chemical interface for eco-friendly control of maize late wilt and cotton charcoal rot diseases. Biological and Integrated Control of Plant Pathogens. IOBC-WPRS Bulletin Vol. 177, 14/06/2025, pp. 249-254. (Link).

2. * **Degani O.**, Ayoub A., E., Gordani A., Antagonistic interactions between maize seeds microbiome species and the late wilt disease agent, *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*. Biological and Integrated Control of Plant Pathogens IOBC-WPRS Bulletin Vol. 177, 14/06/2025, p. 95. (Link).

F. Entries in Refereed Encyclopedias

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

1. * **Degani O.** Topic review: Strategies to Cope with Late Wilt of Maize. In: *Encyclopedia* platform (MDPI), Subjects: Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science. **(2022)**. **(**Link**).**

G. Other Publications

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

1. * Dafny-Yelin M., Zonenberg T., Shlisel M., **Degani O.**, and Tirtza Zahavi, Examination of the resistance of hybrid grapevine bunches to downy mildew and powdery mildew '*Alon Hanotea*', 81, **(2024)**, 28-31. [Hebrew]. (Link).

2. * Zonenberg T., Dafny-Yelin M., Shlisel M. and **Degani O.**, Examination of Hybrid grapevine varieties' Resistance to downy and powdery mildew diseases in Northern Israel' *Alon Hanotea*', 77, **(2023)**, 16-21. [Hebrew]. (Link).

3. * **Degani O.** A Green Solution to Maize Late Wilt Disease. IsraelAgri.com, *Israeli Agriculture International Portal*. 28 March **(2022)** (Link).

4. * **Degani O.** How to promote gifted children. *Al Hazafon*, September **(2021)**, 21. [Hebrew]. **(**Link**).**

5. * **Degani O.** The Enemy of My Enemy is My Friend – a Green Solution to Late Wilt Disease of Maize. *Mews Masove*, **(2021)**. [Hebrew].

6. * **Degani O.**[a] and Dor S. The secret life of the Maize Pathogen *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*. *Sade Vayerek*, The professional magazine of Israel Vegetable Growers Organization. **(2019)**, 329, 42-45. [Hebrew]. **(**Link**).**

7. * **Degani O.** Economical Solution for Late Wilt Disease of Corn. IsraelAgri.com, *Israeli Agriculture International Portal*. 04 March **(2019)**. **(**Link**).**

8. * **Degani O**.[a], Dor S., Movshovitz D., Fraidman E., Rabinovitz O., Assaf Chen and Graph S. An economical solution for the late wilt disease of corn. *Sade Vayerek*, The professional magazine of Israel Vegetable Growers Organization. **(2019)**, 324, 56-66. [Hebrew]. (Link).

9. **Degani O.**[a], Drori R., Goldblat Y., and Dor S. Plant hormones regulate the development of *Harpophora maydis*, the maize late wilt-causing agent. *Nir Vatelem*, The professional magazine of the Israel Extensive Cultivation Organization. **(2017)**, 71, 15-24. [Hebrew]. (Link).

10. **Degani O.**[a], Goldblat Y., and Cohen S. Environmental conditions regulate the development of the maize late wilt causal agent, *Harpophora maydis*. *Nir Vatelem*, The professional magazine of the Israel Extensive Cultivation Organization. **(2015)**, 57, 24-30. [Hebrew]. (Link).

11. **Degani O.** A molecular assay for *Harpophora maydis*, the cause of maize late wilt disease. *Nir Vatelem*, The professional magazine of Israel Extensive Cultivation Organization**. (2013)**, 49, 24-31. [Hebrew]. (Link).

12. **Degani O.** Inquiry vs. research. Gifted, outstanding students and knowledge seekers (M.M.CH) *Journal of the Division for Gifted and Talented Students, Israel Ministry of Education, February* **(2013)**. [Hebrew]. (Link).

13. **Degani O.** Late wilt of corn, pathogenesis, and control. *Nir Vatelem*, The professional magazine of the Israel Extensive Cultivation Organization**.** **(2011)**, 32, 10-13. [Hebrew]. (Link).

14. **Degani O.** Maize late wilt disease - background and new findings. *Sade Vayerek*, The professional magazine of the Israel Vegetable Growers Organization. **(2009)**, 10, 51-52. [Hebrew]. **(**Link**).**

15. **Degani O**. *Harpophora maydis* in wilt of sweet corn: Characterization of the disease cycle and development of protection and control. *Yevul-Si*, The Journal of Israeli Advanced Agriculture, Special publication of the Northern R&D. **(2008)**. [Hebrew].

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H. Articles under review or in preparation

* Activity or achievement since the last promotion

65. * **Degani O.**[a], Dimant E., Etedgi E., and Rabinovitz O. Season-Long Layered Protection Against Cotton Charcoal Rot: Multi-Strain *Trichoderma* Seed Coating and Stage-Targeted Fungicide Applications. **(2026)**, *Journal of Agriculture and Food Research*, under review.

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Academic Achievements

In 2018, we successfully developed a practical, efficient, and cost-effective azoxystrobin-based **protocol for controlling late wilt disease**. This protocol is now commercially used to protect susceptible maize cultivars grown in heavily infested areas (Degani et al., 2014, 2018, 2019, 2020). Since 2021, the group has further developed eco-friendly biological solutions for late wilt disease (Degani et al., 2021a, b, c, 2022; Gordani et al., 2023), including novel assays for detecting soil contamination (Degani et al., 2020) and assessing the impact of green cultivation methods such as crop rotation and no-till farming (Degani et al., 2021, 2022). Notably, the research demonstrated for the first time that *Magnaporthiopsis maydis*, the causative agent of late wilt, can colonize secondary hosts, such as cotton, watermelon, and green foxtail, thereby aiding its survival (Dor and Degani, 2019).

In recent years, our group has explored the **population structure and pathogenic variability of *M. maydis*, alongside its interactions with other members of the maize microbiome** (Degani et al., 2021, 2024), particularly pathogens such as *Macrophomina phaseolina* and *Fusarium verticillioides*, which cause maize stalk rot. We found that the maize late wilt disease pathogen is driven by highly diverse pathogen populations in Israel, spanning biotrophic to necrotrophic strategies, with disease severity determined by isolate aggressiveness, host susceptibility, and complex interactions among strains (Shofman and Degani, 2022, 2025). Interactions with *F. verticillioides* further modulate outcomes, as co-infections or sequential infections can either exacerbate disease or partially suppress symptoms and colonization, highlighting the multifactorial pathogen dynamics that shape late wilt severity (Shofman and Degani, 2025).

Additionally, the lab has focused on ***M. phaseolina*, the pathogen that causes charcoal rot**, a disease that significantly threatens cotton crops worldwide, including in Israel. Through Real-Time PCR-based pathogen-detection experiments, our team identified antagonistic interactions between *M. maydis* and *M. phaseolina* (Degani et al., 2020, 2022). These interactions led to a mutual suppression of pathogens in their primary hosts during later growing stages. Further insights revealed that *M. maydis* may act as an endophyte in cotton but, under specific conditions, can become a severe pathogen.

Recently, the research team demonstrated, through a series of experiments spanning laboratory assays to commercial field trials, **the efficacy of *Trichoderma*-based biocontrol strategies against charcoal rot** (Degani et al., 2023a, b, 2024). In diseased-stressed growth room's cotton sprouts treated with *T. longibrachiatum* showed enhanced plant survival and development, and reduced pathogen root infection to near-zero levels. In a full-season potted experiment, the eco-friendly treatments with *T. asperellum* and *T. longibrachiatum* alone enhanced cotton plants' growth and health. At harvest, the combined treatments of *T. longibrachiatum* + Azoxystrobin achieved 86–91% pathogen repression. In the commercial field, *a blend of Trichoderma species seed treatment was equivalent to the Azoxystrobin treatment in yield improvement (up to 17%) and in reducing M. phaseolina infection* (up to 37%). The studies suggest that bio-chemo-integrated management has significant benefits compared to chemical interventions.

Finally, the research also encompasses ***Fusarium* species causing basal rot in onions** (*Allium cepa*) (Kalman et al., 2020). Using morphological analyses, DNA sequencing, and phylogenetic studies, we identified *Neocosmospora* (formerly *Fusarium solani*) as predominant in northeastern Israel onion fields, coexisting with *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cepae* and *Fusarium acutatum* (Degani et al., 2024). Pathogenicity tests confirmed diverse disease severity levels among these species and revealed complex antagonistic and synergistic interactions. The research further identified effective chemical and biological control strategies (Degani and Kalman, 2021; Degani et al., 2022; Dimant and Degani, 2023). The study demonstrates that several fungicides effectively reduce onion basal rot under full-season conditions, supporting chemical control as a promising, though optimization-dependent, management strategy. In parallel, ***Trichoderma*-based seed treatments**—particularly *T. asperellum*—showed strong antagonism against *Fusarium* spp. and significantly improved plant growth, yield, and disease suppression in semi-field trials, highlighting their potential as a sustainable alternative.

Ongoing objectives in our lab include:

1. Developing biological, chemical, and agricultural practices for disease management.
2. Manipulating plant microbiomes to create environmentally sustainable crop protection methods.
3. Investigating pathogen interactions to better understand plant disease dynamics.
4. Developing and implementing eco-friendly clay-based carriers for slow-release delivery of azoxystrobin to manage maize late wilt and cotton charcoal rot, both as standalone treatments and in combination with biological control agents.
5. Discovering and applying plant-protective “green” bio-molecules to support sustainable and profitable crop production and food health.