

Internship program in aquaculture research – Southern Arava R&D – Call for applicants - 2023

The Southern Arava R&D is a research institute tasked with supporting and developing regional agriculture. In 2022 the Israeli government identified aquaculture as a growth engine for the region which prompted a new research field in the Southern Arava R&D. Our main goal is to provide local farming communities with new ideas and practical – science based - knowledge to increase production and ensure the prosperity of the region.

For 2023, we are planning several research projects with the following directions: Screening of local algae and identification of algae species for commercial production in the Southern Arava, Effect of microalgae as feed supplement on growth and feed digestibility in grey mullet and Screening of symbiotic bacteria to enhance biomass production of microalgae.

These projects involve both field and lab work and require prior experience and knowledge of biological lab practices.

For the spring semester of 2023 we are looking for one intern, who will contribute to an ongoing 3 year project. Applicants are expected to work in a science based work frame which may include: field sampling from water sources in the Arava desert, maintaining algae cultures, conducting water quality tests, conducting laboratory measurements and analyses and caring for fish. This work requires accuracy, patience and perseverance and will reward the intern with knowledge and experience in an important and fast growing field of research.

Interns will be supervised by Dr. Yair Kohn, who has a PhD degree in marine biology and has worked for 6 years in the Arava as an aquaculture researcher and project manager. His main interests are: edible and ornamental fish production, microalgae as a source of protein and valuable nutrients and aquaponics.