

Helena Vitoshkin, Ph.D.

Institution: Agricultural Research Organization –Volcani Institute, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Israel

Short biography and experience:

Dr. Helena Vitoshkin is a research scientist at the Institute of Agricultural Engineering, the Volcani Center in Israel. She conducts research in the field of fluid dynamics and heat transfer. She received a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering at Kyiv Polytechnic University (Ukraine), M.Sc., and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Tel-Aviv University (Israel), there she was selected for the excelling Female Doctoral Researcher award. She joined the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Pennsylvania (USA) as a postdoc fellow and worked on computational modeling of nanocarrier motion for targeted drug delivery .

Dr. Vitoshkin joined the Institute of Agricultural Engineering at the Volcani Center, in 2017. Since then, she has been working on the development of efficient plant production systems, providing optimal conditions for growth and energy savings by combining experimental methods and numerical models of climate control and light distribution in growth systems. She also has investigated properties for greenhouse cover materials.

Vitoshkin has always targeted her efforts on advancing research in multi-level growth farming (Vertical farming). She takes the lead in a national project dedicated to the characterization of growth conditions within two-level hydroponic greenhouse. Dr. Vitoshkin's research is driven by a desire to find practical, environmentally friendly solutions for increasing local food security.

Lecture title: **Bridging the Gaps: Science Advances Knowledge in Vertical Farming**

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