



A “Seed” Accelerator of a Different Sort

*Kaima’s young farmers and educators gather for a day of planning
the farm’s spring and summer planting and sowing seasons*

Every successful farmer knows that informed and disciplined planning for the planting and sowing season is critical. Until now, Kaima’s adult team members have undertaken responsibility for all aspects of farm management. However, in planning the 2015 spring and summer seasons, they felt that Kaima’s young farmers were ready to join the process.

The entire Kaima team, adults and young farmers, gathered on a sunny day to get down to work. Everything needed to make good decisions had been prepared: maps of the farm were drawn up; lists of the plants that had been ordered were printed; and charts cataloging each vegetable and estimated growing time were created.

Yoni, Kaima Founding Director, and Ariel, Kaima Agriculture Director, opened the meeting and asked the team to identify those issues that they felt the farm should take into account when planning for the upcoming growing seasons. Discussion followed on: staple crops; the length of the flowerbeds and their distance from the road (understanding that heavy vegetables planted closer to the farm’s perimeter would make transporting to market easier); the quantity of vegetables needed for the current and projected number of customers; which insects attack what vegetables; where, when and how far apart to plant vegetables needing shade; and more.

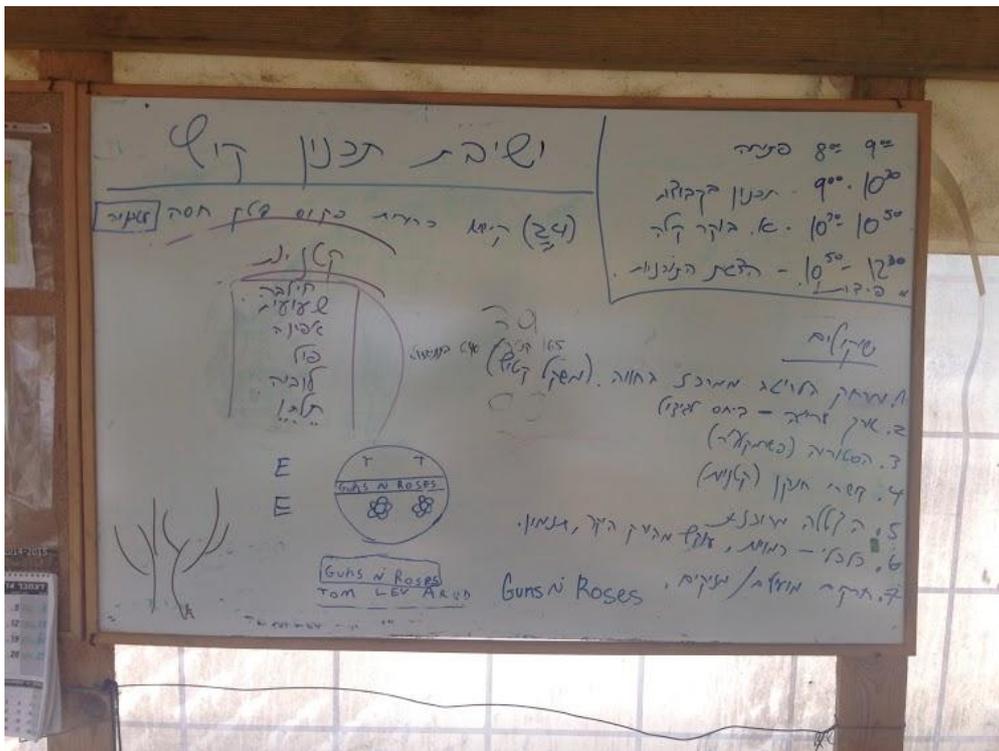
The team divided into three small groups to develop planting and harvesting plans. Each group then presented their proposals to the team and explained how they had arrived at their determinations. After discussing different tactics, a final plan was agreed upon and will serve as the road map for moving forward. The group then celebrated their hard work by baking from scratch mini pizzas, topped with fresh vegetables – grown on the farm, of course. It was a special way to end a fantastic day!

Said Yoni, ***“For me, this was one of the most exciting days on the farm so far. It was amazing to witness the young farmers, some who were recently wandering the streets, without any direction in life, draw on their experience of working on the farm and begin to think strategically. This is what we want for these kids, to be able to plan for the future. This concept is both central to farming and necessary for the life of any human being.”***





Hard at work



A plan emerges



Pizza is our reward