

WACAU-2014, Israel
International Workshop on Agricultural Coal Ash Uses
Agricultural Center, Bet Dagan
May 27th 2014

**Background document for the panel discussion at the
workshop and a list of items for discussion**

Decades long research and practical experience, both in Israel and abroad, demonstrated that application of coal ash to soils (and in particular as a component of sludge stabilized with lime and coal ash) can improve yield and soil quality. On the other hand, it was asserted that agricultural use of fly ash should be discouraged because there is only limited benefits (and some potential risk) to the application of the ash and alternative uses of it exist that have a greater economic value. In addition, concerns were raised regarding the long-term effects of the repeated addition of products containing coal ash to the soil. Finally, as far as the reliable operation of coal fired power stations is concerned, a broader variety of uses of the coal ash will minimize fluctuations in the outflow of the ash from the station at times of crisis or depression in the construction industry, which is the main consumer of the ash.

On the background of the above arguments, the panel is asked to refer to the following issues (and indeed to any other issue deemed relevant):

1. Is it advisable to prohibit, permit or possibly even encourage the use of coal ash as an additive to agricultural land? If to permit, is it necessary to formulate conditions for use and what needs to be done to maximize the benefits from that use?
2. Is there a significant risk of damage to the soil following long-term use and repeated applications of additives containing coal

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ash, and what are the proper steps that need to be taken to ensure that such damage does not occur?

3. What is the proper role of the regulator in the context of the agricultural use of coal ash? E.g., Is the existence of alternative uses of the ash with high economic value sufficient to justify statutory limitations on the agricultural use of coal ash?