



AgroTec Newsletter

Sixth Issue

July 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

**AgroTechnology VET Centres to Network and Train
Future Farmers in Jordan and Palestine / AgroTec**

Type: Erasmus+ Programme

Grant Holder: AgriWatch B.V.

Duration: 3 Years

Start Date: January 1, 2023

UNDER "ERASMUS+ Capacity Building in the field of
Vocational Education and Training (VET)"

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Erasmus+ VET Programme, AgroTec Project Number: 101092160

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Project Profile



Project Summary

AgroTec is a 3-years project that started on the January 1, 2023 and is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. It is coordinated by AgriWatch B.V. from the Netherlands, in collaboration with 7 partners from Jordan, Palestine and Europe.

The main objective of the AgroTec project is to establish 5 “AgroTec” centres within partner Universities in Jordan and Palestine. These centres will be dedicated to the development of practical and innovative VET (Vocational Education and Training) courses. They aim to foster collaboration between companies and VET institutions while creating strong connections among all stakeholders involved in the Agri-Food value chain. Additionally, these centres will facilitate the implementation of smart tools, leveraging IoT sensor networks for soil-crop monitoring, processing, marketing and quality control.

By achieving these goals, the AgroTec project aims to enhance knowledge transfer, promote technological advancements, and strengthen the agricultural sector in the region.



Partners



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Meetings



7th Steering Committee Meeting

Dec 3rd, 2025 (Amman, Jordan)

The 7th Management Meeting of the “*Agro Technology VET Centers to Network and Train Future Farmers in Jordan and Palestine*” (AgroTec) project was hosted by the University of Jordan in Amman on December 3rd, 2025. The meeting brought together project partners and steering committee members to review overall progress and coordination.

During the meeting, each partner presented comprehensive progress reports covering activities implemented over the previous six months, challenges faced, mitigation measures, and planned actions for the upcoming period. Discussions focused on ensuring project quality, long-term sustainability, effective dissemination strategies, and the operational status of AgroTec centers, including the courses and training programs assigned to each partner.

In addition, partners discussed and agreed on the preparation of final technical and financial reports, clarified partner-specific responsibilities during the project’s closing phase, and confirmed timelines for report submission. The meeting reinforced collaboration among partners and ensured alignment toward the successful completion and impact of the AgroTec project.





AgroTec Project Final Conference December 2–3, 2025 | Amman, Jordan

The final conference of the “Agro Technology VET Centers to Network and Train Future Farmers in Jordan and Palestine” (AgroTec) project was held at the University of Jordan in Amman, jointly organized and integrated with the GE-MENA Conference, which took place concurrently. The event brought together project partners and members of the Steering Committee to review the overall progress, coordination, and achievements of the project, which concludes on December 31, 2025.

The conference provided a platform for partner institutions to showcase key achievements and present the outcomes of the work packages they led throughout the project. Each partner also delivered a comprehensive overview of activities implemented over the past three years, highlighting challenges encountered, mitigation measures adopted, and lessons learned.

Discussions focused on project quality, long-term sustainability, dissemination strategies, and the operational status of the AgroTec centers, including the courses and training programs developed and delivered by each partner. Special attention was given to ensuring that project results remain impactful and accessible beyond the funding period.

In addition, partners agreed on the preparation of final technical and financial reports, clarified partner-specific responsibilities during the project’s closing phase, and confirmed timelines for report submission. The conference reinforced strong collaboration among partners and ensured a shared commitment to the successful completion and lasting impact of the AgroTec project.





Green Energy in MENA Region Conference: Solar Energy, Green Hydrogen and AgroTec (GE-MENA 2025)

December 2nd-3rd 2025, Amman – Jordan

Partners of the AgroTec project actively participated in the GE-MENA 2025 Conference, an international forum dedicated to strengthening collaboration and highlighting cutting-edge research, technologies, and best practices in renewable energy across the MENA and Mediterranean regions. The conference placed particular emphasis on solar energy, green hydrogen, and smart agriculture as key drivers of sustainable development.

A dedicated session on Smart Farming and Precision Agriculture demonstrated how advanced digital technologies and data-driven solutions can optimize crop production, reduce resource waste, and enhance environmental sustainability. AgroTec partners presented their contributions during this session, showcasing project outcomes that align closely with the conference's focus on innovation and sustainability.

The conference program covered a wide range of thematic areas, including innovations in solar energy technologies and hybrid PV systems; green hydrogen production, storage, and transport; sustainable energy policies and regional cooperation; and renewable energy applications in agriculture, industry, and smart cities. Additional themes addressed environmental and socioeconomic impacts, reliable renewable energy systems, research and capacity building initiatives, machine learning applications in agriculture, agro-voltaics, and the water–energy–food nexus approach to integrated and resilient resource management.

Through its participation, the AgroTec project reinforced its commitment to advancing smart, sustainable agriculture and strengthening synergies between renewable energy, innovation, and capacity building at regional and international levels.





Workshop and Training on Smart Agriculture Mutah University December 1, 2025 | Mutah – Jordan

The Faculty of Agriculture at Mutah University organized a specialized workshop and training session as part of the *Agro Technology VET Centers to Network and Train Future Farmers in Jordan and Palestine (AgroTec)* project, funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ program. The workshop contributes to ongoing efforts to modernize agricultural education and promote innovation in smart and sustainable farming.

The workshop featured a keynote lecture by Dr. Ali Akbar, *AgroTec Project General Coordinator* from AgriWatch B.V., who delivered an in-depth presentation on smart agriculture technologies. His lecture highlighted data-driven farming approaches, digital tools, and innovative practices that are transforming agricultural productivity, improving resource efficiency, and enhancing sustainability.

Mutah University participates in the AgroTec Project alongside partner universities from Jordan, Palestine, and Europe, forming a strong international consortium dedicated to advancing agricultural education, research, and capacity building.

As part of the project's key achievements, new smart agriculture course materials have been developed, and modern equipment and training tools have been provided to the Faculty of Agriculture. These additions significantly strengthen both theoretical teaching and hands-on training opportunities for students.

Professor Omar Al-Maaitah, the AgroTec project coordinator at Mutah University, emphasized the importance of collaboration with the European Union, noting its crucial role in strengthening academic programs, fostering innovation, and supporting the continuous development of higher education in Jordan.

The workshop marks an important step toward preparing a new generation of agricultural professionals equipped with the skills and knowledge required to address contemporary challenges and lead progress in smart and sustainable agriculture.

....see next photos





Fig. Workshop and Training on Smart Agriculture held at Mutah University on December 1st, 2025.



Sustainability and Co-financing



The South Korean government has made a generous donation to Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU) for the establishment of an indoor aeroponic farming system, which is currently being shipped to the university. This initiative aims to advance sustainability and address food security challenges, while also serving as a vital training resource for the newly accredited Smart Agriculture Diploma program. The donation was made possible through the success of the AgroTec project, which played a pivotal role in securing this support.

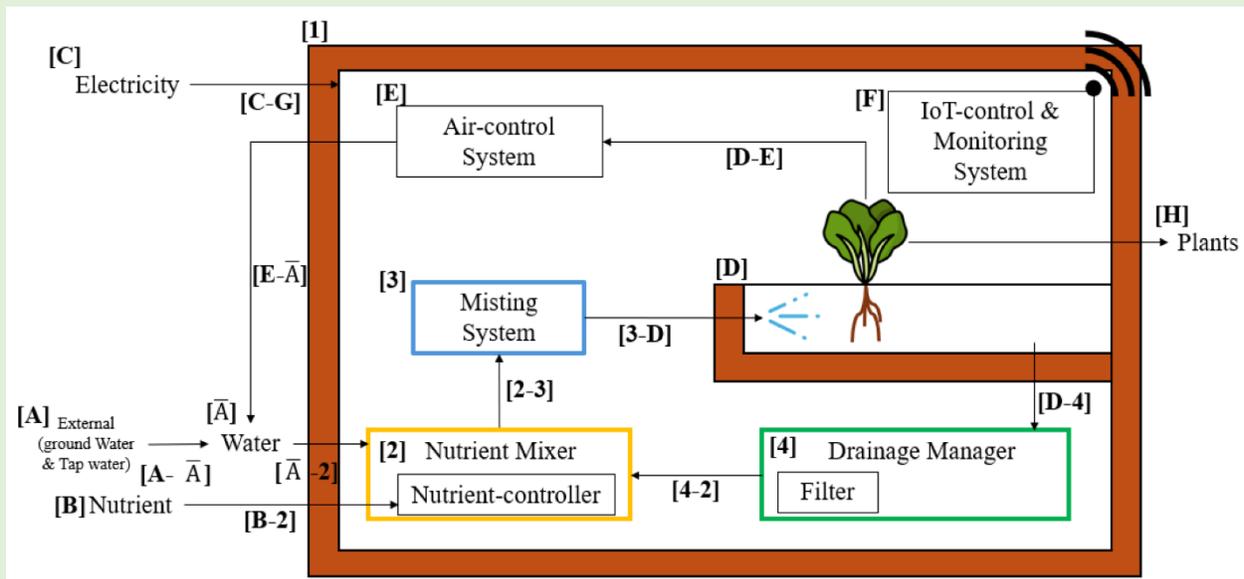


Figure 1. Schematic overview of the closed-system misting smart farming system. This schematic illustrates the key components and resource flow within the closed-system misting smart farming setup.

Kim, J., Park, H., Seo, C., Kim, H., Choi, G., Kim, M., Kim, B., & Lee, W. (2024). Sustainable and inflatable aeroponics smart farm system for water efficiency and high-value crop production. *Applied Sciences*, 14(11), 4931. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app14114931>

- PPU continues to implement service charges for local stakeholders and the agro-food sector for services provided by the AgroTec Center using several PPU equipment, including the ones received from the AgroTec project. These services include the analysis of agro-food products, pesticides, fertilizers, and similar items. This initiative aims to support the project's sustainability.

Partner Activities



Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU)

PPU's Ongoing Student Training in Smart Agriculture

The AgroTec team at Palestine Polytechnic University continues to provide hands-on training and supervise student research projects. The sessions emphasize the use of advanced analytical equipment acquired through the project—such as the Kjeldahl digester—to introduce students, staff, and future farmers to innovative techniques for analyzing agro-food products. Trainees are guided through the full workflow, from receiving samples from fields or food factories to conducting detailed analyses and preparing comprehensive reports.



Miscellaneous news



Green Energy in MENA Region Conference: Solar Energy, Green Hydrogen and AgroTec (GE-MENA 2025) December 2–3, 2025 | Amman – Jordan

The University of Jordan hosted the GE-MENA 2025 Conference, bringing together experts, academics, policymakers, and international partners to discuss advances in solar energy, green hydrogen, and smart agriculture across the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean.

In the opening session, University President Prof. Nadhir Obeidat emphasized that the transition to green energy is a global necessity driven by environmental and economic challenges. Representatives from the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture, the European Union, and the German Embassy highlighted the importance of clean energy, sustainable agriculture, innovation, and international cooperation in addressing climate change, water scarcity, and energy security.

The conference featured more than 10 scientific sessions covering renewable energy technologies, green hydrogen production, energy storage, agro-voltaic systems, smart energy management, and the Water–Energy–Food Nexus. Special attention was given to smart farming and precision agriculture, including the use of digital tools, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability.

AgroTec project partners actively participated in the conference, contributing to a dedicated session on Smart Farming and Precision Agriculture. The session showcased how advanced technologies can optimize crop production, reduce resource waste, and support sustainable farming practices, in line with the objectives and outcomes of the AgroTec project.

The two-day conference welcomed participants from more than 15 countries, reinforcing regional and international collaboration in renewable energy, green skills development, and sustainable agriculture for the future of the MENA region.



AgroTec News



AgroTech Project Nears Successful Completion: Advancing Smart Agriculture in Jordan and Palestine

The AgroTech project – “Agro Technology VET Centers to Network and Train Future Farmers in Jordan and Palestine (AgroTec)” is approaching its conclusion on 31 December 2025, marking the successful completion of three years of intensive collaboration, capacity building, and innovation in agricultural education.

Led by AgriWatch and implemented through a strong international consortium comprising partners from Palestine (Palestine Polytechnic University – PPU, and Palestine Technical University–Kadoorie – PTUK), Jordan (University of Jordan – UJ, National University College of Technology – NUCT, and Mutah University – MU), and the European Union (SUA and Int@E UG), the project has progressed at an exceptional pace and delivered substantial, tangible outcomes.

Throughout its implementation, AgroTech has achieved its core objectives by establishing Smart Agriculture VET Centers in both Palestine and Jordan, serving as hubs for practical training, innovation, and knowledge transfer. Academic curricula were modernized and aligned with smart and sustainable agriculture practices, ensuring relevance to labor market needs and future challenges. In addition, dozens of academic and technical staff were trained through targeted vocational activities, significantly enhancing institutional expertise and teaching quality.

Beyond its institutional achievements, AgroTech has generated a measurable impact on local communities, strengthening links between higher education institutions, farmers, SMEs, and stakeholders, and contributing to improved awareness, skills development, and employability in the agricultural sector.

Overall, the AgroTech project has been highly successful in meeting and exceeding its planned goals and objectives. It stands as a strong example of effective regional and international cooperation under the Erasmus+ framework, leaving a lasting legacy in smart agriculture education, innovation, and community engagement in partner countries.





News Links.....

<https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=333400&lang=ar&name=news&cat=news>

[https://news.ju.edu.jo/en/english/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=952&ContentTypeId=0x0100C9187B8B326B7442B88F62670396325B#:~:text=The%20University%20of%20Jordan%20\(UJ,advanced%20technologies%20into%20farming%20systems.](https://news.ju.edu.jo/en/english/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=952&ContentTypeId=0x0100C9187B8B326B7442B88F62670396325B#:~:text=The%20University%20of%20Jordan%20(UJ,advanced%20technologies%20into%20farming%20systems.)

