



# AgroTec Newsletter

Fourth Issue

July 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

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

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025

## Project Facts

**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



## P1 – AgriWatch B.V.

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## P6 – Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU)

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جامعة بوليتكنك فلسطين



**SUA**  
Slovak University  
of Agriculture  
in Nitra

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**INT@E**  
Innovative Technologies and Education

## P8 – Int@E UG

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# Meetings



## 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting

November 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The 4<sup>th</sup> Management Meeting of the “Agro Technology VET Centers to Network and Train Future Farmers in Jordan and Palestine” (AgroTec) was hosted by the Slovak University of Agriculture (SUA) in Nitra, Slovakia, from November 27–28, 2024.

During the meeting, each partner presented detailed progress reports to the project’s steering committee, covering activities conducted over the past six months, challenges encountered and future plans. Discussions emphasized key aspects such as the project’s quality, sustainability, and dissemination, alongside updates on AgroTec centers and the courses allocated to each partner.

The partners also deliberated and reached agreements on upcoming activities, specific tasks for each partner, and the timeline for future training sessions and management meetings.



# Sustainability and Co-financing



- PPU has received a generous donation from the South Korean government to establish an indoor aeroponic farming system. This initiative is designed to promote sustainability and tackle food security challenges. Additionally, the system will support the newly accredited Smart Agriculture Diploma program by serving as a key training tool. The donation was secured thanks to the success of the AgroTec project, which played a crucial role in garnering this support.



Figure 1. An image of the aeroponic indoor farming system from MIDBAR system. <https://midbar.com/shop/>

- PPU has begun implementing 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.

# Activities



## PPU Second Training Workshop November 19, 2024

The AgroTec team at Palestine Polytechnic University recently conducted their second Labor Day training session. The training focused on utilizing analytical equipment acquired through the project, such as the Kjeldahl digester, to teach students, staff, and aspiring farmers innovative methods for analyzing agro-food products. Participants were guided through the entire process, from receiving samples from sources like fields or food factories to performing comprehensive analyses and interpreting the results in detailed reports.



## PPU Student-Training Workshop December 15-19, 2024

The AgroTec Center at PPU has conducted an intensive training week focusing on student in groups of 2-3 from the College of Applied Sciences, PPU. Training involved modern equipment used in smart agriculture, including equipment received through the AgroTec project.



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# Activities



## Mutah University Workshop

November 10, 2024

The AgroTec project team recently held their second workshop at the Faculty of Agriculture at MU. The event brought together not only MU project team, but also representatives from the government, NGOs, university staff, and students. The workshop focused on several key themes:

1. Raising awareness about the AgroTec project.
2. Discussing Jordan's national agricultural policy.
3. Exploring the need to transition to smart agriculture in Jordan.
4. Addressing the challenges facing agriculture in Jordan, including water scarcity, economic pressures, political instability, unemployment, and poverty.



# Upcoming Events



## 5<sup>th</sup> AgroTec Management Meeting at INT@E UG in Leipzig

May 8+9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The fifth AgroTec Management Meeting is scheduled to take place at INT@E UG in Leipzig, Germany, on May 8-9, 2025. This date was confirmed during the previous management meeting held in Nitra, Slovakia.

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> AgroTec Training at AgriWatch B.V in 2025

The third AgroTec training is scheduled to take place at AgriWatch B.V. in the Netherlands, likely in the second half of 2025.





# Miscellaneous news



- Professor Nabil Al-Joulani, a distinguished member of the PPU Steering Committee, passed away on September 6, 2024. Known for his dedication and commitment, Professor Nabil was highly respected by his colleagues and the AgroTec project team. He consistently ensured tasks were completed effectively and on time, earning the admiration of everyone who worked with him. He will be fondly remembered by all project members.





- **Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra-AgroTec Project News:**

The Steering Committee Meeting of the AgroTec Erasmus+ Project (Network and Train Future Farmers in Jordan and Palestine" (AgroTec), no. 101092160, was held at the SUA in Nitra on Nov 27-28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The participants were greeted by representatives of the Faculty of Economics and Management involved in the project. After the welcome by Dr.h.c. prof. Dr. Ing. Elena Horská, the dean of the FEM SUA in Nitra, the local project coordinator Ing. Jana Gálová, PhD. and project member PhDr. Anna Mravcová, PhD. made an introduction into the meeting. *For more news on the event, please visit.....*

<https://www.uniag.sk/en/news-reader/steering-committee-meeting-within-the-agrotec-erasmus-project-at-the-fem-sua-in-nitra>

<https://www.uniag.sk/sk/aktualne-informacie/na-fem-sa-konalo-projektove-stretnutie-k-erasmus-projektu-agrotec>

<https://www.polnohospodar.sk/sk/polnohospodar-reader/na-fem-sa-konalo-projektove-stretnutie-k-erasmus-projektu-agrotec-2/>

<https://fem.uniag.sk/en/news-reader/steering-committee-meeting-within-the-agrotec-erasmus-project-at-the-fem-sua-in-nitra-2/>

<https://fem.uniag.sk/sk/aktualne-informacie-reader/projektove-stretnutie-v-ramci-erasmus-projektu-agrotec-na-fem-spu-v-nitre/>

