



AgroTec Newsletter

First Issue

January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023

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

January 1, 2023 – December 30, 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)"

Contact Information:

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Project Website: <https://nuct.edu.jo/agrotec/>

Erasmus+ VET Programme, AgroTec Project Number: 101092160

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**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Project Profile



Project Summery

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 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.

Project General Coordinator

Contact Person: Dr. Ali Abkar

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P2 – Mutah University (MU)

Contact Person: Prof. Mohammad Almajali

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P3 – University of Jordan (UJ)

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P4 – National University College of Technology (NUCT)

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P5 – Palestine Technical University–Kadoorie (PTUK)

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Email: tubassi@gmail.com



P6 – Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU)

Contact Person: Prof. Nabil Al-Joulani

Email: njoulani@ppu.edu

جامعة بوليتكنك فلسطين



SUA

Slovak University
of Agriculture
in Nitra

P7 – Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (SUA)

Contact Person: Dr. Jana Galova

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INT@E
Innovative Technologies and Education

P8 – Int@E UG

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Work Packages

WP1: Management and Coordination Activities

WP Achievements:

- The kick off meeting has been conducted at the University of Jordan and National University College of Technology during the period from 19th -20th February, 2023 in Amman, Jordan.
- A Steering Committee (SC) was established during the kick-off meeting.
- 3 Management Meetings were conducted during the first 6 months.
- Regular communication is conducting via e-mail and through a shared electronic database.



Work Packages

WP2: Networking and Project Requirements

WP Achievements:

- A registration form has been prepared.
- A memorandum of collaboration between the members of the AgroTec Network has been prepared.
- A networking workshop was organized during the kick-off meeting to exchange information with stakeholders in the field of agriculture.
- The list of AgroTec centres requirements has been prepared.



Work Packages



WP3: AgroTec Development

WP Achievements:

- A Technical Committee was established during the kick-off meeting.
- 12 courses have been identified and distributed between partners' universities (each university is responsible to prepare 2 courses) during the kick-off meeting in order to prepare the course outline and share it with the course co-leader for the feedback.
- Each university is responsible to prepare 2 courses.
- The first training will be at Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (SUA) in October 2023.
- A network model has been prepared.
- An online meeting technical committee meeting was conducted.




Work Packages

WP4: Quality Assurance and Monitoring

WP Achievements:

- A Quality Committee was established during the kick-off meeting.
- Quality plan was prepared.
- Online evaluation link for kick-off meeting was prepared and circulated to partners and participants.
- Project templates were prepared.



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ERASMUS+ VET PROGRAMME
AgroTec Project Number: 101092160

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

Deliverable D4.1.4	Deliverable Template
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Erasmus+ programme- AgroTec Project Number: 101092160

AgroTec-D4.1.10 Project Meeting and Workshop Evaluation

1

Work Package	
Meeting/Workshop	
Date(s)	
Hosting Partner: (if applicable)	DD/MM/YYYY – DD/MM/YYYY
Location: (if applicable)	

Answer each question with an evaluation from 1-5, based on your agreement level

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided / Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

1 Meeting Organization		1	2	3	4	5
1.	Communication with the host partner (received response on time of any inquiry about travel, accommodation etc.) was effective					
2.	Information received about the organization of the meeting (location, timing, agenda, etc.) was sufficient					
3.	General organization during the meeting was appropriate					
4.	Duration of the meeting was appropriate					
5.	Timing of the meeting was appropriate (started on time, ended on time)					
6.	Domestic arrangements (accommodation, meals, meeting location etc.) were convenient					
Comments, suggestions for improving next meeting						

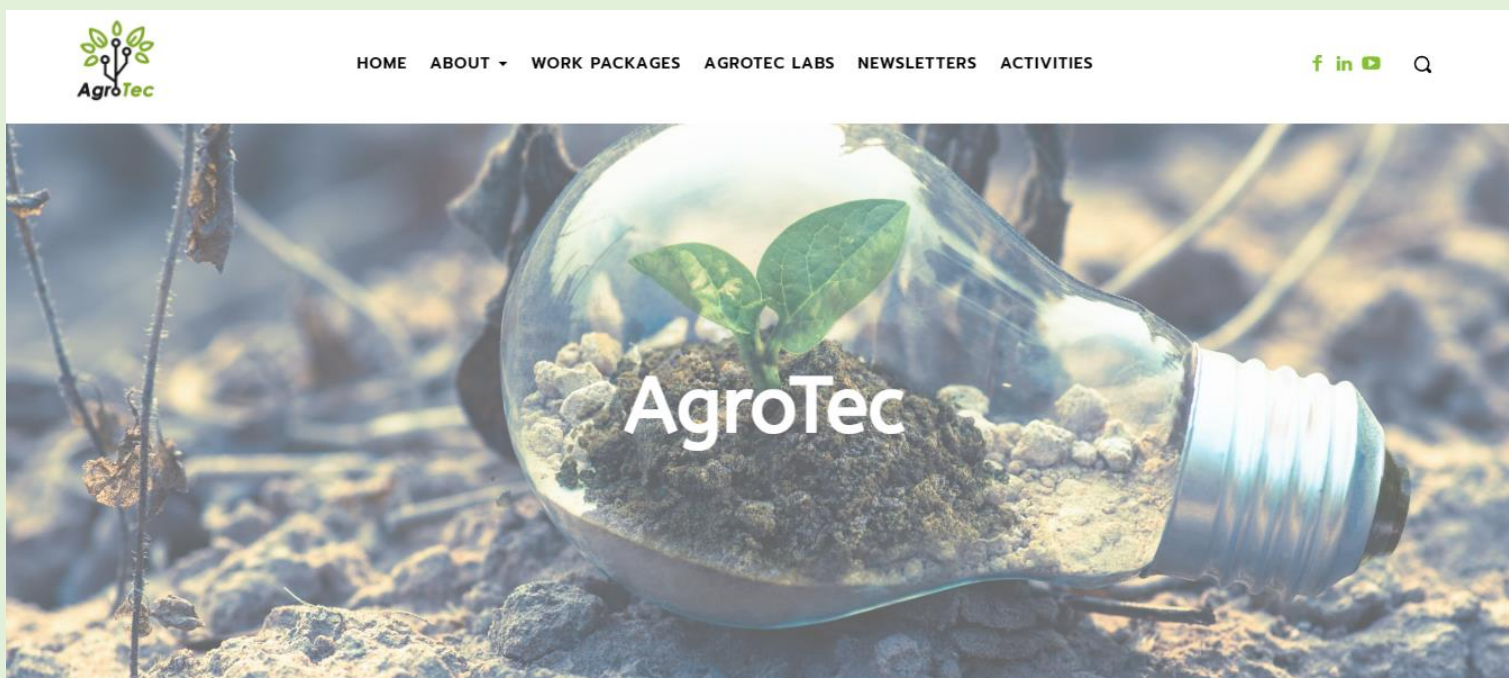
Work Packages

WP5: Impact & Dissemination

WP Achievements:

- A Dissemination Committee was established during the kick-off meeting.
- Project website is designed, hosted and managed by National University College of Technology (NUCT).

➔ Project Website: <https://nuct.edu.jo/agrotec/>



- Facebook page, YouTube channel, and LinkedIn was created and managed by National University College of Technology (NUCT).



[AgroTec](#)



[AgroTec](#)

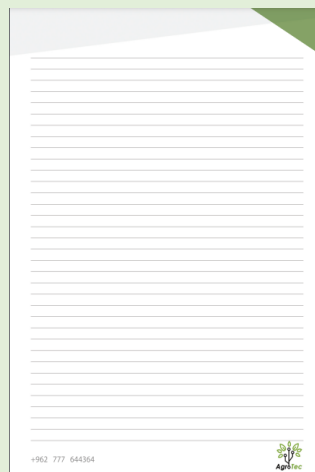


[AgroTec](#)

Work Packages

WP5: Impact & Dissemination

- Promotional and marketing Materials were designed by Work Package leader, such as:
 - ➔ Rollup
 - ➔ Notebook
 - ➔ Leaflets
 - ➔ Brochure



- PPT Template was prepared.



For more information about AgroTec WPs, use the link below:

➔ [Work Packages | agrotec \(nuct.edu.jo\)](https://nuct.edu.jo/work-packages)

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Meetings



Kick-off Meeting

The kick off meeting organized by the University of Jordan (UJ) and National University College of Technology (NUCT) during the period from 19th-20th February, 2023 in Amman, Jordan. It took place at UJ for the first day and at NUCT for the second day.

The official opening of the AgroTec Project was launched under the patronage of H.E. the president of the University of Jordan, Prof. Nathir Obeidat, on the morning of Sunday, February 19th, 2023.

During the kick off meeting, Dr. Ali Abkar, the project coordinator, outlined the project objectives, work packages, and expected results. Dr. Ali emphasized the expected achievements from each WP in the upcoming months.

Each partner presented a brief overview of their university or institution, including its organization, staff, and their respective roles within the project. Additionally, each WP leader presented their specific work package, including its tasks and schedule.



Meetings

Kick-off Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, the following project committees were assigned:

- Steering Committee;
- Technical Committee;
- Quality Committee;
- Dissemination Committee.

Furthermore, the upcoming management meetings and the staff training workshops were scheduled, and the partners reached an agreement to hold regular monthly online meetings.

Additionally, during the Kick-off meeting, the partners had the opportunity to tour the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan.



Meetings

1st Online Technical Committee Meeting

March 28, 2023

The main focus points were:

- Discuss the requirements of the AgroTec centres.

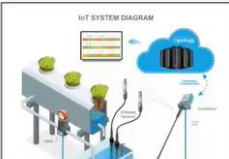
1st Online Steering Committee Meeting

April 4, 2023

The main focus points were:

- Prepare the final list of equipment required for the AgroTec centres.
- Prepare the courses outline.
- Prepare the Quality Plan.
- Start designing the newsletter.
- Update the Website.

The screenshot displays a Microsoft Word document titled "AgroTec_Equipment_Mutah.docx". The document contains a table with the following content:

No.	Item	Qty.	Specifications
1	IOT SOLUTION PACKAGE FOR HYDROPONICS SYSTEM https://www.daviteq.com/en/?prd=iot-solution-packages_IOTPK-HYD_iot-solution-package-for-hydroponics-system 	1	Definition: IoT solution package for hydroponics system is a comprehensive solution (hardware and software) which applies IoT technology and Sub-GHz wireless technology to monitor water quality of hydroponics system in smart agriculture applications. The system uses iConnector IoT gateway to collect data from Sub-GHz wireless water quality sensors (pH and electrical conductivity) and transmit the data to on premise server or remote cloud server for storing, analyzing, reporting, alarm, monitoring and managing water quality of hydroponics system. Additionally, the iConnector outputs control signal to on/off pump, valve of hydroponics system based on pre-set conditions. This solution package displays at site as an option and be expanded to monitor and control other

On the right side of the screenshot, there is a video call interface showing four participants: Ali Abkar, AgriWatc..., Mohammad Almajali, Ahmed Al-Salaymeh, and PPU.

Meetings

2nd Online Steering Committee Meeting

May 30, 2023

The main focus points were:

- Discuss the process of purchasing the equipment.
- Prepare the interim report.
- Finalize the website.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled "Deliverables for AgroTec Project". The spreadsheet contains a table of deliverables with columns for Work Package, Deliverable ID, Deliverable Name, Description, Lead Beneficiary, Type, Dissemination Level, Due Date, and Status. The table lists 10 deliverables across 5 work packages. A video call interface is overlaid on the right side of the spreadsheet, showing four participants: Ahmed Al-Salamah, Ali Akbar, AgriWatch P, Ramzi Arabi, and Yusuf Daraghina.

Work Package	Deliverable ID	Deliverable Name	Description	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date	Status	
WP1	D1.1	D1	Interim Reports	Format: Electronic	AgriWatch	RL	SEN	30 Jun 2023	Pending
WP1	D1.2	D2	Financial Report	Format: Electronic	AgriWatch	RL	SEN	30 Nov 2025	Pending
WP2	D2.1	D3	Project Requirements	Format: Electronic	LIJ	RL	PUJ	31 Dec 2023	Pending
WP2	D2.2	D4	Website and Webportal	Format: Electronic	LIJ	DEC	PUJ	31 Mar 2024	Pending
WP3	D3.1	D5	Training material	Format: Electronic	SUA	RL	PUJ	30 Jun 2024	Pending
WP3	D3.2	D6	AgroTec centre equipment	Format: Electronic	SUA	OTD/ER	PUJ	30 Jun 2023	Pending
WP3	D3.3	D11	4 courses	Format: Electronic	SUA	RL	PUJ	30 Sep 2025	Pending
WP4	D4.1	D7	Quality plan	Format: Electronic	MBE	RL	PUJ	15 Aug 2023	Pending
WP4	D4.2	D8	Quality Report	Format: Electronic	MBE	RL	PUJ	30 Sep 2025	Pending
WP5	D5.1	D9	Sustainability plan	Format: Electronic	NUCT	RL	PUJ	15 Aug 2023	Pending
WP5	D5.2	D10	Impact and Dissemination Report	Format: Electronic	NUCT	RL	PUJ	31 Dec 2025	Pending

Workshops



Stakeholders Workshop February 19th, 2023

The workshop commenced with a welcome speech from Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh, the regional project coordinator, from The University of Jordan. Following that, **Dr. Ali Abkar**, CEO of AgriWatch BV and the AgroTec general project coordinator, presented on the implementation of VET projects. He provided an overview of the Erasmus+ AgroTec project, highlighting its main features such as, the project objectives, consortium, Work Packages (WPs), AgroTec Budget, and the added value it brings.

Next, **Prof. Omer Maaitah**, President of Al-Tafila Technical University (TTU), delivered a presentation on the climate, water scarcity in Jordan, challenges related to unsaturated soil, and the role of smart tools in agriculture.

Subsequently, **Eng. Ayman Al-Wreikat** from the Technical and Vocational Skills Development Commission (TVSDC), provided a brief history of TVSDC, which was established in 2019 under Article 31 of the Jordanian Constitution and based on Law No. (9) for year 2019, and outlined its role in enhancing education.



Workshops



Furthermore, **Eng. Rawad Sweidan** from the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) delivered a presentation on Smart Solutions in Agriculture. He discussed various smart agriculture applications, including; FAO's Digital Service Portfolio (DSP) such as Ma Al Muzare, the Data Repository System (DRS), NARC E- Lab, WaFIRR (Water for IRRigation, and the Early Warning System.

Ms. Lara Nassar from Nuffic, discussed on EDUSYRIA projects and highlighted the challenges and opportunities for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Jordan. She emphasised the critical role of TVET in promoting economic growth and sustainable development in the country.

Additionally, **Prof. Monther Sadler** from the School of Agriculture at UJ shared plans for the development of a new diploma program in Smart Farming at the School of Agriculture. The program is set to commence at the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science in the upcoming Academic year 2023/2024. Prof. Sadler provided insight into the rationale, program objectives, learning outcomes, expected hiring bodies, faculty and staff, and the curriculum structure. The program comprises obligatory (15) credit hours courses and elective (9) credit hours courses.



Events

Jordanian Participation Events

1. Erasmus+ New Projects' Management Meeting May 17, 2023

The AgroTec project team from the National University College of Technology (NUCT), the University of Jordan (UJ) and Mutah University (MU) participated in the conference of new projects that managed to obtain support from the European Union within the Erasmus Plus program.

The Participants were:

Dr. Mutaz Hamdan and Eng. Ala' Baniissa from NUCT.

Eng. Sura Subaihi from the University of Jordan.

Dr. Muhammad Al-Majali from Mutah University.



Events

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2. The participation in a dialogue session on technical education and its relationship in the labour market took place during the Erasmus Week activities at the University of Jordan. Dr. Walaa Al-Smadi, the International Projects Office Manager at NUCT, led the dialogue session, and Prof. Dr. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh, the Dean of the National University College of Technology (NUCT) and the regional project coordinator, served as a keynote speaker.



Events



Palestinian Participation Events

1. PTUK – AgroTec team second internal meeting April 9, 2023

The team of the AgroTec project from Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie (PTUK) held the second internal management meeting. The team discussed different managerial issues related to the location of the AgroTec centre, equipment specifications and the AgroTec network agreement. The team also studied the possible contents and outlines of the courses that will be developed by the PTUK team.



Events

2. PTUK AgroTec visit to Thenaba Agriculture Association

The PTUK AgroTec team visited Thenaba Agriculture Association which is located in Tulkarem rural area. The team presented the AgroTec projects for the managers of the association and farmers who attended the meeting. The participants discussed the cooperation under the AgroTec project in which the association members will be involved in the AgroTec workshops and training. The association highlighted the need for agriculture technologies with sufficient training.



Events



3. PPU Special Online Meeting May, 5 2023

A special online meeting in May, 5 2023 of the PPU with Dr. Ali Abkar, the project coordinator, to discuss the progress of the project at the PPU and to discuss the equipment list they proposed to purchase from the project budget.

