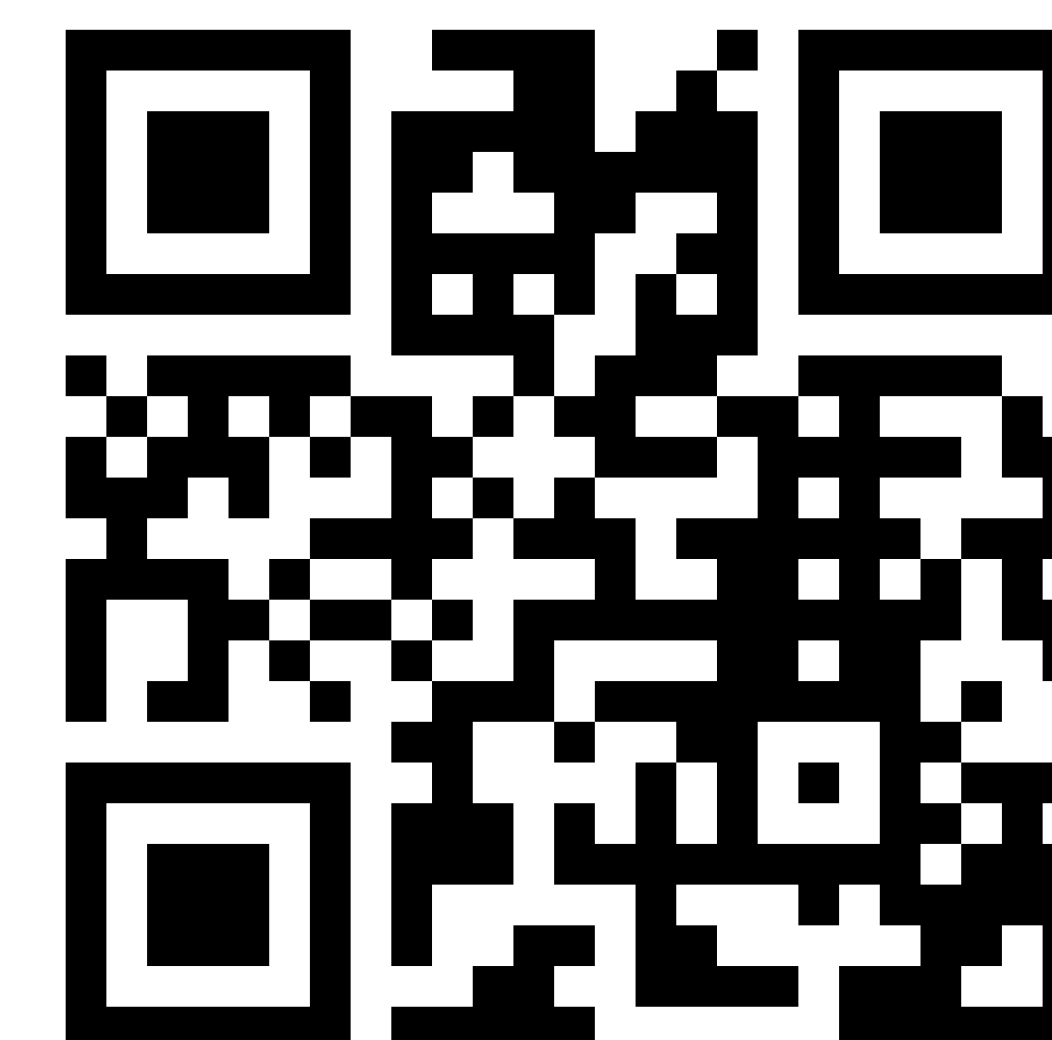


REGENERATIVE SUSTAINABLE FOOD CHAINS THROUGH MARKET GARDENING



Training in **market gardening is still absent** in the majority of EU countries since this model requires a combination of skills and competences that HEIs/ VET centers/ Schools haven't included yet in their curricula and trainings, demanding multidisciplinary, managerial, and cross-sectoral expertise.

AGRETAIN aims to develop and deliver an innovative approach for teaching market gardening, by developing specific learning resources addressing students, neo farmers, and farming practitioners.

Key Insights from the **AGRETAIN Training Needs Analysis**:



Market Gardening as a Sustainable Alternative

Traditional high-intensity monocultures increase CO2 footprint and environmental degradation. Market gardening provides a **low-impact, bio-intensive solution** with high crop rotation and direct-to-consumer sales to enhance sustainability.



Training Gaps & Learning Barriers

Despite 198 programs analyzed across Ireland (67), France (52), Greece (40), Germany (25), and Austria (5), there are **no dedicated market gardening programs** - training is embedded in broader agricultural curricula. 139 programs (70%) are in-person, with limited online/blended options. Major barriers include financial constraints, lack of local courses, and time limitations.



Essential Skills & Competency Needs

A survey of 275 respondents (30 farmers, 10 agronomists, 5 stakeholders) identified five key skill areas: **Technical** (precision agriculture, soil health), **Business** (financial planning, market analysis), **Regulatory** (organic certification, sustainability compliance), **Digital** (e-commerce, social media), and **Interpersonal** (team management, problem-solving).

Innovative VET Curriculum for Market Gardening (EQF 5+)

Based on the results of this study, the AGRETAIN partnership is currently developing a **VET-level curriculum (EQF 5+)**, featuring Learning Units (LUs) designed to enhance transversal, entrepreneurial (including social entrepreneurship), green, and digital skills.

About AGRETAIN:

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