



FROM RESEARCH TO A PRACTICAL MARKET GARDENING CURRICULUM



Following extensive research across the partner countries, AGRETAIN has completed its analysis of market gardening training needs, existing educational offers and relevant competence frameworks. The findings provide a clearer picture of the knowledge, skills and support required by students, farmers, neo-farmers and agricultural advisers.

The results have been transformed into the AGRETAIN curriculum: a practical learning pathway designed for vocational education at EQF Level 5 and above. It combines agricultural knowledge with sustainability, entrepreneurship, digital skills and the day- to- day realities of managing a small- scale market garden.



BUILDING LEARNING AROUND REAL NEEDS

OUT OF THE MEETING ROOM, INTO THE FIELD

In June 2025, the AGRETAIN partners gathered in Witzenhausen, Germany, for a productive Transnational Partners Meeting hosted by PETRARCA. The meeting provided an important opportunity for the consortium to review the progress made so far and coordinate the next stages of the project, with particular attention given to the development of the learning materials, assessment tools and overall training methodology. A significant part of the discussions focused on the Learning Units. Partners reviewed their structure and content, exchanged feedback on the topics covered and discussed how the different subjects could be presented in a clear, practical and accessible way. Particular attention was given to the diversity of the project's target groups, recognising that learners may have very different levels of farming experience, technical knowledge and familiarity with sustainable agricultural practices. Partners therefore explored ways to make the learning resources flexible enough to support both newcomers and more experienced farmers.

LEARNING FROM REAL PLACES AND PRACTICES

The programme brought the partnership out of the meeting room and into the field. At Gemüseinsel, also known as "Veggie Island", partners visited a Community Supported Agriculture farm demonstrating how sustainable production, local food distribution and community participation can work together. The visit to the University of Kassel demonstration plots offered another opportunity to observe how agricultural research and practical experimentation can contribute to regenerative farming. Partners also visited the Grenzmuseum Schiffersgrund Border Museum, where they explored the connections between history, land, communities and identity. A warm thank you to PETRARCA for the hospitality, thoughtful programme and inspiring exchanges. The meeting gave the consortium fresh ideas and renewed energy for transforming the AGRETAIN curriculum into practical learning resources.



EXCLUSIVE PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

THE AGRETAIN CURRICULUM IS READY

The first version of the AGRETAIN curriculum has now been completed, marking an important milestone in the development of the project's training programme. Based on the findings of the project's training-needs analysis, the curriculum offers a structured learning route through the knowledge and competences needed for sustainable market gardening. Its content reflects the practical challenges faced by people working in the sector while also responding to the changing environmental, economic and technological context of agriculture.

The curriculum connects regenerative growing practices with a wider range of skills needed to plan, manage and develop a sustainable market gardening activity. Alongside topics related to soil health, biodiversity and environmentally responsible production, learners are introduced to farm planning, business management, entrepreneurship, digital tools and approaches for building direct relationships with consumers.

LEARNING THAT GOES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

AGRETAIN's methodology brings together face- to- face education, e- learning and work- based learning. Learners will not simply read about market gardening but also explore authentic farm examples, solve problems, work collaboratively and apply what they learn to practical situations. Assessment will also focus on application. Exercises, knowledge checks, reflective activities and practical tasks will help learners recognise their progress and demonstrate how new knowledge can be used in the field.

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