

## From Applied Research to Regenerative Practice: Embedding regenerative agriculture in higher education

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Applied research plays a critical role in addressing societal and industry challenges, particularly in the areas of sustainability, climate resilience, and skills development. This contribution presents insights from Erasmus+ Partnership for Innovation project, AGRETAIN, focused on regenerative sustainable food chains through Market Gardening, and educational innovation. AGRETAIN demonstrates how applied research can be used to co-create industry-relevant educational programmes that respond directly to real-world needs.

The session will showcase how training needs analysis, stakeholder engagement, curriculum development, inclusion of innovative pedagogy, e-learning platform and pilot testing informed the development of an accredited Special Purpose Award and micro-credentials in Science in Regenerative Agriculture-Market Gardening (Certificate, L6, 15 ECTS). Particular emphasis will be placed on how applied research methodologies—such as practitioner interviews, and technical platform evaluation—directly influenced curriculum design, teaching methods, and assessment approaches.

The contribution will also explore the dual impact of applied research: first, in supporting innovation within agriculture and community contexts (e.g. sustainable food systems, regenerative farming enterprises), and second, in improving educational practices by embedding experiential learning and digital tools.

By presenting concrete examples of how research outputs were translated into accredited learning programmes and institutional change, this session aims to provide a framework for education/training institutions seeking to strengthen the link between research, education, and societal impact.