AgroPro – The Solution for Precision Agriculture Training Using Drones

Agricultural Drone Technology Awareness Training for Industry Professionals

Today, agriculture faces significant challenges. Technology is advancing rapidly, yet many professionals in the agricultural sector lack the skills to leverage these innovations fully. For example, drones are increasingly used in precision agriculture for tasks such as spraying, seeding, and aerial imaging. However, knowledge of how to effectively use these technologies remains limited, making it difficult for many to integrate them into their daily operations.

The AgroPro project was created to address this issue. AgroPro is a two-year European Erasmus+ project that aims to bridge the gap between technological advancements in agriculture and the education of professionals in the field. Through AgroPro, agricultural professionals will learn to use drones and other cutting-edge technologies to improve their skills and meet the demands of the modern agricultural market.

Drone Technology in Agriculture

The project focuses on educating agricultural professionals about key aspects of drone technology. Participants will become familiar with the use of software, international UAV legislation, and regulations. They will also learn how to plan missions using both open-source and commercial tools, analyze aerial imagery, and develop efficient workflows for

aerial surveying. By doing so, they will be able to apply drone technology for tasks such as spraying and seeding, increasing productivity and improving crop management.

What's New: Project Updates

AgroPro has already made significant progress. One of the latest developments is the creation of a Career e-Guide, which will help agricultural professionals stay informed about new professions emerging due to the use of drones in agriculture. This guide is designed for educational institutions, lifelong learning centres, career offices, trainers, and anyone looking to upgrade their skills and discover new employment opportunities. The e-Guide will document newly identified occupational profiles, present key competencies, and outline the necessary learning outcomes required to work in drone-related roles. The e-Guide will soon be available online in both Greek and Portuguese.

Competence Framework Development

Additionally, AgroPro is developing a Competence Framework based on established European frameworks such as e-CF and DigComp2. This framework will offer tailored guidance for vocational education and training (VET) teachers, trainers, and students, helping them integrate drone-related skills into agricultural education. By aligning these skills with the needs of the agricultural sector, the framework will enhance job opportunities for graduates and professionals, allowing them to meet the growing demand for expertise in precision agriculture.

MOOC on Drones for Sustainable Agriculture

Another innovation from AgroPro is the development of a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) that will provide agricultural professionals with training on the use of drones for sustainable agriculture. The training materials were developed through a structured approach that began with surveys to identify the skills and needs of agricultural professionals

using precision agriculture technologies, especially drones. These insights led to the creation of occupational profiles outlining the knowledge and responsibilities of future drone professionals. Finally, validation workshops were held with experienced professionals to ensure that the training materials aligned with real-world needs.

What's Next

In the next phase of the project, AgroPro will launch a pilot program involving 75 participants from Greece, Cyprus, and Portugal. These participants will test the newly developed training materials on drone technology in precision agriculture. They will explore the curriculum and gain hands-on experience, while feedback will be gathered to further refine the program, ensuring it meets the evolving needs of professionals in the agricultural sector.

The AgroPro project continues to make strides in preparing agricultural professionals to embrace drone technology, enhancing their skills and equipping them to face the challenges of the future.

The project officially started on January 1st, 2023 and it will last until December 2024.

For additional details about the project and its latest developments, please check the official project webpage at https://agropro-drone.eu/ and follow its social media channels: LinkedIn @AgroPro, Twitter @agropro_project, Facebook @AgroPro, Instagram @agropro_project.

Stay tuned for more updates and upcoming releases!