Short Course Recap

At the end of February, GLASE completed a 6-week virtual course about climate control in greenhouses and indoor farms. The course was GLASE's second virtual webinar series, following the Virtual Plant Lighting Short Course in October 2021.

The Virtual Climate Control Short Course spanned six weeks, in which participants viewed and participated in one two-hour module a week. Each module looked in depth at one aspect of climate control: lighting, temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide, irrigation, and autonomous integration. Nineteen speakers ranging from academics to growers to manufacturers gave presentations and participated in live Q&A sessions with participants.





The course drew 239 participants. A mix of indoor farm growers, greenhouse growers, manufacturers, academics, and educators made for a diverse audience of CEA professionals (Figure 1). Each module had 64-135 live participants. The rest of the registrants watched recordings of the modules on-demand, the numbers of which are still growing (Table 1).

Module	Live Attendees	On-Demand Views
Plant Lighting	135	303
Temperature	100	204
Humidity	76	166
Carbon Dioxide	94	124
Irrigation	64	104
Autonomous	64	72

Table 1. Each 2-hour module occurred live and was then posted online for on-demand viewing.

A survey conducted after the course's completion showed positive participant responses to the course content. Over 80% of responders found the content of the course well suited to their level of CEA understanding (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Most participants found the content of the course well-suited to their level of understanding.

Over 80% of growers who took the survey plan to implement new practices in their operation as a result of the course (Figure 3), including light respacing, installing PID controllers for dehumidification, reevaluating sensor location and calibration, integrating new sensors and monitors, adding new controls, and acting on energy saving tips.

Do you plan to implement any new practices in your operation as a result of this course? 31 responses



Figure 3. Over 80% of growers (blue and red) plan to implement new practices in their greenhouses as a result of the course.

Participants enjoyed the variety of speakers, informative visuals, case studies integrating theory and practice, free-form Q&A sessions, amount of information presented, and integration of related content of the course.

GLASE plans to continue hosting virtual courses, expanding to new topics relevant to the evolving CEA industry and bringing fresh insight and research to growers and manufacturers. Keep a look out for further educational offerings and trainings from the GLASE consortium.