**The main tasks of the LAAFS are:**

* To recommend and to coordinate development directions in fields of agriculture, forestry, rural development, etc., to identify problems of these fields and to provide solutions for solving the problems;
* To take part in elaboration of normative acts and policy planning documents in the afore-mentioned fields;
* To cooperate with Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvian Council of Science, ministries, Latvian University of Agriculture, scientific institutions, enterprises, and other non-governmental institutions in the field, inter alia in international level;
* To develop research in the afore-mentioned fields, to organise conferences, seminars and exchange of scientific information.

**LAAFS Cooperation partners in Latvia**

* Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia - [www.zm.gov.lv](http://www.zm.gov.lv)
* Latvian Academy of Sciences - [www.lza.lv](http://www.lza.lv)

**Unit of Agricultural Sciences**

***General research directions:***

* *investigation of the genetic potential of the plants and animals used on agriculture;*
* *development of agriculture technologies for agro-environment conservancy;*
* *improvement of plant and animal production and the development of innovative products in different production systems and stages;*
* *evaluation of the environment resources quality used in agriculture and elaboration and monitoring of the criteria characterizing their sustainable usage.*

**Unit of Agrarian Economics Sciences**

***General research directions:***

* *scientific warrant of rural development;*
* *research of rural policy issues;*
* *pending matters on rural development;*
* *regional development solutions;*
* *inquiries on risk factors;*
* *land utilization;*
* *promotion of master and doctoral level activities;*
* *international activities.*

**Unit of Food and Veterinary Medical Sciences**

 ***General research directions:***

* *elaboration of scientifically justified, innovative, environmentally friendly food raw materials and technologies for new products development;*
* *development and investigation of the possible use of new functional food products;*
* *optimization of the selection of plants and animal species, by using the latest technological methods;*
* *development of new measures for the treatment and prophylaxis of non- communicable and communicable diseases, investigation and approbation of the effective medicaments, based on biotechnology principles;*
* *development of the scientific background for floral medicine and vaccines;*
* *development of scientifically justified utilization methods for the remnants from animal production extraction and processing.*

**Unit of Engineering Sciences**

***General research directions:***

* *technologies of renewable energy;*
* *corns desiccation and possession;*
* *fundamental and applied research for the improvement of agriculture technical means and technological processes;*
* *research on drainage hydrologic action;*
* *modeling processes of hydrotechnic building and bearing processes.*

**Unit of Forestry Sciences**

***General research directions:***

* *silviculture and environment;*
* *genetic, selection and trees physiology;*
* *inventory, growing process and management forest;*
* *forest products;*
* *forest health.*

**Projects’ implemented:**

* *From 2014 – ERA-Net project “****Tackling the Challenges in the Implementation of Sustainable and – Multifunctional Forestry through enhanced Research Coordination for Policy Decisions****” (SUMFOREST) founded under the EU 7th Framework Programme;*
* *From 2014 – Thematic partnership “****Innovation. Creativity. Equality****” of the Swedish Institute – a thematic partnership between Sweden, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus and Poland about innovation-development in SMEs linked to female-dominates sectors.*
* ***“Capacity Building of the Latvian Academy of Sciences and the Latvian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences and Development of International Project Applications”*** *(2011 – 2013), financed by the European Structural Funds*
* *Evaluation Research „****Active Labour Market Policy Measure „Training for Gaining and Maintaining Labour Skills, in Case the Employer is Municipality”, Results Assessment****” (2010 – 2011), as a part of the European Social Fund Project.*
* ***“Foresight Specialists Network Application for Rural Development Policy Support and Improvement of Data Basis for Agricultural Scientific Research Projects and Devices”*** *(2006 – 2009),**financed by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia*
* ***ERA-Net project SUMFOREST*** *- Sumforest establishes a network bringing together 23 key actors from 15 European member states, 3 associated states and 2 international institutions. The aim of this powerful network is to play a crucial role in harmonising existing and future research programmes and supporting policy decisions relevant to the topic of sustainable forest management and multifunctional forestry.*