



## OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF ALBANIA DELEGATION IN BUCHAREST ON 25-28 OCTOBER 2022

The UEAA is involved directly and indirectly in an exchange between different academies. For example, the Academy of Sciences of Albania (ASA) participated in an official visit to Bucharest, invited by the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences of Romania (AAFS). The delegation was led by the president of the ASA, academician Skënder GJINUSHI. Academician Nazim GRUDA, an honorary member of AAFS and representative of ASA in UEAA, represented the Academy for Agricultural Sciences. Prof. Vjollca IBRO represented the Agricultural University and the University of Tirana, and Dr. Linda LUARASI represented the University of Tirana.



*The official meeting between the two delegations in the AAFS Presidium Hall (on the left) and Presidents Skënder GJINUSHI, Valeriu TABĂRĂ, Vice-president Ioan JELEV (on the right)*

During the official visit from the Romanian side, the following officials were present: AAFS President Valeriu TABĂRĂ, AAFS Vice-presidents Ioan JELEV, Aurel BADIU, Dumitru MILITARU, AAFS General Secretary Marian BOGOESCU, Scientific Secretary of the Department of Food Industry Nicole PETCULESCU, and representative of the International Relations Department Adela NISTOR. During the official visit, there were discussions on further developing the already institutionalised bilateral inter-academic cooperation. Concrete opportunities for collaboration were also explored, including the exchange of genetic material in horticulture, biotechnology, plant protection, and other related fields.

A scientific symposium followed this visit. Academician Gruda, Prof. Ibro, and Dr. Luarasi represented the Albanian side. From the Romanian side: Dr. Steliana RODINO, ICEADR Bucharest, Dr. Dorin SUMEDREA, INCDBH Stefanesti and Dr. Ion MARIAN, ICDVV Valea Calugareasca also contributed to the symposium. More than 70 other researchers from the AAFS network participated online.



*Photo with the two delegations (left) and tasting of wines produced at the Valea Călugărească Research and Development Institute for Viticulture and Oenology, Bujoru and Dragasani stations (right)*

During the visit of the ASA delegation to Bucharest, three crucial meetings were held on October 27, 2022, with managers and representatives of two scientific research institutes under AAFS and with the Romanian Academy:

1. The meeting with the president of the Romanian Academy, Ion Aurel POP and the signing Ceremony of the bilateral Cooperation Agreement between the Academy of Science of Albania and the Romanian Academy.
2. A visit to the National Research & Development Institute for Biotechnologies in Horticulture in Ștefănești - Argeș.
3. A visit to the Research Institute for Fruit Growing (RIFG) in Pitesti-Maracineni.



*The Albanian delegation visiting RIFG in Pitesti, with Presidents Skënder GJINUSHI (left side), academician Nazim GRUDA ASA and RIFG General Director Mihail COMAN (right side)*

The official visit of the Albanian Academy of Sciences group was an excellent opportunity to learn about the state and directions of research in the field of agriculture in Romania. The presentations of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences leaders and the directors of the two research institutes visited emphasised their willingness to cooperate and find common points of interest. Furthermore, they expressed their readiness to receive researchers from the Albanian side and to prepare joint proposals for research projects in the framework of the EU.