

**Union of European Academies for Science Applied to Agriculture, Food and Nature**  
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# 12th General Assembly, October 10th, 2024, Bucharest, Romania



**PROPOSED UEAA PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2024-2026**

**IOAN JELEV**  
**AAFS - Romania**

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**ASA - Albania**

# UEAA PRIORITIES FOR 2024-2026



## VISION & MISSION

### VISION

- To advance applied science in agriculture, food, and nature across Europe through collaborative research, innovation, and dissemination of knowledge, ensuring sustainable and resilient systems.

### MISSION

- To foster scientific excellence, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and drive innovation to address the pressing challenges in agriculture, food security, and natural resource management.



**The future activities of the UEAA will continue to harmonize with the objectives of the EU Programmatic Documents and the provisions of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN.**

**The continuity of the 2022-2024 UEAA program will be pursued.**



**In this way, the following  
*Priority Areas* will be considered:**





# Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

## **Objective:**

Promote sustainable agricultural practices to enhance productivity, resilience, and environmental health.

## **Key Action:**

- **Research and Development:** Support projects focused on sustainable farming techniques, precision agriculture, and developing eco-friendly pesticides and fertilizers.
- **Best Practices Sharing:** Organize workshops and conferences to disseminate best practices in sustainable agriculture.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Work with policymakers to promote regulations that support sustainable farming practices, aligning with the European Green Deal – Farm to Fork Strategy, and FOOD 2030 – the EU's research and innovation policy to transform food systems and ensure everyone has enough affordable, nutritious food to lead a healthy life.

# Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

## **Objective:**

Enhance the capacity of agricultural systems to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

## **Key Action:**

- **Climate-Resilient Crops:** Fund research on breeding and genetically modifying crops to withstand extreme weather conditions.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Promote practices that enhance carbon sequestration in agricultural lands.
- **Education and Outreach:** Develop training programs for farmers on climate-smart agriculture techniques.

# Food Security and Nutrition

## **Objective:**

Ensure access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food for all populations.

## **Key Action:**

- **Food Innovation:** Encourage the development of novel food products and alternative protein sources.
- **Waste Reduction:** Implement initiatives to reduce food waste along the supply chain.
- **Nutritional Research:** Support studies on the nutritional value of food and the impact of diets on health.





# Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

## ***Objective:***

Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes.

## ***Key Action:***

- **Habitat Conservation:** Promote conservation practices that protect natural habitats within agricultural areas.
- **Pollinator Protection:** Fund research and initiatives aimed at protecting pollinators.
- **Biodiversity Monitoring:** Develop and implement programs for monitoring biodiversity in agricultural settings.

# Technological Innovation and Digital Transformation

## **Objective:**

Harness technological advancements to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability.

## **Key Action:**

- **Precision Agriculture:** Support adopting precision agriculture technologies such as drones, sensors, and AI.
- **Data Analytics:** Promote using big data and analytics to optimize farming practices.
- **Digital Platforms:** Develop digital platforms for knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders.
- **New Genomic Techniques:** Invest in research and application of new genomic techniques in agriculture.





## Education, Training, and Capacity Building

### **Objective:**

Enhance the skills and knowledge of individuals involved in agriculture, food, and nature sectors.

### **Key Action:**

- **Academic Programs:** Develop and support academic programs focused on applied agricultural sciences.
- **Vocational Training:** Offer vocational training and certification programs for farmers and agricultural workers.
- **Public Engagement:** Organize public lectures and awareness campaigns to educate the wider community on agricultural and environmental issues.
- **Youth Engagement:** Create initiatives to attract and train young scientists in UEAA activities, such as mentorship programs, internships, and scholarships.

## RESOURCES



- Increase of bioenergetic potential of agricultural land, land protection,
- Effective water and other renewable resources management
- Forestry and environment protection

## PRODUCTION



- Sustainable development of agricultural production and production of healthy food
- Sustainable agrifood systems
- **Innovation in agrifood industry**

## REGION & COUNTRYSIDE



- **Rural and countryside development**
- **Local production and short supply chains**
- **Economic, social and territorial cohesion**



# UEAA

## *Priorities and Actions*

# Priority 1

## Increasing Interest and Membership

### **Objective:**

Expand UEAA's influence and strengthen its network by increasing membership and engagement.

### **Key Action:**

- **Membership Campaigns:** Launch campaigns to attract new member academies and increase interest in UEAA.
- **Networking Events:** Host events and forums to facilitate networking and collaboration among European academies.
- **Benefits Communication:** Communicate the benefits of membership, including access to research funding, collaborative opportunities, and policy influence.

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# Priority 2

## Updating the UEAA Charter

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### **Objective:**

Modernize the UEAA Charter to reflect current challenges and opportunities.

### **Key Action:**

- **Review Committee:** Establish a committee to review and propose updates to the UEAA Charter.
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** Engage with member academies to gather input and ensure the Charter meets their needs.
- **Approval Process:** Develop a streamlined process for approving and implementing changes to the Charter.

# Priority 3

## Dialogue with the European Commission

### **Objective:**

Enhance UEAA's involvement with the European Commission to influence policy and research directions.



### **Key Action:**

- **CAP Engagement:** Actively participate in discussions on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and advocate for including applied science perspectives, including participation in the EWG on CAP (Spain).
- **Research Techniques:** Promote new research techniques and technologies through dialogue with the European Commission.
- **Strategic Documents:** Contribute to the development and review of EU strategic documents related to agriculture, food, and nature, including the Reflexion on Forest Strategy (Sweden).



# Priority 4

## Supporting European Academies

### **Objective:**

Support the activities of European academies and advocate for their role in scientific research.



### **Key Action:**

- **Policy Support:** Advocate for policies that recognize and enhance the role of academies in scientific research.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Identify and promote funding opportunities for member academies.
- **Research Collaboration:** Facilitate collaborative research projects and knowledge exchange among academies.
- **European Innovative Partnerships:** Promote the transfer of know-how, visions, and experiences through workshops at national or European levels, mainly through the European Innovative Partnerships in UEAA countries.

# Priority 5

## Promotion and Popularization of UEAA

### *Objective:*

Increase the visibility and influence of UEAA at national and international levels.

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### *Key Action:*

- **Website Updates:** Regularly update the UEAA website to reflect current projects, research, and news.
- **Public Relations:** Develop and implement a comprehensive PR strategy to promote UEAA's activities and achievements.
- **Membership Expansion:** Actively seek to expand UEAA membership across Europe.
- **Support Young Scientists:** Develop programs and initiatives to support young scientists in their research and career development.

## Priorities 6, 7 and 8

**6. Revitalizing the existing electronic Working Groups, as well as analyzing the opportunity to create new groups for climate change and their challenges for agriculture or the sustainable management of natural resources.**

**7. Popularization of the scientific activities organized by the member academies through periodic information.**

**8. Revival of the monthly newsletter, with the presentation of UEAA points of view on controversial scientific issues.**



## UEAA Motion about Gene Editing

- *Genome Editing, and particularly CRISPR technology, has revolutionized plant breeding approaches and has immense benefits as a response to the European Agricultural Challenges and in full agreement with the objectives of the Green Deal for Europe. The European Union must look with confidence to an agricultural future based on biotechnological innovation.*
- *UEAA recommends the adoption of relevant regulatory rules on Gene Editing that reinforce an EU agriculture more productive, environmentally friendly and economically competitive in a globalized world.*

# The Resolution of the 12th UEAA General Assembly - draft -



## GA approves:

- The election of Prof. Ioan JELEV, vice-president of the "*Gheorghe Ionescu-Sișești*" Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, as president of UEAA for the period 2024-2026.
- The election of Prof. Nazim GRUDA, Member of the Academy of Sciences of Albania, as Vice-President of the UEAA for the period 2024-2026.
- The election of the UEAA SC members.
- The election of the UEAA SC observers.
- The UEAA Priorities and Activities for the period 2024-2026.



# **THE 12TH UEAA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED THE BUCHAREST UEAA MOTION ABOUT GENE EDITING**





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**