

**WELCOME ADDRESS OF ACAD. CRISTIAN HERA,
HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY SCIENCES "GHEORGHE IONESCU-SISESTI", ROMANIA
AND FORMER UEAA PRESIDENT
AT THE XIIth UEAA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



Dear *Professor Elena Horska*, President of the Union of European Academies for Sciences Applied in Agriculture, Food and Nature (UEAA),

Dear *Professor Emeritus Valeriu Tabara*, President of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences "*Gheorghe Ionescu Sisesti*" (AAFS), Romania,

Distinguished participants,

Please allow me as Dean of age (>90 years), host of the Conference, as Honorary President of AAFS since 2019 and as former member of the UEAA Management Committee elected at the General Assembly in Paris in 2002 (President Jean Marc Bousard), Vice-President elected in 2005, in Saint Petersburg, (President Ghennadi Romanenko) and President of UEAA, elected in 2006 in Bucharest, to open the work of the 12th General Assembly of UEAA, which this year has FESTIVE character celebrating 25 years since its foundation, *let me address at the beginning in English, the official language of this prestigious UNION and to continue in the beautiful mother tongue, the Romanian language, the secular language of Romania.*

As a participant, since 2002, in the activities of the European Union of Academies of Agricultural Sciences (UEAA), a Union founded in 1999 in Bologna on the initiative of the distinguished professor Scaramuzzi, President of the Italian Georgofili Academy, officialised at the first General Assembly of UEAA in Florence, Italy, in which 14 European Academies of Agricultural Sciences participated, including the "*Gheorghe Ionescu Sisesti*" Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, after a period of 25 years of existence, I can affirm, without reservation, the UNION has made important contributions to achieve technological progress in European agriculture.

At the XIIth General Assemblies and associated scientific meetings, numerous achievements obtained by the prestigious members of UEAA were presented. I know that I can't help, but I noticed regretfully that from 26 academies currently registered, component of UEAA, only 20 are active.

Personally I participated as a representative of Romania at 8 of the 12 meetings, at the other 4 our country was represented by distinguished professors Valeriu Tabara, President of AAFS, Professor Gheorghe Sin, former President of AAFS and Professor Ioan Jelev, Vice President of AAFS.

In this context, I would like to underline the efficient and recognized participation of AAFS representatives, with a special mention for Prof. Ioan Jelev, empowered by ASAS President Prof. Valeriu Tabara to coordinate the activity in the AAFS-UEAA relationship during 2018 -2024, coordination that I am convinced will continue in the next 2 years, by his election, according to the statute, as UEAA President.

In the 8 years in which I had the honor to coordinate, as AAFS president, the AAFS-UEAA relationship, Dr. Cristian Kleps, then head of the AAFS International Relations Service, made a remarkable contribution to the efficiency of AAFS's contribution to the improvement of UEAA's activity, contribution appreciated not only by the one speaking to you but also by Prof. Jean Marc Boussard, president of UEAA in the period 2002-2004.

With the professional satisfaction of the duty fulfilled, I confess that since 2002 when I was elected to the UEAA Management Committee, until 2008 when I finished my mandate as President of UEAA, I had an excellent and efficient collaboration with Prof. Jean Marc Boussard, Prof. Ghennadi Romanenko and Prof. Baiba Rivza. At the 4 General Assemblies and the symposia associated with them, papers were presented with the results obtained in Romania and 2 volumes were published containing the summaries of the works presented in Bucharest "Soil Fertility and the Future of Agriculture in Europe", authors Cristian Hera and Cristian Kleps and the volume "Renewable Energy Resources, Production and Technologies", Riga, authors Cristian Hera, V. Hoffmann, Baiba Rivza.

The collaboration continued with the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, with its president Prof. Michail Zubets and the organization in Yalta of the Symposium "Environment protection in Agro-Ecosystems" where I presented the report "Main issues of environment protection in Romanian agri-ecosystems in the context of global climatic changes", authors Cristian Hera and Cristian Kleps.

The AAFS-UEAA collaboration is continued successfully and efficiently by Prof. Valeriu Tabara and Prof. Ioan Jelev.

In the following I will briefly mention the thoughts regarding the global European capacity and the financial support in sharp decline, while the agricultural research systems require finding new ways and efficient and

sustainable means to face the new challenges: food security and safety, the deterioration of soil fertility, water quality, the environment, economic and energy crises, global climate changes, social crises determined by the mentioned upheavals, which represent and will represent in the future the main concerns for ensuring the peace and sustainability of mankind.

Allow me to remind you that the population of Earth has increased in the last decades from 3.1 billion inhabitants to 8.1 billion. According to data recently presented by Nobel Peace Prize and Food Prize Laureate (2020), Rattan Lal, prestigious Professor of Soil Science and Director of the Center for Carbon Sequestration and Management at Ohio State University, global grain production has increased by from 880 million tons to 2.9 billion tons, representing an increase per capita from 284 kg at 376 kg.

The mentioned cereal production increased with the increase in the amounts of fertilizers used in agriculture: 9.2 times for N, 5 times for P, 4.8 for K and 5.2 times for pesticides; the surface of irrigated lands increased from 144 million hectares to 350 million hectares.

The increase in production is often called the "Green Revolution" or the "Borlaug Effect", due to the contribution made by the first Nobel Peace Prize agronomist, Norman Borlaug, director of the International Wheat and Maize Research Center at El Batan in Mexico, creator of the varieties of Sonora wheat, Lermaroho, Penhamo and others, cultivated on large areas in India and other countries.

I had the great chance to collaborate with the two great agronomists of the contemporary world. With Norman Borlaug, during the period when I was the director of the Research Institute for Cereals and Technical Plants from Fundulea and with Rattan Lal in the common concerns in the field of soil science, plant nutrition and fertilizer valorisation.

I am convinced that the partially mentioned challenges are and will remain challenges for the component academies of UEAA.

Please, allow me to wish you health from the bottom of my heart, full success in your work and life, fulfilment, prosperity and all the best.

VIVAT CRESCAT FLOREAT The Union of European Academies for Science Applied to Agriculture, Food and Nature (UEAA)

Acad. Cristian Hera