

**Welcome speech on the occasion of the 12th UEAA General Assembly,
Bucharest, October 10, 2024**



I would like to start by thanking Prof. Valeriu Tabără, President of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences for the invitation to participate in this international event of great academic prestige and to convey the greetings of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Florin Barbu, to all participants in this conference.

We particularly appreciate the presence of the President of the European Union of Agricultural Academies, Prof. Univ. Elena Horska, to whom we wish a warm welcome and we also welcome the presence of academician Cristian Hera.

In the context of global challenges and especially that of climate change, Research and Innovation play a crucial role in ensuring food safety with quality products, accessible to all categories of consumers.

I am glad to see here the remarkable achievements of Romanian Agricultural Research and we wish that these results can be transferred into practice for the benefit of farmers. Research must contribute to a competitive agriculture and together identify the best solutions for solving highly topical and interest issues in order to develop a sustainable agriculture, promote a sustainable and circular bioeconomy, alternative agricultural systems such as ecological agriculture, precision agriculture, issues related to the protection and conservation of the environment and ensuring the sustainability of agricultural exploitation and the Romanian rural environment. Today, agricultural research provides multiple knowledge to respond to current challenges, so research together with farmers can develop innovative solutions to improve productivity, profit and sustainability.

Agricultural Research and Innovation was and is a priority of the Ministry of Agriculture. The financing of the Sectoral Plan for research and development in the field of agriculture and rural development (ADER) represents a key tool for ensuring an ecological, digital transition, providing predictability for the conservation of biodiversity in Romania. The theme of the research projects within the MADR- funded research program is in synergy with the European research vision and mission, by which new technologies, sustainable solutions and innovation will be promoted.

It is very important to strengthen the Research and Innovation Partnerships both at national and international level, so as to ensure solutions at the EU level but specific to each member state to current and future challenges related to food security, climate change and rural development.

Finally, allow me to wish you success in the good development of this event.

Elena TATOMIR,

General Director of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development