



UEAA NEWSLETTER

2025, No. 1

Bucharest, 10th January, 2025

LATEST NEWS

100 years of agricultural research in Slovak and Czech Republic

Few words about the history and institutional background

In the second half of 2024, the Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences (SAAS) and the Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) commemorated the establishment of the Czechoslovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences and agricultural research in the Czech Republic and Slovakia through various events. The celebrations took place in Slovakia as well as in the Czech Republic. Today, both academies are modern learned societies actively involved in creating development concepts and strategies for agricultural development. Cooperation with universities and scientific research institutions in the Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, and abroad ensures scientific, research, and development activities.

According to the President of SAAS, *Dr.h.c. Prof. Mpx. H.c. Prof. Ing. Vladimír Gozora, PhD*, the main challenge for the academy's experts is currently the more efficient use, protection, and regeneration of Slovakia's natural resources – soil, water, forest ecosystems, and productive biological material – while ensuring nutritionally complete and safe food. *"Agricultural research faces demanding tasks in activating rural areas and developing the rural economy, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas, and creating better conditions for life and work in the countryside. We must pay special attention to young scientific workers, deepening cooperation with universities and research institutions to achieve a higher synergistic effect in scientific research and application activities,"* he said during the General Assembly of the Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences in September 2024.

Despite celebrating 100 years of agricultural research in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the Czechoslovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences was dissolved with the independence of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. Institutional cooperation between the two national academies was agreed upon between 1992 and 1993 and has been updated and developed.

In Slovakia, research activities are overseen by the National Agricultural and Food Centre, various research institutes and the National Forestry Centre. Within the SAAS, there are scientific departments, sections, namely, "Section of Soil Science and Nature Protection Animal Production, Plant Production, Food and Nutrition, Forestry, Economics and Management, Agricultural Engineering, Water Management, Veterinary Medicine, and Rural Development and Revitalization, etc."



Photos 1 and 2: From the General Assembly SAAS – celebrating 100 years of agricultural research in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

SAAS cooperates closely with Slovakia's Slovak Academy of Sciences and agricultural and veterinary universities (Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra and University of Veterinary Medicine in Košice). Food specialists come from the Slovak Technical University, and forestry experts come from the Technical University in Zvolen.

Sustainability and early career researchers: main priorities of the Slovak presidency at UEAA

From 2022 to 2024, the Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences held the presidency position at the UEAA. Its priority for this period was implementing sustainability topics in agriculture in their complexity and supporting the greater involvement of young scientific workers in agricultural research and science activities. This effort culminated in a section for young scientific workers at the Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences. PhD. Ing. Peter Šedík became the chairperson of the section, thanks to his outstanding research, publications, and active involvement in project activities.



Photos 3 and 4: From the international scientific conference of early career researchers.

The international scientific conference for early career researchers and doctoral students 2024 was devoted to the economic, managerial, and environmental issues related to agriculture. Over 35 participants from four countries attended the conference in person and online. The conference was organized on November 6, 2024, at the Faculty of Economics and Management, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia. It was opened by the chairman of the Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences, prof. Vladimir Gozora's speech went back to history to discuss the academy's roots and the future to discuss social needs and challenges in the agri-food sector.

Agricultural science and its future in Slovakia

Agriculture is a sector of significant societal importance for the future of human society. In this context, agricultural research fulfills strategic goals, which include:

- Implementing the new EU policies at national and regional levels (Green Deal, From farm to fork, Strategy of biodiversity, Strategy of biofarming etc.) using evidence-based policy decisions.
- Implement and evaluate a research program (Horizon Europe) in forestry adaptation to climate change.
- Define the complex strategy of research in agriculture and rural development.
- Contribute to sustainable agriculture at the planning, research, and implementation level.
- To increase the involvement of young scientists and generate interest in the young generation in agriculture, nature, natural resources, and sustainability.

The Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences also supports international cooperation in transferring know-how, exchanging experts, and conducting joint research activities. Furthermore, collaboration with universities and university experts is of great importance, as all the institutions mentioned in this newsletter must work together to create a compelling and sustainable system in the agri-food chain.

Reported by Dr. H. c. Prof. Dr. Ing. Elena Horská, Past president of UEAA (2022 – 2024)