



UEAA NEWSLETTER

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LATEST NEWS

XIIth GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF EUROPEAN ACADEMIES FOR SCIENCE APPLIED TO AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURE, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA, OCTOBER 10-11, 2024

The XIIth General Assembly of the Union of European Academies for Science Applied to Agriculture, Food, and Nature (UEAA) took place on October 10, 2024, in Bucharest, Romania, bringing together prominent agricultural science community figures.



The assembly commenced with an opening ceremony featuring speeches from Prof. Valeriu TABĂRĂ, President of the "*Gheorghe Ionescu-Șișești*" Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, and Prof. Elena HORSKÁ, president of the UEAA.

Acad. Cristian HERA, Honorary President of the AAFS and past president of UEAA, also addressed the audience, followed by the message of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Florin-Ionuț BARBU, presented by the Director General within the Ministry, Elena TATOMIR.

The UEAA Steering Committee convened after the opening to discuss crucial agenda items. The General Assembly proceeded with significant duties, including the election of the new President, Vice-President, and Steering Committee members.

The president of UEAA was elected Prof. Dr. Ioan JELEV, Romania and vice-president Acad. Prof. Dr. Nazim GRUDA, Albania, both outstanding scholars specializing in environmental and horticultural sciences. According to the UEAA statutes, the Union's presidency **has been**

transferred to Romania and the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences for two years, 2024 - 2026.

The Steering Committee was elected with representatives from Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Ukraine was elected as an observer. Professor Ioan JELEV, as a new UEAA President, presented the priorities for the next period. He declared that he would continue with the activities that had already started. He highlighted a new priority topic: current policies and strategic dialogue with the EU organizations. Acad. GRUDA focused on strengthening the young generation, young scientists, and their promotion in Europe.

Ioan JELEV is a full member and vice-president of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (ASAS) and an Honorary member of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. He served as a professor at the University of Oradea and a principal scientific researcher at the National Institute for Research and Development in Environmental Protection and the National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management. Prof. JELEV has been involved in various research and academic roles: Vice-president of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (AAFS), from 2018, AAFS general secretary (2012-2013), president of the Romanian National Committee for UNESCO, from 2002, member of the ecohydrology group of UNESCO, from 2007, member of the National Scientific Council of the National Agency for Protected Natural Areas, from 2021. His contributions to academia were recognized in 2015 and 2022 when the University of Oradea and the University of Life Sciences from Timișoara awarded him the title of Doctor Honoris Causa. In addition to his academic career, Ioan Jelev has held several significant governmental positions. He was Secretary of State for Environmental Protection for Water Management and Control of Nuclear Activities in Romania for 11 years, in the period between 1989 - 2005; President of the UN Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (2002-2004) and UEAA Vice-president (2022-2024), Vice-president or president of important national and international environmental institutions during 1990-2005.

Nazim S. Gruda, Prof. Dr., represents the Academy of Science of Albania. He is a scientist in horticulture at the University of Bonn, Germany, and Investigador Distinguido – Maria Zambrano at the Polytechnic University of Cartagena, Spain. He serves as the Vice-Chair of the Division of Vegetables, Roots, and Tubers within the International Society for Horticultural Science. Gruda is the editor-in-chief of a journal published by Taylor & Francis, an associate editor for Elsevier and CABI, and a member of the editorial boards of leading horticultural journals. He belongs to the 2% of most influenced scientists from Stanford University and is one of the most cited European scientists in horticulture. He has received several prestigious awards, including the “Dr Heinrich-Baur-Prize” from the Technical University of Munich and the “National Scientific Prize” from the Academy of Science of Albania. He is a member of the Academy of Science of Albania, an honorary member of the Romanian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences “Gheorghe Ionescu-Șișești,” and a corresponding foreign member of the Accademia dei Georgofili, the world’s oldest agricultural academy. Additionally, he consults for organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and serves as an expert evaluator for several entities, including the European Commission.

A key highlight of the event was the Scientific Symposium, themed “*New Research Techniques and Agricultural Progress*,” which showcased innovative developments and facilitated discussions on the future of agricultural practices in Europe.

The day concluded with a festive dinner that encouraged networking and collaboration among attendees.

On the second day, participants went on a field trip to the Research-Development Institute for Fruit Growing Pitesti-Maracineni, gaining practical insights into innovative agricultural practices in the region.



Photo: Research-Development Institute for Fruit Growing Pitesti - Maracineni

The assembly was a vital platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration, reinforcing the UEAA's commitment to advancing agricultural, food, and nature science across Europe. For those unable to attend in person, the event was also accessible online, expanding participation from the global agricultural research community.

Prepared by Prof. Nazim Gruda, Member of the Albanian Academy of Sciences

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