



“Innovating today for Albania’s
European Tomorrow”

PROGRAM

3 – 5 November 2025

Agricultural University of Tirana, Kodër-Kamëz, Tirana



The 5th International Conference on Agriculture
and Life Sciences of Albania 2030

PROGRAM

Agricultural University of Tirana, Kodër-Kamëz, Tirana
3-5 November 2025

Day 1 3 November 2025

09:30 - 10:00	FEA building – Conference Room “Behar Male” Registration of participants
10:00 - 11:00	Welcoming and official address Prof. Fatbardh Sallaku , Rector of Agricultural University of Tirana Prof. Gjokë Uldedaj , Rector of “Qiriazi” University College Prof. Skënder Gjinushi , Chairman of the Academy of Sciences H.E. Mr. Karl Bergner , Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany H.E. Mrs. Monika Zach , Ambassador of the Republic of Austria Mr. Andis Salla , Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development H.E. Edi Rama , Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania

Day 1 - Block 1 11:00 - 13:00 **Plenary Session: Transforming Life Sciences for EU Integration: Food Safety, One Health and Education Reform – (Moderator: Prof. Endrit Kullaj)**

11:00 – 11:20	Shaping the Future of Life Sciences in Albania: Research, Teaching, and the Challenges Facing Higher Education – Prof. Hubert Hasenauer, BOKU, AUSTRIA
11:20 – 11:40	Albania 2030: Food Safety, Academic Engagement, and the EU Accession Challenge – Prof. Erinda Lika, AUT, ALBANIA
11:40 – 12:00	Building Albania’s Agricultural Future: Chapter 12 Through German Expertise and Partnership – Dr. Eberhard Haunhorst, Head of Department 3 of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity, GERMANY.
12:00 – 12:20	Reimagining Biomedical Engineering Education for Global Challenges of Our Time – Prof. Muhammad Zaman, Boston University, USA
12:20 - 12:40	A One Health approach to managing animal and public health challenges – Prof. Gerald Barry, University College Dublin, IRELAND
12:40 – 13:00	Open discussion: speakers will answer questions from participants and the moderator
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break

Day 1 - Block 2	Plenary Session 2 – Integrated Animal Science and Food Systems: Water, Health and Societal Futures (Moderator: Prof. Erinda Lika)
14:00 - 17:30	14:00 - 14:20 Building a Water Quality and Health Program: From the Watershed to the Sewer – <i>Prof. Joan B. Rose, Michigan State University, USA</i> 14:20 - 14:40 Towards Water Framework Directive-Compliant Water Quality - Monitoring in Albania – <i>Prof. Guenter Langergraber, BOKU, AUSTRIA</i> 14:40 - 15:00 Understanding societal readiness for gene-edited food crops: insights from Thailand – <i>Prof. Lindsay C. Stringer, University of York, UK</i> 15:00 - 15:20 Lab-Grown Meat: a sustainable solution for tomorrow's table? – <i>Prof. Giuseppe Maiorano, University of Molise, ITALY</i> 15:20 - 15:40 AMORE-AL research project in the context of the EU Water Legislation – <i>Prof. Thomas Ertl, BOKU, AUSTRIA</i>
15:40 - 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 - 16:20	Large Animal as Model of Translational Medicine – <i>Prof. Antonio Crovace, University of Bari 'Aldo Moro', ITALY</i>
16:20 - 16:40	Implementing feed-dairy food safety concepts in Albania: experiences from READ project - <i>Prof. Qëndrim Zebeli, University of Veterinary Medicine, AUSTRIA</i>
16:40 - 17:00	What Is Rural, What Is Urban—Again?: Albania's First Post-2014 DEGURBA Classification and the Rise of Very-Low-Density Areas – <i>Prof. Fatmir Guri, deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, ALBANIA</i>
17:00 – 17:30	<i>Open discussion:</i> speakers will answer questions from participants and the moderator
Day 2	4 November 2025
	Plenary Session: Transforming Agriculture Through Data: Remote Sensing, Smart Irrigation and Digital Solutions – (Moderator: Prof. Ilir Kapaj)
09:00 – 09:20	How the EU Integration Process Can Transform Land Governance and Agricultural Policy in Albania – <i>Prof. Daniel Müller, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, GERMANY</i>
09:20 – 09:40	When AI Meets IoT: A Novel Enhanced industrial scale IoT Wireless Sensor Network for Potato Stores – <i>Prof. Edmond Nurellari, University of Lincoln, UK</i>
09:40 – 10:00	Developing digital tools for smallholder farmers: addressing challenges, designing solutions – <i>Prof. Luuk Fleskens, Wageningen University, THE NETHERLANDS</i>
10:00 – 10:20	Using Physiological Parameters and Sensing Technologies to Monitor Water Status in Fruit Trees – <i>Prof. Endrit Kullaj, AUT, ALBANIA</i>
10:20 – 10:40	Remote Sensing for Agriculture (RS4Ag) Development - from research to decision support systems – <i>Dr. Francelino Rodrigues, FAO-Albania</i>
10:40 - 11:00	Coffee Break

Day 2 –Timing	5 Parallel Scientific Sessions
11:00 – 13:00	Session 1: Agricultural Sciences and Smart Production Technologies (Room B101 FEA Building) (Chair: Prof. Lindsey Stringer, Prof. Evan Rroço)
11:00 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nitrogen supply for improvement of cereals growth under drought – <i>PhD Cand. Moltine Prebibaj*</i>, R. Neugschwandner, F. Sallaku, E. Rroço, H.-P. Kaul. *Dep. of Agronomic Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT
11:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Collecting weed seeds during threshing in organic farming – <i>PhD Cand. Taulant Shabani*</i>, Rainer Waldhardt. <i>*Justus Liebig University Giessen, Institute of Landscape Ecology and Resource Management Research Center for Biosystems</i>
11:30 – 11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Revitalising native plant genetic resources for sustainable agritourism and rural development in Albania – <i>Prof. Valbona Hobdari*</i>, I. Lazega, S. Kotelli, Z. Gjeta, N. Lila, H. Kuçi <i>*Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, AUT</i>
11:45 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biotic stress management in <i>Calendula officinalis</i> L.: a review of conventional and biological control strategies – <i>PhD Cand. Emi Panariti*</i>, Sh. Shahini, D. Shëngjergji, E. Kaloshi, E. Shahini <i>*Dep. of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
12:00 – 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Selection of virus-free plant material from Albanian local vineyards (<i>Shesh i Zi</i> & <i>Shesh i Bardhë</i>) as a functional step in certification – <i>Prof. Adriatik Çakalli*</i>, E. Kongjika, F. Çarka, H. Kokiçi, A. Ramaj, E. Papakosta, M. Cara <i>*Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, AUT</i>
12:15 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Efficacy of herbicide combinations against vegetative weed infestation in a young apricot orchard. <i>PhD. Antoneta Gigova*</i> Vessela Petrova. <i>*Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnology and Plant Protection, N. Poushkarov, Sofia</i>
12:30 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Optimising extraction strategies to enhance the phytochemical profile and bioactivity of <i>Achillea millefolium</i> for pharmaceutical and industrial applications – <i>PhD Cand. Edlira Kaloshi*</i>, L. Kupe, K. Shpati, M. Alikaj <i>*Dep. of Agronomic Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
12:45 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – First-year bioassay results on the synergistic effects of citrus essential oil and pyriproxyfen in managing resistant whitefly populations under greenhouse conditions in Albania. – <i>PhD Cand. Marko Kolaci*</i>, Ajten Bërxolli <i>*Dep. of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
11:00 – 13:00	Session 2: Rural Development Policies and Agribusiness Management Strategies (Room 'Qiriazi' University College) (Chair: Prof. Dr. Remzi Keco, Dr. Ali Shingjergji)
11:00 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Beyond quantitative indicators: mapping and visualising risk in apple farms in the Korçë Region – <i>Prof. Arif Murrja*</i>, G. Çera <i>*Dep. of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Economy and Agribusiness, AUT</i>
11:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fiscal policy and business relations with the fiscal administration - some considerations on the influential factors and reduction of fiscal evasion – <i>Prof. Halit Xhafa*</i>, A. Binaj <i>*Faculty of Economy, Qiriazi University College</i>
11:30 – 11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bridging green leadership and well-being: unveiling multidimensional pathways to sustainable development – <i>PhD Cand. Afrim Osmani</i> <i>Dep. of Management, Luarasi University</i>
11:45 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Valuing environmental amenities in Lake Ohrid: linear vs. semi-Log hedonic pricing models – <i>*PhD Cand. Engjëllushe Icka</i>, E. Skreli, A. Boshnjaku <i>– Dept. of Economics and Rural Development Policies, Faculty of Economics and Agribusiness, AUT</i>
12:00 – 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Building resilience to desertification through agricultural innovation and community engagement – <i>Dr. Thomas P. Timberlake</i>, L.C. Stringer <i>*Dep. of Environment and Geography, University of York, UK</i>
12:15 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The impact of IFRS adoption to the quality of financial reporting in Albania – <i>Prof. Albana Gjoni*</i>, A. Mlouk <i>*Department of Finance and Accounting, Agricultural University of Tirana.</i>

12:30 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NUTRIR - Technological Centre for Agri-Food Sustainability, a strategic initiative for rural areas development – Dr. Marta Vilas Boas*, J.P. Marques, N. Vieira e Brito <i>*CISAS, Escola Superior Agrária, Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo, Portugal</i>
12:45 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The impact of socio-demographics on e-fiscalization compliance: who, how, and why? – PhD Cand. Denisa Cani*, E. Arabska, D. Kolaj, R. Kolaj <i>*Department of Finance, Qiriazi University College, Tirana, Albania</i>
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 3: Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources, Forests and Ecosystem Management (Room ‘Lucë Agraja’) <i>(Chair: Joan Rose, Prof. Seit Shallari)</i></p>
11:00 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>In situ</i> partitioning of selected antibiotics in the water-sediment system: effect of pH – PhD Cand. Aleksandër Peqini*, B.J. Heyde, F. Brahusi, R. Düring <i>*Dep. of Agronomic Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
11:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Are treatment wetlands a suitable wastewater treatment technology for Albania? – Prof. Guenter Langergraber <i>BOKU University, Institute of Sanitary Engineering and Water Pollution Control, Austria</i>
11:30 – 11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nitrogen surplus in the Ishëm river basin: quantifying agriculture’s contribution at analytical-unit scale – PhD Cand. Xhuljo Sema*, F. Huqi, V. Bakillari, E. Skura, F. Sallaku, S. Shallari, I. Kristo <i>*Dep. of Environment and Natural Resource Management, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
11:45 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assessment of total phosphorus emissions in the Ishem river basin through the MoRE model – PhD Cand. Fatos Huqi*, V. Bakillari, Xh. Sema, E. Skura, S. Shallari, I. Kristo, F. Sallaku <i>*Dep. of Environment and Natural Resource Management, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
12:00 – 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Vegetated earth berms as biofilters for traffic-related air pollutants – PhD Cand. Adam Nawrocki <i>Centre for Climate Research, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland</i>
12:15 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effect of uniform shelter-wood cutting method on forest regeneration in beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L.) virgin forests in Albania. – Prof. Vath Tabaku, E. Toromani, L. Peri <i>*Department of Forestry, Faculty of Forestry Science, AUT</i>
12:30 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Western Balkans Climate Data Viewer – PhD. Max Hofmann*, D. Müller <i>*Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies</i>
12:45 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Green and simple analysis of brominated and organophosphate flame retardants in fish samples using QuEChERS extraction and GC-MS – PhD Cand. D. Sykalia, E. Trantopoulos, C. Tsoutsi, I. Konstantinou, T. Albanis <i>* Department of Chemistry, University of Ioannina, Greece</i>
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 4: Animal Health (Room ‘B114’, FEA) <i>(Chair: Prof. Gerald Barry, Prof. Rezart Postoli)</i></p>
11:00 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Formation of passive specific immunity in young infants by administration of serum – Zura Yessimsiitova*, D. Khussainov, Z. Lessova, I.Y. Tissen, A. Kaya, A. Sansyzbay, M. Berdikulov, A. Yernazarova <i>*Scientific Production Technical Center “Zhalyn”, Almaty, Kazakhstan</i> <i>*Kazakh National University, Al-Farabi, Almaty, Kazakhstan</i>
11:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Seroprevalence of <i>Theileria equi</i> in equids in Albania – PhD Cand. K. Morava, I. Dova, Dh. Rapti, K. Çela, Xh. Koleci, Prof. Rezart Postoli* <i>Dep. of Clinical Subjects, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
11:30 – 11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Evaluation of mineral–vitamin supplementation and post-milking teat disinfection on subclinical mastitis under practical dairy farm conditions in Albania – Prof. Xhelil Koleci*, R. Meçaj, I. Ajdini, R. Maçi, E. Rrapaj, B. Haskaj, M. Tafaj <i>Dep. of Veterinary Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>

11:45 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal differences in on-farm welfare assessment of Albanian dairy goats using animal-based parameters – <i>Prof. Sokol Duro*</i>, C. Leeb, E. Lika, A. Kelo, N. Nöllenburg, J. Avdi, R. Koto, <i>*Dep. of Morphofunctional Modules, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
12:00 – 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serological evidence of caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Virus (CAEV) in goats from the Elbasan region, Albania – <i>PhD Cand. Brixhilda Qyra*</i>, D. Beqiraj, M. Sulçe, E. Ozuni, A. Munga, P. Zalla, Xh. Koleci, E. Andoni, G. Muça, V. Zela <i>Dep. of Morphofunctional Modules, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
12:15 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macroscopic evaluation of cardiopulmonary lesions in slaughtered cattle and sheep in Tirana – <i>Prof. Eglantina Xhemollari*</i>, K. Dervishi, K. Haka <i>*Dep. of Preclinical Modules, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
12:30 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Titanium and polycaprolactone scaffolds for osteochondral regeneration: a CT study in sheep – <i>PhD Cand. Taulant Goga*</i>, E. Lika, A. Crovace, B. Goxha, L. Lacitignola, F. Staffieri, A. Maria Crovace <i>Dep. of Preclinical Modules, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
12:45 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal dynamics of Shiga toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) isolation from the recto-anal mucosa of slaughtered sheep using selective media - <i>Nertila Dini</i>, B. Dhami et al. <i>Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
11:00 – 13:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 5: Food Safety, Biotechnology and Nutrition Science (Room 'B201' FEA) (Chair: Prof.Dr. Triantafyllos Albanis, Prof. Kapllan Sulaj)</p>
11:00 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparative analysis of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beers: physicochemical characteristics, phenolic content and antioxidant capacity – <i>Prof. Panagiotis Kandylis</i>, D. Dimitrellou <i>*Dep. of Food Science and Technology, Ionian University, Greece</i>
11:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxidative stability of minced beef treated with pomegranate peel (<i>Punica granatum</i> L.) extract – <i>PhD Cand. Arita Sabriu Haxhijaha*</i>, Nj. Luta Idrizi, L. Shabani <i>Faculty of Technological Sciences, "Mother Teresa" University -Skopje, Northern Macedonia</i>
11:30 – 11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced LC-HRMS methodologies for pesticide residue analysis in fruits and vegetables – <i>Dr. Gkountouras, V. Boti, Prof. Triantafyllos Albanis</i> <i>Dep. of Chemistry, University of Ioannina, 45110, Ioannina, Greece</i>
11:45 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acrylamide in food: challenges for industry across different countries and implications for food safety – <i>Prof. Alketa Shehaj</i>, A. Morina, F. Hoxha, K. Sulaj, E. Haruni <i>Dep. of Agri-food Technology, Faculty of Biotechnology and Food, AUT</i>
12:00 – 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural organic matter in drinking water: levels, variability and implications for water safety – <i>PhD Cand. Shkëlqime Poga</i>, E. Mamoçi, D. Mema <i>Dep. of Assessment and Treatment of Risks in Public Health, Institute of Public Health, Albania</i>
12:15 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative proteins from filamentous fungi: a pathway to sustainable food systems – <i>Prof. Luziana Hoxha*</i>, M.J. Taherzadeh <i>*Center for Food Research, Faculty of Biotechnology and Food, AUT</i>
12:30 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects of sequential fermentation with <i>Metschnikowia pulcherrima</i> and <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> S-04 on the aroma profile of American pale beer style – <i>PhD Cand. Julian Karaulli*</i>, N. Xhaferaj, B. Testa, F. Letizia, O. Kyçyk, M. Ruci, R. Kongoli, F. Lamçe, I. Lloha, K. Sulaj, M. Iorizzo. <i>*Faculty of Biotechnology and Food, Food Research Center, AUT</i>
12:45 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence of sensory attributes and volatile compounds in Kallmet wine produced with sequential fermentation – <i>PhD Cand. Mamica Ruci*</i>, R. Kongoli, M. Iorizzo, B. Testa, A. Abdyl, J. Karaulli, F. Lamçe, O. Kyçyk <i>*Faculty of Biotechnology and Food, Food Research Center, AUT</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00	Poster Session – Presentation and Discussion of Posters
15:00 – 17:15	Session 1: Agricultural Sciences and Smart Production Technologies (Room B101, FEA) (Chair: Ph.D. Antoaneta Gigova, Prof. Lirika Kupe)
15:00 – 15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use and land cover change detection in Tirana Municipality (2000–2024) using remote sensing and GIS – <i>PhD Cand. Olsid Mema*</i>, B. Islamaj, M. Hofmann, D. Müller, F. Sallaku <i>*Dep. of Agronomic Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
15:15 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advancing plant pathogen diagnostics in Albania through nanopore sequencing – <i>Prof. Magdalena Cara*</i>, S.S. Amoia, C.G. Orfanidou, A. Kola, O. Cara, T. Elbeaino. <i>*Dep. of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
15:30 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory and identification of natural enemies of apple leaf-mining moths in Albania – <i>Dr. Hysen Kokiçi*</i>, B. Limani, B. Xhemali, R. Saifi, A. Çakalli, E. Çota <i>*Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, AUT</i>
15:45 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third year results of the European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) local stock and the silvering process, in the Karavasta lagoon – <i>PhD Cand. Marko Kule</i>, E. Hala, E. Kamberi <i>*Dep. of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
16:00 – 16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POME-Protect: Developing and implementing sustainable alternatives for the control of phytopathogenic fungi in Albanian apple – <i>PhD Cand. Amedeo Kola*</i>, A. Chikora <i>*Dep. of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
16:15 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop diversification in Albania through evaluation of <i>Nigella sativa</i> L. accessions from the Western Regional plant introduction station (Washington, USA) – <i>PhD Cand. Jonida Biturku*</i>, E. Dodona, V. Hobdari, H. Kuçi and E. Kuçaj <i>*Dep. of Agronomic Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
16:30 – 16:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field performance and biochemical characterisation of 6 autochthonous chards (<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>cicla</i>) – <i>Prof. Zef Gjeta*</i>, B. Pepa, H. Kuçi, A. Ramaj <i>*Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, AUT</i>
16:45 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence of climatic temperature variability on the development of biology of <i>Scaphoideus titanus</i> in Kosovo – <i>PhD Cand. Gazmend Gjinovci*</i>, A. Ramadhi, B. Xhemali, B. Bresilla, Sh. Shahini <i>*Dep. of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
15:00 – 17:00	Session 2: Rural Development, Agribusiness and Policy Innovation (Room Qiriazi University) (Chair: Prof. Ledia Thoma, Dr. hab. Anna Mazurek-Kusiak)
15:00 – 15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determinants of market concentration in the Albanian banking system – an empirical analysis using the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index – <i>Dr. Ali Shingjergji*</i>, K. Bica, A. Kulli. <i>*Department of Finance, Qiriazi University College, Tirana, Albania</i>
15:15 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities' willingness to accept trade-offs between conservation and development in Divjakë-Karavasta National Park, Albania – <i>PhD Cand. Zenepe Dafku*</i>, P. Chevalier, F. Guri, P. Le Grusse, A. Sela <i>*Dep. of Economy and Agrarian Policies, Faculty of Economy and Agribusiness, AUT</i>
15:30 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The evolution of agritourism development in Albania: a multi-stakeholder perspective – <i>Prof. Shpresim Domi</i>, F. Domi <i>*Dep. of Rural Tourism Management, Faculty of Economy and Agribusiness, AUT</i>
15:45 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic villages of Eastern Poland as an innovative rural tourism product – <i>Dr hab. Anna Mazurek-Kusiak</i> <i>Dep. of Tourism and Recreation, University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Poland</i>
16:00 – 16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth employment challenges in Albania's rural regions: socioeconomic determinants and policy perspectives – <i>PhD Cand. Leons Hasani *</i>, R. Keco <i>* Faculty of Economy and Agribusiness, Agricultural University of Tirana</i>

16:15 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart Tourism: the impact of Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain, a literature review – Dr. Blerta Leka (Moçka)*, A. Kambo, Xh. Dulja <i>*Dep. of Mathematics and Informatics, Faculty of Economics and Agribusiness, AUT</i>
16:30 – 16:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the agribusiness sector: the strategic role of value chains – Dr. Chrysanthi Balomenou <i>Epoka University</i>
16:45 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multidimensional Well-being in Rural Areas During Times of Transition: A Descriptive Glance at Four Southeast European Countries – PhD(c). Johnson Kansiime*, A. Jantsch, A. Arapi-Gjini, A. Shala, E. Zhllima <i>*The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Halle (Saale), Germany</i>
15:00 – 17:15	<p>Session 3: Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources, Forests and Ecosystem Management (Room 'Lucë Agraja') (Chair: Prof. Guenter Langergraber, Prof. Elvin Toromani)</p>
15:00 – 15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporal dynamics of nickel immobilisation by nano-montmorillonite in serpentine soils – PhD Cand. Teuta Bushi, A. Bani, E. Sallaku (Sheqeri), F. Ottner <i>*Dep. of Environment and Natural Resource Management, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
15:15 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue carbon in Albanian coastal wetlands: a synthesis of sequestration potential and management perspectives – PhD Cand. Adri Erebara*, A. Kopali <i>*Dep. of Environment and Natural Resource Management, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
15:30 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Asian Chestnut Gall Wasp and its Biocontrol in Albania Dr. Agim Pepkolaj*, R. Metalaj, Sh. Sathypala, K. İpekdal <i>*FAO, Albania</i>
15:45 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparative analysis of the species diversity structure in two habitats of the Divjake-Karavasta natural park – PhD Cand. Enea Malaj*, D. (Bode) Xhulaj <i>*Dep. of Environment and Natural Resource Management, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
16:00 – 16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The curious case of Adriatic sea fisheries – PhD Cand. Elvis Kamberi*, E. Hala, E. Tzanatos, C. Möllmann <i>* Department of Aquaculture and Fishery, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania</i>
16:15 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The effect of heat treatment on compression strength of Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> L.) – Holta Çota*, E. Lato, D. Quku, H. Thoma, E. Kola, <i>* Department of Wood Industry, Faculty of Forest Sciences, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania</i>
16:30 – 16:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridging theory and practice in landscape studio courses: insights from the linear garden project at the Agricultural University of Tirana – PhD Cand. Silvi Jano*, Gj. Vuksani, Z. Teqja, D. Buza, E. Hasa, A. von Birgelen, G. Senes. <i>*Dep. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
16:45 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy gaps in benchmarking irrigation water use, Albanian case – PhD Cand. Mirgjana Gjermizi*, U. Abazi, M. Gecaj <i>*Dep. of Agronomic Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
17:00 – 17:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating UAV-based remote sensing and GIS for precision agroforestry management – Prof. Sonila Sinjari*, O. Pupi <i>*Dep. of Geography, Faculty of History and Philosophy, University of Tirana</i>
15:00 – 17:00	<p>Session 4: Veterinary and Public Health (Room 'B114 FEA') (Chair: Prof. Qëndrim Zebeli, Prof. Myqerem Tafaj)</p>
15:00 – 15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk quality parameters for early detection of subclinical mastitis under practical dairy farm conditions across Albania – PhD Cand. Renis Maçi*, R. Meçaj, Xh. Koleci, J. Boçi, I. Ajdini, E. Rrapaj, B. Haskaj, M. Tafaj – <i>*Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary, Tirana, Albania</i>

15:15 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship between nutrition and subclinical mastitis in holstein dairy farms across three regions of Albania – <i>PhD Cand. Roland Mecaj*</i>, F. Plaku, M. Sulçe, E. Sallaku, E. Delia, F. Brahushi, S. Shallari, M. Tafaj <i>*Dep. of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, AUT</i>
15:30 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of virulence genes <i>Escherichia coli</i> producing extended-spectrum β-Lactamases from Shkumbini river in Albania – <i>PhD Cand. Florian Plaku*</i>, I. Kusi, E. Lika, E. Dushku, E. Tsavrea, V., C. Kotzamanidis, <i>*Dep. of Clinical Subjects, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
15:45 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of antibodies to various subtypes of influenza a viruses in dairy cattle – <i>PhD Cand. Liljana Lufo</i>, V. Shtjefni <i>Dep. of Preclinical Modules, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
16:00 – 16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking biosecurity and antimicrobial resistance in poultry farms in Albania – <i>Prof. Tana Kika</i>, S. Cocoli, E. Lika, K. Mersini <i>Dep. of Veterinary Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
16:15 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study on selected infectious diseases in equids in Albania (Theileriosis, Babesiosis, West Nile Virus, Equine Infectious Anemia) – <i>PhD Cand. Kristi Morava*</i>, R. Postoli, I. Dova, E. Ozuni, Dh. Rapti, K. Çela, Xh. Koleci <i>Dep. of Clinical Subjects, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
16:30 – 16:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of zearalenone in selected animal feed materials from Albanian farms, analyzed by LC-MS/MS – <i>PhD Cand. Suela Teqja*</i>, J. Mavromati <i>Dep. of Veterinary Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
16:45 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioaccumulation factors of mercury in liver, muscle, and gills of three fish species from the Adriatic sea, Albania – <i>Msc. Altin Metalla*</i>, E. Lika, R. Olchowski, P. Orlowski, A. Chababis-Mazurek, J.L. Valverde Piedra <i>*Dep. of Preclinical Modules, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AUT</i>
15:00 – 16:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 5: Food Safety, Biotechnology and Nutrition Science (Room 'B201' FEA) (Chair: Prof. Panagiotis Kandylis, Dr. Spase Shumka)</p>
15:00 – 15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer protection in Albania: legal framework and challenges <i>– Dr. Valentina Memini*</i>, D. Maloku <i>*Department of Civil and Business Law, "Qiriazi" University College</i>
15:15 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physico-chemical characterization of chestnut and mountain honey from the Dukagjini region (Kosovo) – <i>PhD Cand. Saimir Dinaj*</i>, R. Kongoli, I. Hoxha, V. Sadiku <i>*Dep. of Food Technology, University Haxhi Zeka</i>
15:30 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diet quality in Albania: evidence from the diet quality questionnaire <i>– Dr. Vilma Gurazi*</i>, K. Sadikaj, S. Zejnelhoxha, E. Mamoçi <i>*Dep. of Food Sciences and Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology and Food, AUT</i>
15:45 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From tradition to transition: linking dietary patterns and food waste in Albania and Kosovo – <i>Prof. Elena Kokthi</i>, D. Cazzetta, P. Bytyçi, M. Mestani, C. Cusatelli, L. Constantino <i>*Dep. of Food Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology and Food, AUT</i>
16:00 – 16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immersive digital technologies and food quality labels: shaping consumer behavior in the Western Balkans' agri-food value chains – <i>PhD Cand. Enxhi Marku*</i>, A. Shumeli, E. Shehu <i>*Department of Business Management, Faculty of Economy, LOGOS University, Tirana</i>
16:15 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Integration and Albanian agriculture and agro-processing: standards, investments, and strategic pathways – <i>MSc. Esmeralda Ballesha*</i>, F. Hoxha <i>*EIT Food RIS Policy Council Member – Albania</i>

14:00 – 15:30	WORKSHOP 1: Geoinformation Centre for the Western Balkans (Room Goethe) (Chair: Prof. Daniel Müller)	
14:00 – 14:10	– Welcome and opening remarks	(F. Sallaku, D. Müller)
14:10 – 14:20	– Welcome from the Ministry (BMLEH, Germany)	(S. Framke)
14:20 – 14:30	– Formal Registration of the GeoCentre	(F. Sallaku, O. Mema)
14:30 – 14:45	– Project activities and key achievements	(M. Hofmann)
14:45 – 15:00	– Presentation of the Geoportal	(B. Islamaj)
15:00 – 15:30	– Open discussion: Lessons learned and way forward	(F. Sallaku, D. Müller)
14:00 – 17:00	WORKSHOP 2: AMR surveillance in a One Health approach (Room B214 FEA) (Chair: Prof. Dr. Erinda Lika, Joahn. B.Rose)	
14:00 – 14:15	– <i>Keynote Address</i> : Exploring Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance in its Biological Context to Uncover Patterns of Emergence and Spread	(E. Lika, J.B. Rose)
14:15 – 14:30	– Microbiological Culturing of Resistant Strains as a Tool for Understanding Mechanisms of Resistance Emergence and Dissemination	(O. Petri)
14:30 – 14:45	– Targeting gut microbiota in poultry through in ovo synbiotics and dietary polyphenols: toward a sustainable antibiotic-free strategy	(S. Tavaniello)
14:45 – 15:00	– Antimicrobial Resistance in the Food Chain: Scientific and Regulatory Challenges in Food Safety and Inspection	(D. Ranucci)
15:00 – 15:15	– When AI Meets Digital Twins: Challenges and Opportunities in Combating AMR	(E. Nurellari)
15:15 – 15:30	– Advancing Bioengineering Solutions for AMR: <i>Integrating molecular, cellular and systems level solutions</i>	(M. H. Zaman)
15:30 – 15:45	– Wastewater Surveillance as an Early Warning System for Infectious Disease Detection and Antimicrobial Resistance Control	(J.B. Rose)
15:45 – 16:10	– Integrating a One Health Approach into AMR Surveillance: A Case Study of the Irish Experience	(G. Barry)
16:10 – 17:00	Closing Remarks	
14:00 – 17:00	WORKSHOP 3: Mountain Pastures and Shepherds in Albania: challenges and prospects (Room: 201, FEA) (Room 'Skënder Xhiku') (Chair: Prof. Lumturi Papa)	
14:00 – 14:10	– Opening and Introductory Speech by Chair,	(L. Papa)
14:10 – 14:20	– Ecological Attributes of Mountain Pastures	(H. Arjjumend)
14:20 – 14:30	– Traditional Interaction of Pastures, Shepherds and Livestock	(M. Wolff, L. Turmalaj)
14:30 – 14:40	– Climate Change and Seasonal Pasture Use	(P. Dobi)
14:40 – 14:50	– Grazing as an Enemy of Natural Ecosystems: Dilemma of Deep Ecologists	(H. Arjjumend)
14:50 – 15:00	– Modern Challenges faced by Mobile Livestock Herders in Albania	(M. Wolff)
15:00 – 15:10	– Veterinary Issues and Livestock Mobility Restrictions	(L. Turmalaj)
15:10 – 15:20	– Preservation and Development of Pastoralism in Albania	(E. Malaj)
15:20 – 15:30	– IE Knowledge Transmission and Youth Engagement in Pastoralism	(Peer Group of Shepherds)
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 16:55	Open discussion involving the audience	
16:55 – 17:00	Conclusion, integrating the IYRP 2026 Global Gathering	

Note: The list of poster contributions will be added to the final program.

Day 3 – Timing	Field trip
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8:30 – 18:00 Visit to Belsh, Lushnja and Divjaka

On the third day, participants will embark on a field excursion that highlights Albania's innovations in sustainable agriculture. The visit will begin in Belsh, where participants will tour olive plantations and a modern olive oil processing facility supported by FAO, gaining insights into local value chain development and quality improvement efforts, especially in relation to good agricultural practices.

The Belsh area is located in central Albania, within Elbasan County. It is known for its beautiful landscape of hills, lakes, and fertile plains. The town of Belsh lies near the Dumre plateau, which contains over 80 natural lakes, making it one of the most unique lake regions in Albania. The area has a rich agricultural tradition, and in recent years has become a popular eco-tourism destination.

The journey continues to Lushnja, where a greenhouse demonstration site showcases the application of innovative and climate-smart farming technologies.

The Lushnjë–Divjakë area is located in the western part of Albania, within the fertile Myzeqe plain. It is one of the country's most important agricultural regions, known for its production of grains, vegetables, and olive oil. The area combines rich farmland with natural beauty, including the Divjakë-Karavasta National Park, which hosts Albania's largest lagoon and diverse wildlife. Depending on weather conditions, the day will conclude with a visit to Divjaka National Park, offering a brief immersion into one of Albania's most emblematic natural ecosystems, followed by a networking lunch at Divjaka Resort.



**Agricultural University of Tirana, Kodër-Kamëz, Tirana
3-5 November 2025**