Round Table

Date: 14. 07. 2025

Place: Agricultural University of Tirana, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment

Creation of Novel Approaches and Techniques for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Diagnosis

Research Expertise from the Academic Diaspora (READ) Fellowship Program

Moderated by: Associate Prof. Dr Edmond Nurellari, Diaspora Resident Scholar, Associate Professor in Electrical and Electronic Engineering/Robotics from Lincon University UK

Main Topics: Integrating Smart Agriculture, Precision Agriculture & Artificial Intelligence into Research, Teaching & Practice

Introduction: As part of the READ (Research Empowerment and Development) project, we are pleased to highlight the involvement of Professor Nurellari, whose expertise in integrating Smart Agriculture, Precision Agriculture, and Artificial Intelligence into research, teaching, and practice brings exceptional value to the initiative. His interdisciplinary approach supports the project's broader mission of fostering innovation and enhancing research capacities across institutions and regions.

Prof. Nurellari's active role in READ provides a unique opportunity for meaningful discussion and collaboration. Participants are encouraged to engage with him to explore how cutting-edge technologies can be leveraged to address real-world challenges in agriculture and sustainability. His insights are particularly valuable for those interested in the intersection of digital innovation and practical applications in education and development.

By exploring current global trends, local needs, and practical applications, the discussion will focus on how to equip students with future-ready skills, develop interdisciplinary research projects, and strengthen collaboration with industry partners, farmers, and technology providers. The round table will also address capacity-building needs for academic staff, potential funding opportunities, and partnerships that can support the Faculty in becoming a leader in innovative, data-driven, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Objectives:

(i) to bring together academic leaders, department members, and key stakeholders to identify concrete opportunities, set clear priorities, and define realistic next steps for integrating Smart Agriculture, Precision Agriculture, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the faculty's curriculum, research activities, and wider stakeholder engagement.

(ii) to identify opportunities, priorities, and next steps for integrating Smart Agriculture, Precision Agriculture, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the faculty's curriculum, research activities, and stakeholder engagement.

(iii) Ultimately, this round table seeks to lay the foundation for an action plan that aligns with national agricultural priorities, enhances the Faculty's competitiveness, and contributes to the development of resilient, climate-smart agri-food systems.

Agenda

Time	Session	Details
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Welcome by Rector of Agricultural University of Tirana Prof.Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku
10:10 – 10:30	Setting the Scene: Smart Agriculture & AI	Welcome by Dean of Agricultural and Environment Faculty Prof.Dr Seit Shallari Overview of the round table purpose and expected outcomes. Brief presentation on global trends and practical applications in precision farming and digital agriculture.
10:30 – 11:00	Discussion 1: Current Context	Open discussion on existing strengths, resources, and ongoing initiatives. Prof. Endrit Kullaj, Prof. Ferdi Brahushi, and the academic Staff of the department
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break & Networking	Informal networking break.
11:15 – 11:30	Discussion 2: Opportunities & Needs	New Bachelor program on IT in Agriculture and Environment: possibilities to participate and contribute. - Which courses could integrate Smart Agri-Tech and AI? - Ideas for research topics and pilot projects. - Required capacities, training, and partnerships.
11: 30- 12.00		Interview with AADF
12:00:12:15		Visit to the Smart Horti Lab
12:15-1:30	Next Steps & Action Points Closing Remarks	Agree on 2–3 priority actions. Assign responsibilities and timeline for follow-up. Identify potential funding or collaboration opportunities. Summary of key discussion points and next steps by the Dean

Expected Outcomes

- Initial plan for curriculum enhancements in Smart & Precision Agriculture.
- Priority ideas for research proposals and partnerships.
- Agreement on practical next steps and responsibilities.

Contact Person: **Associate professor Edmond Nurellari, Lincoln University/ UK**

Prepared by: **Prof. Dr Erinda Lika/ Agricultural University of Tirana**