

Agriculture in Harmony with Nature

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The Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv celebrated its traditional holiday on 11 May – the Day of the Holy Brothers Cyril and Methodius, Equal to the Apostles

This year's celebration of the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology turned into a distinctive forum for commentary and analysis of the achievements, for positioning the conceptual impetus formed by the symbiosis and synergy of educational obligations, scientific work, the spirit of discovery and the creative atmosphere. According to Prof. Kharizanova, Dean of the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology, a key component of this impetus is the activation of scientific activity in the current field – the bioeconomy, with an emphasis on a healthy lifestyle, clean food and nature.

The management of the Faculty generated a strong message. The high institutional competence of the teaching staff is the only correct and reliable way to shape qualified and valuable specialists in plant protection. The demand for technologically trained specialists will never cease, but they will increasingly be required to think

outside established frameworks in order to transform problems into opportunities for creation and sustainable growth.

Prof. Hristina Yancheva, Rector of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, specifically noted the active engagement of the students from the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology, who last year joined the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences, which has members from 52 countries. Recently, the Bulgarian students received a special award for the fastest-growing representation.

In light of these facts, we should take a very careful look at the profile and potential of today's Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology. And if we do so, we will be convinced without reservation or doubt that the Faculty is the most authoritative and competitive institution in Bulgaria for the training of agronomists in plant protection and agroecology, against the backdrop of the harmful trend towards the massification of agricultural education (and not only of it). Furthermore, the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology has declared its readiness to participate in the European mega project AGRICULTURE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE. This is a project with committed supporters; its conceptual level includes an enormous potential for technological breakthrough, which de facto is the next level of plant protection! And yet another confirmation that the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv is a valuable national asset, a professional and scientific phenomenon. A capital which the current management is committed to preserving and further developing.