

Competition for Innovations at Agra 2018 – Awards

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The innovation competition of the International Agricultural Exhibition “Agra” features innovative products and developments in the field of agriculture, which are presented for the first time and demonstrate real innovations or original improvements and can be regarded as progress in the respective field. This year 24 exhibits became winners in the competition. A total of 75 products and 56 scientific institutes and companies in the field of agriculture took part in the contest. The Agricultural Academy was awarded 8 prizes in the different categories of the competition.

Innovations from the Agricultural Academy presented at “Agra 2018”

This year the Agricultural Academy participated with 19 innovations at the International Agricultural Exhibition “Agra 2018” in Plovdiv and showcased interesting and useful developments, some of which are the result of joint activities with foreign institutes and universities. The Agricultural Academy was represented by all its 25 institutes and 10 experimental stations, as well as by the National Agricultural Museum.

The Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant Protection “N. Pushkarov”, together with the Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy “K. A. Timiryazev”, presented at the exhibition pellets produced from waste biomass of lavender. The pellets have a minimal content of dust fraction and durability above 90% and are suitable for combustion in pellet burners.

The first Bulgarian variety of stevia “Stela”, developed by the Agricultural Institute in Shumen, was also presented at the international exhibition. The variety is suitable for cultivation in all regions of the country under irrigated conditions and is relatively resistant to fungal pathogens.

The Maritsa Vegetable Crops Research Institute, which was represented with two vegetable varieties, won the prize in the category “Varieties and Planting Material” of the innovation competition with the new high-quality tomato variety “Aleno sarce” (“Scarlet Heart”). The Experimental Station for Irrigated Agriculture - Pazardzhik, jointly with the Maritsa Vegetable Crops Research Institute, has created the high-quality pepper variety “Ivaylovska kapiya”. The variety has larger and fleshier fruits than the other Bulgarian kapiya pepper varieties, has a high dry matter content and is easy to peel.

One of the newest varieties of the Institute of Agriculture – Karnobat, which participated in the exhibition, is the winter two-row barley variety “Daria”, with yields of up to 923.4 kg/ha.

Also presented at Agra were: two varieties of pasture ryegrass - “Tetrani” and “Tetramis” of the Institute of Forage Crops – Pleven; two new maize hybrids and a monograph dedicated to this crop from the Maize Research Institute – Kneja; diet gluten-free cupcakes from the Institute of Food Research and Development; a multifunctional anti-swarmed bottom board for beehives from the Institute of Animal Science in Kostinbrod; “Technology for field bean production” from the Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute – General Toshevo; the methodological guide “Opportunities for using heterosis breeding in self-pollinating crops peanuts, sesame and rice” from the Institute of Plant and Genetic Resources – Sadovo.

In the innovation competition of the International Agricultural Exhibition “Agra 2018”, which was held jointly with the exhibitions “Foodtech” and “Vinaria” in Plovdiv, 24 contestants won awards in the eight sections of the competition.

Winners in the innovation competition at Agra

The Agricultural Academy received 8 awards, and the following developments were distinguished with a statuette and diploma as leaders in their categories:

Tomato variety “Aleno sarce” (“Scarlet Heart”) of the Maritsa Vegetable Crops Research Institute in Plovdiv. The variety has good adaptive capacity and can be grown both in protected cultivation facilities and in the open field – under field conditions for early and medium-early production. Under greenhouse conditions, yields are 5000-7000 kg/ha, and under field conditions 4500-6000 kg/ha. Category “Varietal Seeds and Planting Material”.

Pepper variety “Ivaylovska kapiya” of the Experimental Station for Irrigated Agriculture - Pazardzhik, jointly with the Maritsa Vegetable Crops Research Institute. The high percentage of dry matter makes Ivaylovska kapiya simultaneously suitable for roasting, pickling and consumption in fresh form. The variety is suitable for cultivation using a technology for medium-early field production, but it can also perform very well in greenhouses to obtain earlier production. Category “Varietal Seeds and Planting Material”.

The first Bulgarian variety of the plant stevia. The variety (*Stevia rebaudiana B*) was developed by scientists from the Agricultural Institute – Shumen and bears the name “Stela”. Under the climatic conditions in Bulgaria, the variety “Stela” is propagated vegetatively. The developed variety has good ecological plasticity and can be grown in all regions of the country under irrigated conditions. It has relatively good resistance to fungal diseases. Category “Varietal Seeds and Planting Material”.

Technology for walnut cultivation developed by scientists from the Fruit Growing Institute in Plovdiv. The presented technology provides detailed information on the botanical and morphological characteristics of the walnut, as well as its biological and ecological requirements as a fruit species. It also includes an economic assessment of walnut cultivation in Bulgaria.

New mini carnation variety “Sofia” of the Institute of Ornamental Plants – Sofia. The variety “Sofia” is characterized by high productivity, early and prolonged flowering, resistance to Fusarium wilt and the possibility of being grown in the same place for 3-4 years. Category “Varietal Seeds and Planting Material”.

High-protein bread - “Zarnea” of the Institute of Cryobiology and Food Technologies. It has an increased content of biologically active substances such as β -glucans, omega-6 fatty acids, micro- and macroelements such as potassium, calcium, manganese, iron, copper, zinc, selenium, magnesium and B-group vitamins. The

bread “Zarnea” is a source of healthy nutrients and can be consumed preventively in cases of diabetes, oncological and cardiovascular diseases. Category “Scientific Activity and Developments”.

Poultry meat and vegetable pâté, enriched with probiotics, developed by the Institute of Food Research and Development – Plovdiv. The product has a health-promoting potential, an optimal fatty acid composition, reduced energy value, preserved biological value, prebiotic activity and improved qualitative characteristics. Category “Scientific Activity and Developments”.

Pellets from waste lavender biomass, a joint development of the Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant Protection “N. Pushkarov” and the Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy “K. A. Timiryazev”. The developed technology is related to the utilization of waste lavender biomass for energy purposes. The pellets have a minimal content of dust fraction and durability above 90%, suitable for combustion in pellet burners. Category “Technology in Crop Production”.

Also in the category “Varietal Seeds and Planting Material”, an award was given to the melon variety **“Lider F1”**, bred by Dencho Ivanov, known as a breeder of cucurbit crops, from the company Agrodelta Select – Gorna Oryahovitsa. The melon is officially registered in the Bulgarian variety list. The fruits are large – 3-6 kg, elongated-elliptical, segmented into slices, with a yellow-golden rind. It is suitable for cultivation under polyethylene tunnels and in the open field. Lider F1 is tolerant to diseases.

In the category “Fertilisers and Plant Protection Products for Agriculture” of the innovation competition at the International Agricultural Exhibition “AGRA”, the awards were presented to the company Summit Agro for the microgranulated fertilisers Microstar, Sumistart and Umostart, and to the company Panamin Agro Ltd. for the biological mineral foliar fertiliser Panamin Agro

In the group “Machinery, Equipment and Technologies for Crop Production” the highest rating was given to the Martin-Till no-till seeding concept, a stripping header for white harvesting and rice, collecting only the grain, and a folding disc harrow for precision seedbed preparation.

In the section for the food industry, brined cheese from donkey milk and 90-percent peanut butter, exhibits from the “Foodtech” exhibition, were distinguished. As the most innovative products presented at “Vinaria” were identified: a vacuum filter for wine and fruit lees, a pneumatic press Smart Press and a series of barrels Vicar – generation 7.