



Tropical News

“Newsletter for
FTA Friends”

DECEMBER 2022

Find in this issue news and opportunities for further cooperation with the Faculty

A Word from the Dean

Dear students, colleagues, alumni, and FTA friends!

Welcome to yet another issue of our faculty newsletter, Tropical News. It is the last one of 2022 which luckily enough was a much better year than the previous one. I think it is safe to say that Covid is now a disease of the past, so to say, which would be at the same level of incidence and consequence as any other flue. Let's keep our fingers crossed, I would say. On the other hand, it is clear that in future more zoonoses will be coming our way, and we, as a society, will have to prepare for that. In that way, the research that is going on at our faculty (led by RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D.) will be a helpful element in developing new coping strategies.

With this back-to-normal-situation, some of our 'usual' activities have resumed, whereas some new ones have been started. I would like to highlight and express my appreciation for the fact that our Student Ambassadors and Be Fair have been very active in preparing and organizing/helping to organize a number of 'extracurricular' activities with the Tropical Fairtrade Ball as very successful highlight. Thank you to all who helped with this!

With this, I wish you good reading of the document, a happy end of the year, and a wonderful start of the new year 2023!

Prof. dr. ir. Patrick Van Damme

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Our Successes



Great Green Wall Project

Prof. dr. ir. Patrick Van Damme, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences dean, was once again appointed as the **main evaluator of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** FAO's ACTION AGAINST DESERTIFICATION project, which is part of the Great Green Wall initiative that attempts to regreen the Sahel region in the northern part of Africa. You can find full report at: <https://bit.ly/3w81gH>

Mobile Laboratory

CZU mobiLAB represents a **complex solution** that enables the application of state-of-the-art molecular detection methods **in remote or inaccessible areas**. The principal advantage of the proposed solution is the concept of a mobile laboratory, which is unique in terms of its size and weight. It can be transported in an SUV/off-road vehicle, by animal force, or can be even carried by humans, which is crucial in inaccessible areas. The essential facilities are provided in an inflatable tent.

Behavioural Studies in Agri-Food Sector

Led by **Assoc. Prof. Miroslava Bavorová**, [the research group](#) focuses on analyzing the factors that affect the behaviour of actors in the **agri-food sector**. We aim not only to contribute to the research field but also to provide credible information for policy-makers. Our research is interdisciplinary and mainly based on economic, sociological, and psychological theories. For empirical research, we use standard quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Our Professional Facilities

We invest heavily in FTA facilities and research to ensure high quality studies

- > [14 Research Groups](#)
- > [8 Laboratories](#)
- > [3 Off-campus facilities](#)
- > [Herbarium](#)
- > [Botanical Garden](#)



Tropical Biotechnology

[The Tropical Biotechnology Research Group](#) is focused on **plant breeding, in vitro clonal propagation, and conservation of plant genetic resources** using plant tissue culture techniques, especially in vitro polyploidization, induction of somaclonal variation, micropropagation, slow-growth technique, microtuberization, and application of flow cytometry in biotechnological experiments (e.g. as a part of induced polyploidization, plant species resynthesis). Our research is primarily targeted at neglected and underutilized plants in tropical and subtropical regions.



Focus to Gender Dimension

Three seminars on the **Integration of the gender dimension in academia and research and building institutional capacities for gender equality plan at CZU** were organized at FTA by vice-dean dr. Jana Mazancová, under the ESF II project co-financed by European Union. It was a great pleasure to welcome the lecturer with long-term experience dr. Maxime Forest from Yellow Window. Seminars intended to provide relevant insights and hands-on experience in integrating a gender perspective in academia, research, and institutional capacitation to improve their quality and consequently increase grant success rates.

International Cooperation



Tropentag Conference

The Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU) hosted on September 14-16 an interdisciplinary conference, Tropentag 2022, which focused on tropical agriculture and rural development. Renowned experts debated if agroecological farming can feed the world. Tropentag Conference is a yearly high mass celebrating and presenting innovative developments in the broad field of tropical agriculture R&D - the interaction between vested and young researchers creates a living laboratory where ideas are exchanged, and new collaborations originate. Click [here](#) for more information and also the video created by the Student Reporters of ATSAF Tropentag.

Laboratory in the Philippines

The FTA ethnobotanists helped build a **research laboratory** in the Philippines.

A team of Czech scientists from CZU helped their Filipino colleagues prepare a project under the name: Equipment modernization of bioactive natural products laboratory at the Visayas State University as part of bilateral development.



Strengthening Ties with Vietnam

The 15-year cooperation between the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, CZU (Czech University of Life Sciences Prague) and the University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF), Vietnam has been strengthened by visits of the CZU team, mainly Biogas Research Team (A/prof. Hynek Roubík and dr. Jana Mazancová) at HUAF and vice-versa. Recently, a HUAF rector prof. Tran Thanh Duc with vice-rector A./prof. Sen Le and dean of Faculty of Fishery – A/prof. Nguyễn Duy Quỳnh Trâm visited CZU and expanded cooperation with other faculties and research teams on the CZU level. The [cooperation between CZU and HUAF](#) was supported by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission.

New International Opportunities

Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility

The FTA succeeded in the new call of the Erasmus+ [International Credit Mobility](#) programme in 17 countries for the period 2022-25.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree

Global Forestry ([GloFor](#)) is a two-year English language world-class programme that prepares M.Sc. graduates to deal with forestry's tremendous contemporary challenges and potentials in medium and low-income countries.

Double Degree

The FTA and the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Hohenheim (Germany) offer the unique opportunity for students to simultaneously receive **two Master** degrees in the area of "[Agricultural Sciences and Farming Systems in the Tropics and Subtropics](#)" in only 2 years.

Project-Based Learning

[Project-Based Learning among master's degree students](#) aims to give the incentive to implement project-based learning (PBL) within the subject area of Plant Health and Plant Breeding into the courses at the selected ELLS Universities, namely BOKU, CZU and SLU.

Academic issues / Alumni



Congratulations

We are extremely proud to announce that:

- > **Assoc. Prof. Tersia Needham, Ph.D.** was awarded as the best FTA teacher in 2022
- > **Ph.D. student Ny Veit** was awarded 4th place in the CZU Rector's prize competition for outstanding publication results in the 2021-2022
- > **Ph.D. student Jerry Owusu Afriyie** received prestigious Josef Hlávka prize for exceptional students
- > **Ing. Milena Jindřichová** and **Ing. Silvie Neradilová** were awarded Ph.D. degrees in the field of genetics in canines



Meet our Alumni

Ing. Petr Kříž

Head of the Bohemian Switzerland National Park

Ing. Petr Kříž graduated with an M.Sc. degree from the Faculty of Tropical Agriculture (formerly Institute of Tropics and Subtropics). The alumnus currently works as

the Head of the Bohemian Switzerland National Park with long-term experience in the position of Head of the regional office of the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic. Ing. Petr Kříž takes care of the National Park territory and public administration, as well as participating in the implementation of projects from the Operational Programme Environment and the LIFE Programme. He has worked at events engaging with the public (e.g., Festival of the Steppes and Festival of Pastures) and focuses on international cooperation. More information you can find [here](#).

Students Life at the FTA

Active students at FTA organised already several successful activities in the academic year 2022/23:

- > **Tropical ball** – newly introduced at FTA with several international performances and gastronomy
- > Mystery book swap at Little Free Library in the FTA lobby
- > Learn and discuss with Fairtrade topic
- > [Welcome course for new students](#)

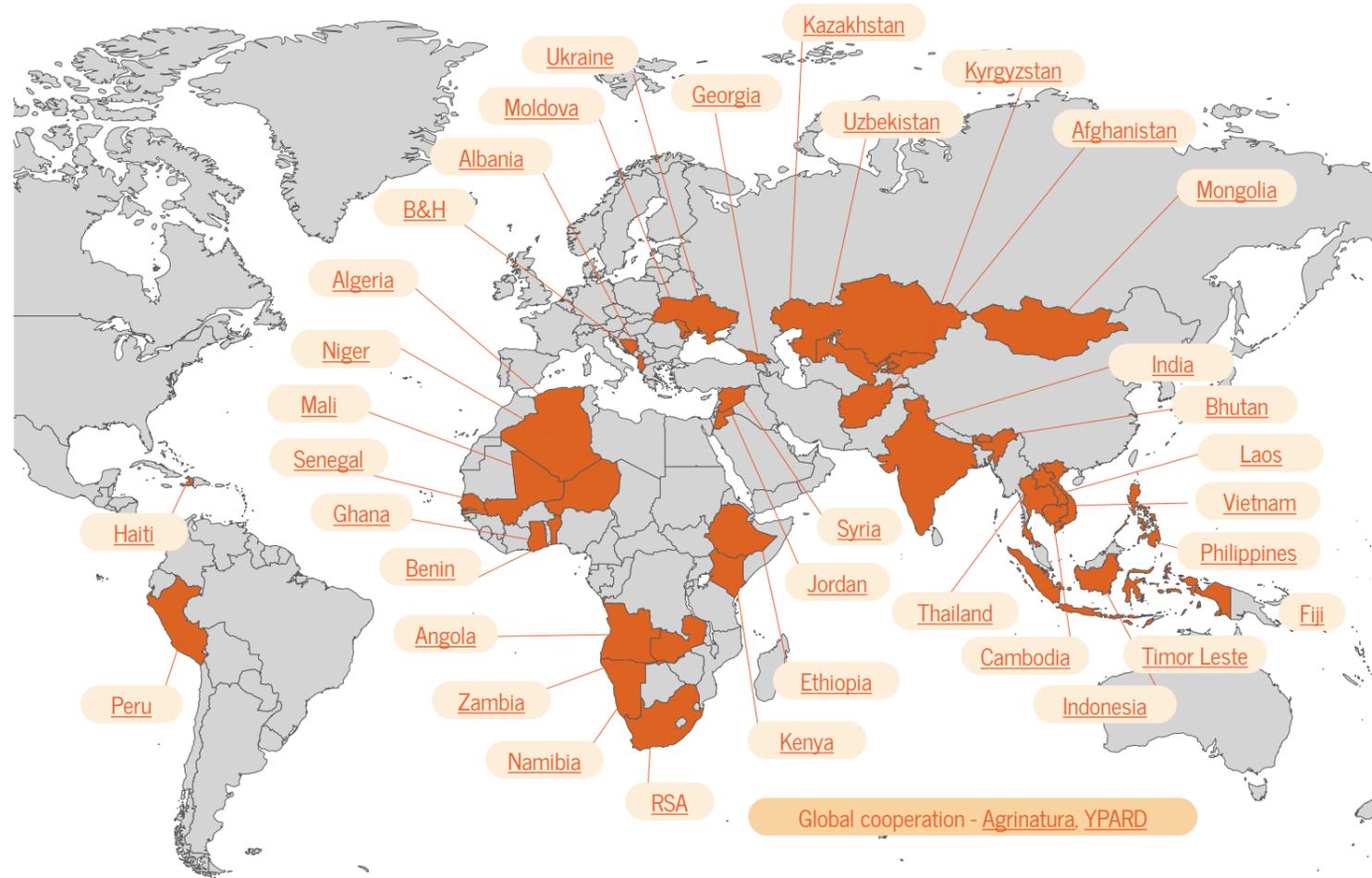
Thank you [Students Ambassadors](#) and [Be Fair](#) for keeping our faculty full of life!

Open Day at CZU

Online Open Day at the CZU was held on 8th December 2022. Find out more about CZU and English-taught study programs; you can explore through Open day [video](#) (FTA session starts at 32min).

FTA Projects and Partnerships

As a Fair Trade Faculty, we support responsible consumption and sustainable development.



Do you want to cooperate with the FTA?

We are interested in cooperation on

- > Research
- > Projects
- > Guest lectures
- > Internships
- > Sharing experiences
- > Other

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact

- > Please visit <https://www.ftz.czu.cz/en/>
- > Follow us     
- > Contact us! Newsletter and FTA Alumni contact person: Dr. Jana Mandíková mandikova@ftz.czu.cz



Join Network CZU!

A new platform for CZU students, alumni, and friends - Network ČZU register [here](#)

The benefit of the Alumni Club lies in maintaining contacts of the graduates with its university and of course with other classmates and university staff. We are convinced that cooperation and feedback from graduates help to improve the quality of CZU and develop the transfer of knowledge and technology into practice.



The aim is to involve graduates in the activities of the CZU, whether through professional lectures, meetings of graduates with students or fundraising. Current CZU students can thus gain practical experience from the labour market and acquire practical knowledge and skills. That is why we want to be a bridge between current and future graduates.



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