



# Annual Report 2025

# Dean's Introduction

*Dear colleagues, partners, students, and friends of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences,*

when we look back at 2025, we do not see just a year of activities, numbers, or reports. We see a year of movement. A year in which our faculty stepped forward - with greater confidence, stronger ambition, and a clearer sense of purpose. This year marked not only a continuation of our long-term commitment to excellence, but also a period of strategic development and reflection. As I assumed the role of Dean, together with our new leadership team, which I am very excited about, we set out to strengthen the faculty's direction and position, internal culture, and international relevance. And I am proud to say that we have taken important steps forward.

We live in a time when the world is facing fundamental challenges. Climate change, loss of biodiversity, pressure on food systems, and growing inequalities are no longer distant concepts - they are realities shaping the lives of millions of people, especially in tropical and subtropical regions.

And it is exactly here where our faculty has its role.

Not as an observer.

But as an active contributor to solutions.

We are an active contributor to global solutions - connecting science, policy, and practice across continents. This vision increasingly defines who we are. Over the past year, we have achieved significant progress across all core pillars of our mission.

In research, we have further increased our international visibility and competitiveness, while kept the highest output of publications per academic staff. Our teams have successfully contributed to major international projects, strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration, and expanded capacities through the establishment of new postdoctoral positions. And we significantly invested into laboratory equipment modernization.

In education, we have implemented important innovations aimed at improving quality, relevance, and student experience. We have continued to modernise curricula to better reflect global challenges and labour market needs. Particular attention has been given to strengthening doctoral studies and supporting the next generation of scientists.

Institutionally, 2025 has been a year of strategic development. The restructuring and renaming of two departments - the Department of Wildlife and Animal Sciences and the Department of Food and BioResource Technology - reflect our ambition to create stronger, more focused academic units capable of addressing complex global challenges. Furthermore, strengthening our FTZ Botanical Garden and our Common Eland and Guanaco Research Facility, while both of those facilities becoming official Czech Eco-centers. What brings me joy as well, is to see our new and active cooperation with various primary and secondary schools and our FTZ University of Third Age, which showcase another view of our third role.

At the same time, we have improved internal processes, enhanced project support systems, and invested in building a more transparent and efficient organisational environment.

Equally important has been our continued commitment to internationalisation. We have expanded partnerships across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, strengthened our involvement in EU initiatives,

and reinforced our role as a bridge between European research and tropical regions.

However, our ambition goes beyond measurable indicators. We are shaping a faculty culture that supports creativity, responsibility, and mutual respect. We are building an environment where academic excellence is naturally combined with openness and collaboration. This is reflected in our shared values and in our new motto: **"Leading Excellence in Tropical AgriSciences"**

And similarly, in something, which I say to our graduates during the graduation ceremony: **"Be curious. Be courageous. Be kind."**

None of these achievements would be possible without the dedication and professionalism of our staff, the energy and curiosity of our students, and the trust of our partners. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you.

As we look to the future, FTZ is entering a new phase - one defined by ambition, responsibility, and global relevance. We will continue to strengthen our position as a respected international institution that contributes to sustainable development through science, education, and innovation. And which is: **"Leading Excellence in Tropical AgriSciences"**.

Thank you for being part of this journey! And enjoy reading this Annual Report!



**ASSOC. PROF. HYNEK ROUBÍK, PH.D.**  
**DEAN OF THE FTZ AT CZU PRAGUE**

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# Basic Facts about Faculty

## Introduction

The Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences of the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU) is a unique centre of research in our country with what is now a 60+ year tradition in tropical agriculture and the sustainable management of natural resources in the tropics, promoting rural development, food processing and food security, alternative technologies based on renewable sources of energy, economics, and the sociology of rural areas in developing countries.

The faculty offers studies in Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral study programmes, with study in Master's programmes taking place exclusively in English, resulting in a significant proportion of our students coming from outside the Czech Republic.

Graduates typically find employment in the Czech Republic, the EU, and around the world, both in the private sector and in governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with issues of developing countries in general, trade, education, technology transfer and, last, but not least, conducting research in the tropics.

### MISSION

The mission of the Faculty is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence possible.

More specifically, we provide higher, university and research-supported/derived/based education to foreign and Czech students in the fields of (sub)tropical agriculture, rural development, and the sustainable management of natural and energy resources in the tropics and subtropics.

An integral part of our mission is to perform research and the development of new insights into the broad field of (sub)tropical life sciences and the application of R&D results in the specific conditions of (sub)tropical and/or developing countries.



### VISION

The vision of the Faculty is to be an institution in the Czech Republic and Europe, with the specific mandate to transfer the latest knowledge and technology between the Czech Republic, the EU and (sub)tropical regions in the Global South, building on and respecting the traditional values of local communities in the developing world as well as respecting their level of socio-economic and technological development. This also involves empowering our students to fulfil their academic and professional passions and aspirations in an environment that is – de facto – diverse, welcoming, and inclusive for all students, the Faculty and staff.

This further means serving our community of alumni through imaginative and creative programmes that inspire a lifelong relationship with the Faculty and help expand our contributions to the world.

## Official name and address

Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze  
Fakulta tropického zemědělství  
Kamýčká 129  
165 00 Praha – Suchdol

### IN ENGLISH

Czech University of Life Sciences Prague  
Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences  
Kamýčká 129  
165 00 Prague – Suchdol  
Czech Republic

### ABBREVIATIONS

FTZ ČZU (in Czech)      FTZ CZU (in English)  
FTZ (in Czech)          FTZ (in English)

### WEBPAGES OF THE FACULTY

[www.ftz.czu.cz](http://www.ftz.czu.cz)

## Structure

### FACULTY MANAGEMENT

#### Dean

doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.

#### Head of Dean's Office

Ing. Mgr. Lukáš Páček, Ph.D.

#### First Vice-Dean and Vice-Dean for Science, Research, and Doctoral Studies

doc. Ing. Johana Rondevaldová, Ph.D.

#### Vice-Dean for International Relations

Ing. Petra Chaloupková, Ph.D., Dr.h.c.

#### Vice-Dean for Education and Quality

doc. Ing. Klára Urbanová, Ph.D.

#### Vice-Dean for Development

Mgr. Martina Komárková, Ph.D.

TAB 1.1 LIST OF THE DEPARTMENTS AND UNITS

NO	CZECH NAME	ENGLISH NAME
51110	Katedra tropických plodin a agrolesnictví	Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry (DSCA)
51120	Katedra ochrany a chovu zvířat	Department of Wildlife and Animal Sciences (DWAS)
51130	Katedra potravin a biotechnologií	Department of Food and BioResource Technology (DFBT)
51140	Katedra ekonomiky a rozvoje	Department of Economics and Development (DED)
51150	Botanická zahrada FTZ	FTZ Botanic Garden (BZ)
51900	Děkanát: – Sekretariát děkanátu – Studijní oddělení – Oddělení mezinárodních vztahů – Oddělení pro vědu, výzkum a doktorské studium – Výzkumné pracoviště pro antilopy losí a lamy guanako	Dean's Office: – Secretariat of Dean – Study Administration Office – International Relations Office – Office of Research and Doctoral Studies – Common Eland and Guanaco Research Facility



## DEPARTMENT OF CROP SCIENCE AND AGROFORESTRY

The mission of the Department is to perform educational and research activities in the field of crop production in the Tropics and Subtropics aimed at increasing the sustainability and productivity of agricultural crops, with a special focus on small-scale agricultural systems through a wider use of crop diversity. In terms of education, the Department focuses on the cultivation, use and ecology of tropical crops with emphasis on traditional small-scale farming systems (e.g. agroforestry), but also on the use of modern methods, such as plant biotechnology, supplemented by specialised disciplines such as ethnobotany and chemo ecology.



The research of the Department focuses on the selection of and research into new crops (especially neglected and underutilised species with promising economic value) and the conservation of their genetic resources. Research includes ethnoecological studies of small-farmer communities and indigenous groups to determine the species diversity of cultivated and naturally growing useful plants and to describe traditional practices in their cultivation, processing, and use.

The Department operates four specialised laboratories. The Molecular Biology Lab focuses on the genetic characteristics of crops, especially on research into the population genetics of tropical agroforestry trees. The Plant Tissue Culture Lab focuses on research into new methods of *in vitro* propagation of plant material for the production of genetically identical and healthy planting material. The Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology Lab researches the nutritional properties, chemical composition, and medicinal effects of plants, with the aim of identifying new nutritional and health-promoting foods and developing promising products usable in the food and pharmaceutical industries. The research of the Soil Biology, Ecology and Environmental Research Lab focuses on the evaluation of soil biodiversity and the functions of soil organisms in the conversion of nutrients. The Department also operates a programme of voucher specimen collection.

The Department currently employs a total of 10 academic staff (3 full professors, 2 associate professors, 3 assistant professors, and 3 researchers) and more than 30 Ph.D. students. Employees and students of the Department are involved in four research teams: The Tropical Biodiversity Research Group, The Tropical Biotechnology Research Group, The Tropical Botany and Ethnobiology Lab, and The Tropical Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology Lab. The research activity of the Department is mainly conducted in the form of student diploma dissertations with the aim of their publication in the form of scientific articles (in 2025, the members of the Department participated in the publication of 30 articles in journals indexed on Web of Science). Two doctoral students also successfully defended their dissertations in 2025.

## DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ANIMAL SCIENCES

The Department integrates research and teaching focussed on wildlife ecology and conservation, animal biology and management under diverse environmental conditions, and the sustainable use of animal resources in the Global South. Department members address population ecology and management, biodiversity conservation, mitigation of human–wildlife and wildlife–livestock conflicts, protected area management, wildlife health and disease risks (including zoonoses), and environmental education in developing countries. Across these themes, the Department applies a range of complementary approaches, including field ecology, behavioural and physiological research, laboratory-based pathogen detection and characterisation, and molecular methods where relevant to specific research questions.

A long-term flagship activity of the Department is the conservation of the Western Giant Eland (*Tragelaphus derbianus derbianus*) in Senegal. Since 2000, Department members have contributed to conservation and management activities in West and Central African savannah ecosystems under the auspices of the Antelope Conservation NGO. The Department also maintains strong applied research capacity through the Common Eland and Guanaco Research Facility in Lány, where it has managed farm breeding of the Common Eland (*Taurotragus oryx*) since 2006; a guanaco llama farm (*Lama guanicoe*) was established three years later. The Department operates the Laboratory of Animal Science, the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics, and the Laboratory for Detection and Characterisation of Pathogens, supporting both experimental and field-oriented research.

Research activities are organised within four teams: Animal Physiology and Behaviour, e4 (Ecology, Evolution, the Emergence and Epidemiology of Zoonoses), MEGERA (Molecular Ecology, Genetics and the Evolutionary Research of Animals), and the Wild Ecology Lab. Department research is funded through a combination of national and international grants (including the Ministry of the Interior, Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, Horizon Europe) and contracted research.

In 2025, the Department had a total of 10 core academic staff, 5 staff employed on project positions, 2 technicians and 32 doctoral students, of whom 2 successfully defended. Members of the Department published 31 articles indexed on Web of Science, 5 indexed in Scopus and 2 certified methodologies.

## DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND BIORESOURCE TECHNOLOGY

The Department of Food and BioResource Technology (DFBT) at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, serves as the faculty's core workplace for technology-driven solutions that improve food security and support agricultural and rural development in Global South Countries (GSC). Formerly known as the Department of Sustainable Technologies, the department's current name underscores its long-term orientation toward linking food science and food technologies with bioresource technologies, bioeconomy and the sustainable use of natural resources, especially in the context of GSCs, where practical, resilient innovations can have immediate societal impact. DFBT's teaching and research combine applied engineering and food systems thinking across themes such as bioeconomy, sustainable agricultural practices, food processing and bioresource technologies, and food security, while also addressing the socio-economic impacts of introducing new technologies and production systems in rural areas. This interdisciplinary scope reflects the department's aim to move beyond "technology in isolation" and instead evaluate how solutions perform in real communities to create

economically viable, environmentally friendly solutions that address the complex challenges of food security and poverty. A defining feature of the department is its strong involvement in international and development-oriented research. A substantial part of the department's research is funded by Horizon Europe projects, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR) and the Czech Development Cooperation programme. Apart from these projects, additional funding comes from the FTZ internal grant agency. Our experimental facilities include the Laboratory of Biofuels, the BRT-laboratory (Biogas Research), the Laboratory of Food Processing Technology and the Laboratory of Environmental Technologies. In education, DFBT staff contribute across many accredited FTZ study programmes and the department acts as the guarantor of the English-taught Master's programme "Agri-Food Systems and Rural Development" and the doctoral programme "Sustainable Rural Development," while also providing courses for incoming students through Erasmus+. Through this combination of research, laboratories, and internationally oriented teaching, the DFBT prepares graduates to design and assess agri-food and bioresource solutions that strengthen food systems and rural livelihoods under diverse conditions in GSCs.



Currently the Department has a total of 9 academic staff including two professors, six associate professors, two assistant professors and one post-doc. In addition to the academic staff, there are 22 Czech and foreign Ph.D. students.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department has long-term experience in analysing the economic, environmental, and social aspects that affect the sustainability of agricultural production, natural resource management, added value generation, and the commercialisation of agricultural production. Topics such as migration, consumer behaviour, agricultural policy, adaptation to climate change, profitability and sustainability of farming systems, collective action of small producers, and various forms of certification have become an integral part of the research.

The Department is the guarantor of the Bachelor's study programme *International Cooperation in Agricultural and Rural Development* (ICARD) and the Master's study programme *International Development and Agricultural Economics* (IDAE). The academic staff is also involved in teaching in other programmes of the Faculty and cooperates with partner universities in Czechia and elsewhere in Europe (namely Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Denmark, Sweden and Greece) and in countries of the Global South (e.g., Ethiopia, Indonesia, Cambodia, the Cameroon, Kenya, Nepal, Ukraine and Zambia).

The main emphasis is given to the interdisciplinary character of research with a connection to practice. This is achieved through cooperation with global research organizations and institutions (high-ranked universities, the CGIAR system, the UN system, etc.) and development-oriented activities in the countries of the Global South, such as recently in Cambodia, Georgia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Nepal, Peru and Zambia. As a result, academic staff at the Department published 32 scientific articles indexed in the Web of Science database in 2025. The Department also continued implementing R&I projects funded by the European Commission and the Czech Government. In 2025, the Department consisted of eight regular academic staff members, including two associate professors, three assistant professors, three researchers, and 28 Ph.D. candidates. The Department also cooperates with four external specialists who contribute to supervision of PhD students and project preparation and implementation.

#### BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Botanical Garden of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ Botanical Garden) was established in 1968 together with the construction of the campus of the former University of Agriculture in Prague. Since 2011, when it fulfilled the criteria for membership in the Union of Botanical Gardens of the Czech Republic, the garden has been an active member of this professional network.

Today, the garden covers an area of 3,800 m<sup>2</sup>, including 1,740 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition and collection greenhouses and polycarbonate-covered cultivation facilities.

The collections include more than 1,500 species of tropical and subtropical useful plants organised into several thematic groups. These include three National Collections (citrus plants, tropical useful plants and subtropical useful plants), as well as specialised collections of chilli peppers, medicinal plants and tea plants.



The primary mission of the garden is to support the educational and research activities of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences. Plant material is regularly provided for practical teaching, professional seminars and experimental research in plant physiology, anatomy and molecular biology, including DNA isolation and gene expression analysis.

In 2025, particular emphasis was placed on environmental education and making the collections accessible to both experts and the general public. The garden served as a teaching facility for students of the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, participants of the University of the Third Age and school groups from across the Czech Republic.

Alongside guided tours, the garden hosted thematic exhibitions and served as a venue for media production. International cooperation and non-commercial exchange of plant genetic resources continued through the Index Seminum catalogue, which facilitates seed exchange with scientific institutions worldwide.

## SUMMARY OF 2025

The year 2025 marked a period of continued development and strengthening of the professional background of the FTZ Botanical Garden. Under the leadership of Ing. Anežka Daničková, the garden continued its modernisation and the implementation of procedures in line with the standards of contemporary botanical institutions.

The garden is managed by a team of nine staff members (including three part-time employees) responsible for the professional maintenance of collections, development of exhibitions and outreach activities. The team consists of six university-trained specialists, one graduate of a higher vocational school and two graduates of secondary horticultural education.

A major milestone in 2025 was the official declaration of the National Collection of Subtropical Useful Plants, which complements the previously declared National Collections of Citrus and Tropical Useful Plants (2023 and 2024). The collection currently comprises 231 taxa adapted to subtropical climates, ranging from economically important trees and shrubs to perennial herbs. These species originate mainly from the Mediterranean region, East Asia and the Americas. The origins of this collection date back to botanical expeditions conducted by university researchers in the late 1960s, highlighting the garden's long-standing role in biodiversity conservation and research.

Ongoing inventory and digital documentation of the collections enable the botanical garden to position itself as an important Central European centre for the conservation and study of tropical and subtropical useful plants.

Modern communication channels, particularly the website and social media platforms, continued to play an important role in presenting the activities and unique collections of the garden to the public. Through outreach, knowledge sharing and public engagement, the garden contributes to fulfilling the university's third mission, linking academic expertise with societal benefits and environmental education.

Educational materials for kindergarten and primary school pupils were expanded in 2025 with new sets of worksheets adapted to different age groups. A significant milestone was the acquisition of eco-centre status and the launch of two new environmental education projects supported by the City of Prague and Prague Airport. These programmes aim to strengthen environmental awareness and communicate the importance of global biodiversity conservation to younger generations.

Within the framework of the CZU Sustainability Strategy 2025+, the garden also contributed to the production of educational videos for CZU students. Filming took place partly within the garden's exhibitions, and expert commentary on sustainability topics was provided by the Head of the FTZ Botanical Garden, Ing. Anežka Daničková. The materials are available through the Moodle learning platform.

In 2025, the garden published the 53rd edition of the Index Seminum, listing 663 items. The catalogue was distributed to more than 200 botanical gardens in the Czech Republic and abroad.

The FTZ Botanical Garden also actively participated in thematic exhibitions organised by the Union of Botanical Gardens of the Czech Republic and hosted a range of traditional university events. These included Open Days, the Garden Festival, the Open Gardens Weekend, the Night of Scientists and Valentine's guided tours.

A particularly important date was 22 May, when the garden joined the national Day of Botanical Gardens, focusing on raising awareness of the role of botanical gardens in biodiversity conservation.



Throughout the year, the garden hosted numerous excursions, internships and workshops, including workshops on citrus grafting. Following its successful premiere the previous year, the garden again participated in the Harvest Festival at the CZU Farms in September 2025, which promotes agriculture and traditional cultivation techniques while connecting the academic environment with the wider public.

Professional development of staff was also supported through an international study visit to Italy, including a visit to the university botanical garden Orto Botanico di Roma and other important sites in the region. The trip focussed on Mediterranean flora and the management of historic botanical gardens, and the knowledge gained is being applied in the development of new exhibitions, particularly within the National Collection of Subtropical Useful Plants.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

In 2025, cooperation continued with the Tropical Biotechnology research team led by Prof. Ing. Eloy Fernández Cusimamani, Ph.D., and Ing. Iva Viehmannová, Ph.D.

The FTZ Botanical Garden provides facilities for the cultivation and maintenance of newly acquired plant genotypes and their subsequent morphological evaluation. Species maintained and studied within the research programme include *Mentha spicata*, *Melissa officinalis*, *Solanum muricatum*, *Moringa oleifera*, *Macadamia integrifolia*, *Ananas comosus* and *Gossypium herbaceum*.

Scientific activities also include the management of the yacon collection (*Smallanthus sonchifolius*), with the garden ensuring the full vegetation cycle including winter storage of caudices.

Through collaboration with other departments of CZU Prague and external institutions, the botanical garden continues to provide experimental facilities for research and practical student training.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

An important recognition of the garden's position within the national network was the ceremonial launch of the updated publication Botanical

Gardens and Arboreta of the Czech Republic, which took place on 22 October 2025 in the subtropical greenhouse.

The book, which presents the activities of the FTZ Botanical Garden in detail (pp. 320–331), was launched by environmental expert doc. RNDr. Ladislav Miko, Ph.D. Hosting the event at the university highlighted the role of the garden as an important professional centre and an active member of the Union of Botanical Gardens of the Czech Republic.

### CONSULTING ACTIVITIES

Professional consulting remains an important part of the garden's activities. Staff members provide expertise to the public and institutions through personal consultations, telephone and email enquiries, as well as interactions via social media.

Consulting services focus primarily on the identification of tropical and subtropical plant species, cultivation methods under Central European conditions and plant protection. Through this service, the garden shares its professional expertise and helps address practical horticultural and botanical questions.

### MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Marketing and public relations activities continued to expand in 2025, with an emphasis on more targeted promotion and communication.

Growing public interest in the garden was supported by expanding complementary activities such as greenhouse rentals, sales of plant surplus and plant loans for social events and media productions. The greenhouse facilities were also used for podcast recordings and artistic photography.

Special attention was devoted to thematic educational exhibitions, including Poisonous Season, Plants and Sugars and Secrets of Plant Surfaces. These activities were complemented by the traditional autumn



Chilli Pepper Exhibition, whose 11<sup>th</sup> edition presented a record 150 taxa from the garden's own collections.

During the year, the garden organised 120 guided excursions, and the total number of visitors reached 3,394, confirming the continued growth in attendance compared to 2024.

### CENTRE FOR INFECTIOUS ANIMAL DISEASES (CINEZ)

The Centre for Infectious Animal Diseases (CINEZ) was established in 2020 as an interfaculty centre involving experts from several CZU faculties, including the FTZ. Researchers at CINEZ deal with the issue of infectious animal diseases and zoonoses. On behalf of the FTZ, the activities of CINEZ are conducted mainly by the "e4 research group" led by Dr Jiří Černý and the "CZU mobiLAB" team led by Dr Roubík.

CZU mobiLAB is a mobile molecular biology laboratory platform developed at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague for pathogen detection in biological samples directly in the field. Its main aim is to enable the use of selected molecular and immunological diagnostic methods, including PCR, real-time PCR and ELISA, in remote locations and under conditions with limited laboratory infrastructure. The platform consists of a portable tent-based laboratory, equipment for safe sample handling, analytical instruments, cooling systems and an independent power source.

In 2025, the CZU mobiLAB team continued the development of the upgraded mobiLAB 2.0 platform. We also got ready for establishment of a new CZU spin-off company, mobiLAB Solutions s.r.o. and future implementation of the platform. At the same time, new tents and a negative-pressure chamber were procured for the new laboratory version, and collaboration with EGO Zlín was initiated to develop a new portable glovebox. The upgraded mobiLAB is currently being prepared for field testing in Zambia. In parallel with these activities, the team remained involved in research, training and international cooperation in the field of infectious diseases and field-based diagnostics.

### COMMON ELAND AND GUANACO RESEARCH FACILITY

Since 2002, the Research Facility of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ) has managed the breeding of Common eland (*Tragelaphus oryx*), and since 2009 also the breeding of guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*). The facility is located at the CZU Estate in Láňy and operates under the management of the Department of Wildlife and Animal Science at the FTZ.

The primary mission of the Research Facility is to support education and research activities. It serves as a platform for practical training of FTZ students, student internships, and thesis projects, as well as research projects including international collaboration. The facility is also used for public excursions and professional visits, during which a unique intensive breeding system is demonstrated to national and international audiences.

A key component of both teaching and research activities is the handling system, including a fixation box located in the eland enclosure and, newly, a handling/fixation box installed in the guanaco enclosure.



The latter was acquired through an ERDF-funded project consisting of several stages. The first stage included reconstruction of the eland barn together with the construction of a new study room for students. The second stage involves the installation of new handling equipment for guanacos. The reconstruction, originally planned for 2025, was postponed to 2026 due to an insufficient number of qualified construction companies responding to the public tender.

In 2025, several new initiatives related to the Research Facility were launched. One of these focuses on improved utilization of meat from culled animals. Discussions were initiated between the Pavilion of Food Processing and the Faculty to develop new value-added products. These products are intended to support promotion of the facility and ensure sustainable use of meat and by-products that cannot be utilized for direct human consumption.

Efforts were also initiated to register the facility as a certified "biocentre." This process requires fulfilment of specific administrative criteria, and preparatory steps began in 2025. In addition, a strategic plan for expanding public-oriented services was developed. Planned activities include incorporating programmes such as "A Day with Antelope" into the official portfolio, expanding the range of guided excursions, strengthening public relations, and introducing simplified donation mechanisms for the public, including an animal adoption scheme (sponsorship of individual animals).

### THE COMMON ELAND BREEDING

At the beginning of 2025, the total number of animals was 37 individuals (2 adult males and 35 females of different ages). We observed increased interest in the live animals in 2025, continuing the trend already noted in 2024. Due to the minimum herd size required for research purposes, only two animals (one female and one male) were sold. In addition, the transport of one female, previously postponed due to the Bluetongue epidemic, was completed in December 2025.

In total, 12 calves were born in 2025. Three of them were rejected by their mothers and had to be bottle-fed. Unfortunately, one of these calves did not survive. Despite this loss, we recorded the highest number of successfully reared offspring in at least the past decade. All animals continued to be weighed and measured at monthly intervals to monitor growth and overall health status.



In March 2025, special precautionary measures were implemented due to an outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in Slovakia and other countries. During this period, the facility was completely closed to educational and research activities. Only the animal keeper and the facility manager were allowed access to the premises, and both were required to undergo strict biosecurity measures, including thorough disinfection of vehicles and clothing before entering the barn. Contact between visitors to Láňy and our animals was minimized to reduce the risk of FMD introduction into the facility.

These precautionary measures also resulted in an interruption of feed supply from the ČZU Estate. The animals were temporarily fed hay only. Given the timing of this restriction, lactating females experienced significant weight loss, and the overall body condition of the herd declined. In June 2025, the FMD-related restrictions were lifted, and the regular feed supply was restored. The condition of the animals subsequently improved.

However, toward the end of 2025, we recorded an increased mortality rate among young animals. Following extensive veterinary examinations and necropsies, the veterinarian concluded that the deaths were most likely associated with poor feed quality, specifically clostridial contamination of the feed. The losses primarily affected animals born in 2025, with a few older individuals also affected.

In October 2025, eight males were transferred to our facility from Dvůr Králové Zoo. As a result, the total number of animals at the end of 2025 was 31 individuals (9 males and 22 females). The herd size is currently being maintained at a lower level than in previous years in anticipation of planned facility reconstruction scheduled for May 2026. Should certain reconstruction phases require the animals to remain confined indoors, the reduced number of individuals will help minimize the risk of social conflicts.

### THE GUANACO BREEDING

We entered 2025 with a population of 15 individuals (1 adult male, 9 females, and 5 juveniles). The guanacos were also affected by the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) precautionary measures. We prepared the herd for potential relocation to a nearby grain storage hall in the event that FMD crossed the borders of the Czech Republic. The herd was isolated from visitors as much as possible; multiple warning signs were placed on the fences, and the keepers closely monitored the surroundings of the guanaco enclosures to prevent visitors from directly touching or feeding the animals. Fortunately, relocation was ultimately not necessary.

In total, seven calves were born in 2025 (six males and one female). The calves were vaccinated against coccidiosis to ensure healthy development. One young male had to be temporarily separated into the lower enclosure because the breeding male began to show aggressive behaviour toward him.

In the autumn, a new handling box for guanacos was delivered and installed in the upper enclosure near the hay storage area. This equipment will allow animals to be separated into a smaller space and guided through the handling box for management procedures. Due to unfavourable weather conditions, the box was not put into operation in 2025; commissioning is planned for the beginning of 2026.

At the end of 2025, the total population consisted of 22 individuals (9 males and 13 females).

## The Academic Senate

The FTZ Academic Senate (FTZ AS) members were at the end of 2025 as follows: Ing. Barbora Motýlová, Ing. Miroslav Mulko and Bc. Mikuláš Středa as student members, and doc. Dr. Tatiana Alexiou Ivanova, prof. h. c., doc. RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D., Ing. Tamara Fedorova, Ph.D., prof. Ing. Ladislav Kokoška, Ph.D., Olga Leuner, Ph.D. and doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D. as academic staff members. The FTZ AS met seven times in 2025. The new Dean of the faculty, Assoc. Prof. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D., was elected at the first meeting in January. The second meeting in February was focussed on the new rules for the FTZ Internal Grant Agency and double degree study programme in Thailand. The meeting in April resulted in approval of the FTZ's Annual Report and the budget for specific research. The new vice-deans were approved in May.

The next meeting took place in June, where the distribution of financial contributions and subsidies for 2025, study fees for 2026/27, composition of the disciplinary committee and scientific board, and establishment of a Council for cooperation with practice were discussed and approved. The meeting in September, confirmed the FTZ financial report from 2024, the status of the FTZ and rules for admissions to PhD studies for 2026/27. The last meeting held in November resulted in the approval of the FTZ Organisation Rules and faculty spin-off establishment – mobiLAB Solutions. Further approvals were made twice outside the meetings by per rollam voting including the approval of opening of the supplementary round of admissions and the rules for admissions to BSc and MSc programmes for 2026/27. The meeting of the FTZ Annual Academic Community took place in October 2025, traditionally as part of *The Day with the Faculty* held on 17<sup>th</sup> October. A report on the activities of the FTZ AS and the report from the vice-deans were presented at the event.

## Faculty in numbers

TAB 1.2 NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN 2025

Bachelor's studies	118
Master's studies	105
Doctoral studies (in person)	69
Doctoral studies (combined)	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>475</b>

TAB 1.3 NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN 2025

	Absolute number	Recalculation by FTE
Professors	5	5.0
Extraordinary Professors	0	0.0
Associate Professors	9	8.5
Professors Assistants	16	14.75
Research and Science Staff	3	2.5
Research and Science Staff (non-academic)	5	3.7
Others (Administrative and Operational Staff)	39	30.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>75.85</b>



## FTZ Laboratories

The FTZ has a total of nine laboratories, which are used not only by academic staff but also by students. They use the laboratories to work on their bachelor's, master's, and doctoral theses, gaining valuable skills and experience. The laboratories are also used for teaching and are often presented at open day events for both study applicants and the public.

### THE LABORATORY OF ETHNOBOTANY AND ETHNOPHARMACOLOGY

The Laboratory of Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology (LEE) focuses on the study of the chemistry and bioactivity of underutilized (neglected) crops of tropical and subtropical origin. Species used by native peoples in traditional folk medicinal systems are plants of special interest. Particular research activities involve ethnobotanical inventory studies, the evaluation of (ethno)pharmacological properties, and chemical and nutritional analyses of plant materials focussed mainly on the identification and isolation of their bioactive components. .



### THE LABORATORY OF FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES

The Laboratory of Food Processing Technologies conducts research on technological procedures in food processing with a strong emphasis on solutions applicable in GSCs, prioritising food preservation by drying using simple, cost-effective techniques supported by renewable energy sources such as solar drying and solar cooking, while investigating pre-treatments and their effects on product quality, and modelling drying processes. The laboratory's core equipment and capabilities include an experimental solar drier, conventional electric driers for drying experiments, and a climate chamber for simulating tropical and subtropical drying conditions; instruments to monitor drying processes such as balances for moisture loss, thermometers, relative humidity sensors, thermal anemometers for airflow, and pyranometers for solar radiation; as well as tools for evaluating product quality including a colorimeter (CIE L\*a\*b\*) and a water activity (aw) meter. Additional core equipment includes the instruments for testing of different physical parameters of food, such as mechanical testing (e.g., Instron), apparatuses for dough rheology (MIXOLAB) and gluten quality (GLUTOMATIC), digestible fibres, spectrophotometer (UV-VIS), and facilities for sensory analysis, supporting both research and practical teaching activities

### THE LABORATORY OF BIOFUELS

This laboratory focuses on the study of biomass – a promising renewable energy source with great potential. The purpose of this operation is to research the properties of solid biofuels (pellets and

briquettes) made of different types of biomass and mixtures thereof, including interesting energy crops and agricultural waste. The Biofuels Laboratory is fully equipped with modern equipment such as a calorimeter, a muffle furnace, a laboratory oven drier, a vibrating device for determination of particle size distributions, and a flue gas analyser.



### THE FTZ HERBARIUM

The FTZ Herbarium is part of the Department of Crop Sciences and Agroforestry. It is affiliated with the Tropical Botany and Ethnobiology Lab (TRIBE) team. The Herbarium, in conjunction with the Botanical Garden, forms the FTZ's primary facility for research and education in tropical botany and agronomy. A herbarium is a scientific reference collection of permanently preserved plant specimens for species identification and is also useful for the determination of the geographical distribution, abundance, habitats, and flowering and fruiting periods of species. The FTZ Herbarium is a collection focussed on useful tropical plant species, including major and minor crops and useful wild plants.



### THE LABORATORY OF PLANT TISSUE CULTURES

The Laboratory of Plant Tissue Cultures focuses on research into in-vitro cultures of plants from tropical and subtropical regions with a specialisation in the breeding, plant propagation, and in-vitro conservation of plant genetic resources. Our main research objectives are focussed on the optimisation of micropropagation technology (nodal and apical cultures, the formation of adventitious shoots, indirect organogenesis and somatic embryogenesis), the induction of polyploidy, the in-vitro conservation of plant genetic resources (medium-term conservation, microtuberisation), and the study of somaclonal variability of in-vitro regenerants.

### THE LABORATORY OF MOLECULAR GENETICS

The Laboratory of Molecular Genetics provides routine capacity for DNA extractions from a wide range of tissue types, standard PCR workflows (including real-time PCR), electrophoretic visualisation, and related molecular-analytical procedures. The laboratory infrastructure includes an automatic pipetting robot supporting automation of DNA extraction and liquid handling. To support work with low-quality and non-invasive material, a dedicated pre-PCR space is maintained for DNA extraction from non-invasive samples, reducing contamination risk in downstream analyses. Current research activities conducted within this laboratory focus primarily on population and conservation genetics, complemented by applied forensic research, predominantly on mammal groups. In addition, the laboratory supports student projects focusing on the genetic diversity of agricultural crops and agroforestry tree species—particularly from Latin America and Africa—and evaluating how domestication, deforestation, habitat fragmentation, and breeding programmes influence genetic diversity in the studied taxa.

### THE LABORATORY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE



The Laboratory of Animal Science provides analytical expertise in animal physiology and behaviour, with dedicated equipment for the assessment of blood biochemistry and hematology, antler and bone quality via tensile strength and impact testing, monitoring of selected faecal hormone metabolites via enzyme immunoassays, animal feed quality and digestibility using NIRS, mineral analyses of feed and faeces, preparation of tissue histology slides and analyses with an optical microscope fitted with a camera and using NIS-Elements. The Laboratory is further equipped with a number of types of behavioural evaluation software, a portal behavioural observation lab, and heart rate monitors for large ungulates. We primarily specialise in the analyses of biological samples from tropical and subtropical ungulates, with a focus on free-ranging and captive wildlife species. The laboratory also provides support for the health monitoring of the animals at the CZU Common Eland and Guanaco Research Facilities.

### THE LABORATORY FOR THE DETECTION AND CHARACTERISATION OF PATHOGENS

The laboratory is fully equipped for routine and secure work with biological samples potentially containing pathogenic microorganisms (BSL2) including equipment for the extraction of nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) from such samples and for further detection of specific nucleic acids by (RT-q) PCR and their sequencing via nanopore sequencer.

Further, immunological assays such as ELISA and basic microbiological experiments can be performed in the laboratory. The laboratory is primarily used by the “e4 research group”, which uses it to study the ecology, evolution, emergence, and epidemiology of viral zoonoses and vector-borne diseases.

### THE BIORESOURCES & TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY (BRT-LAB)

The BioResources & Technology Laboratory (BRT) is dedicated to experimental research and applied testing in the fields of anaerobic digestion, biogas production, and sustainable organic waste management. The laboratory is affiliated with the BioResources & Technology Division within the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences. It investigates biological and technological processes involved in the conversion of organic waste and plant residues into renewable energy and value-added products, supporting circular bioeconomy concepts and environmentally responsible waste treatment strategies. Primary research activities include anaerobic digestion batch testing, monitoring of biogas quantity and composition, evaluation of substrate biodegradability and process stability, physico-chemical analysis of substrates and digestates, and assessment of digestate quality for agricultural and environmental use. The laboratory is equipped with laboratory-scale batch and continuous bioreactors, gas analysis equipment, spectrophotometric equipment, and facilities for biotesting and microscopy.

The BRT laboratory focuses its scientific research on three main areas: anaerobic digestion of waste aimed at efficient degradation of organic materials; intensification of the methanogenesis process to improve methane yields and operational stability; and biotesting of digestates for organic farming, including controlled pot experiments. The laboratory supports student training, research projects, and applied technology development and provides video instructions and guides for experimental procedures.





# Studies

## Study at the FTZ

Two Bachelor's programmes (one in Czech, the other in English) and nine Master's programmes (in English only) cover many agricultural issues in developing countries, including rural development. In 2025, the Faculty offered three Doctoral programmes (taught only in English). Thanks to the out-of-European focus of the activities of the entire Faculty, the offer of programmes also reflects the possibilities of employment for graduates outside the territory of the Czech Republic. In 2023, the Faculty introduced a new fully online study programme, Tropical AgroEcology, which in 2024 opened its second year for the first time.

The increase in the total number of Bachelor and Master's students in the last three years slowed due to a stricter admissions process and problems with acquiring visas to the Czech Republic for international students. In 2019, there were 382 Bachelor and Master's students; in 2020, 458; in 2021, 553; in 2022 503 students; in 2023 408 students; in 2024, 394 students and in 2025, 389 Bachelor and Master's students. However, there has been an increase in the number of students who fully fund their tuition fees.

## Undergraduate study programmes

In 2025, the FTZ offered two accredited Bachelor's programmes:

### TROPICKÉ ZEMĚDĚLSTVÍ (TROPICAL AGRICULTURE – TZ)

The graduate profile of the Tropical Agriculture study programme represents a versatile, practically equipped professional course in tropical agriculture. The programme covers both tropical crop production and animal husbandry. A basic knowledge of technology and agricultural economics complements this. Unlike the original accreditation, however, students can choose their preferred course of study and specialize in crop or livestock production due to the larger number of electives. The programme is designed in line with

environmental protection and the need to address poverty and food security in developing countries. This programme is taught in the Czech language.

### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ICARD)

This programme is designed with the objectives of agricultural development and environmental protection, and at the same time, the need to tackle poverty and ensure food security in developing countries along with UN SDGs. The profile of a graduate capable of preparing, managing and evaluating a development project requires that the study be based on the following foundations: the graduate's detailed knowledge and skills in project management; international communication and human resource management in a multicultural environment; a basis in biological disciplines focussed on primary agricultural production; compulsory internship in non-profit organizations, state institutions and private companies engaged in international development and business projects in countries of the Global South. The programme is taught in English.

## Master's study programmes

In 2025, the FTZ offered nine Master's study programmes taught exclusively in English.

### AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND FARMING SYSTEMS IN THE TROPICS AND SUBTROPICS – DOUBLE DEGREE

This Double Degree programme between the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague and the University of Hohenheim (Germany) allows students a Master's degree in the area of agriculture to live abroad and to study in a cosmopolitan and multicultural environment, thus increasing the job opportunities in a growingly globalized context. The double degree offers additional benefits for the students through: a) an increased selection of modules offered on tropical agriculture at both universities, b) the acquirement of soft skills in different teaching

environments as well as cultural backgrounds, and c) scientific work under the supervision of two academics from two different universities.

### AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

This programme aims to prepare graduates to work in agri-food systems and sustainable rural development, specifically focusing on developing countries and tropical areas. The programme is based on an interdisciplinary approach focussed on food production systems in the tropics, food processing, and suitable agricultural technologies based on energy resources. Food security is an essential component of the programme, and it plays a crucial role in rural development in all developing countries.

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

This twoyear Master's programme prepares students to tackle the key economic and development challenges shaping today's agricultural and food systems. Combining strong theoretical foundations from agricultural, institutional and behavioural economics with practical skills, the programme equips graduates to understand how policies, institutions, and economic drivers influence sustainable farming systems, strengthen livelihood resilience, and support cultural and biological diversity. Students gain hands on experience in analysing agricultural policies, designing development interventions, and supporting resilient and inclusive food systems. This programme structure provides a robust foundation for careers in government agencies, research institutes, international organisations, NGOs, consultancy firms and development actors working towards sustainable and equitable agriculture.

Since 2025, the programme has been offered as a doubledegree in partnership with Prince of Songkla University in Thailand – selected for its complementary expertise, strong academic profile, and strategic location in Southeast Asia. Students spend their first year in the Czech Republic, focusing on economic theories and researchoriented coursework. The second year takes place in Thailand, where students further develop their knowledge through specialized courses on tropical crop and livestock production and gain valuable field experience, and collect data for their Master's thesis under joint supervision from both universities, ensuring a rich, international academic experience and strong professional preparation.

### GLOBAL FORESTRY – MULTIPLE DEGREE

Global Forestry is a two-year English language world-class Erasmus Mundus MSc. programme that prepares graduates to deal with forestry's tremendous contemporary challenges and potential in medium and low-income countries. A consortium of five European Universities with extensive experience in global forestry offer the programme:

- **CZU:** The Czech University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (Czech Republic)
- **AgroTech Paris:** The Paris Institute of Technology for Life, Food and Environmental Sciences (AgroParisTech), Montpellier and Kourou campuses (France)
- **TUD:** Die Technische Universität, Dresden, Institute of International Forestry and Forest Products, (Germany)
- **UCPH:** The University of Copenhagen, Department of Food and Resource Economics (Denmark)
- **UP:** The University of Padua, School of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (Italy)

### TROPICAL AGROECOLOGY

Tropical Agroecology focuses on studying interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment within broader tropical and subtropical agricultural systems, considering the socio-economic aspects needed to develop sustainable and equitable food systems that support the Sustainable Development Goals. Agroecology combines science with traditional practices to provide long-term solutions to agricultural issues that empower local communities and producers. The programme is provided fully online with two practically oriented periods of stay on the university campus.

### TROPICAL CROP MANAGEMENT AND ECOLOGY

This programme aims to prepare professionals for the next generation who need to address challenges closely tied to tropical and subtropical agricultural systems, biodiversity conservation, nutrition, and human health, as well as approaches specific to countries of the Global South.

### TROPICAL FARMING SYSTEMS

This programme is oriented towards modern farming systems in the tropical regions of developing countries. The study programme covers the issue of crop production with an emphasis on the long-term sustainability of farming systems and surrounding natural ecosystems. In this programme, students pay for their tuition. However, the programme offers a wide range of specialisations through elective courses and general study flexibility.



### TROPICAL FORESTRY AND AGROFORESTRY

This study programme is based on an interdisciplinary approach to deepen knowledge and practical skills related to forestry and rural development in countries of the Global South. Students are prepared for forestry and wood processing activity in the countries of the tropical and subtropical zones. Great emphasis is also placed on related rural development in these countries.

### WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

In this study programme, students will receive a solid theoretical background in wild and domestic animal production, management, and conservation. The programme primarily focuses on the regions of the Global South, yet the curriculum is also suitable for applicants interested in ex-situ wildlife management, i.e. work in a European zoo. Theoretical knowledge is combined with practical training and fieldwork units. The programme offers Sustainable Animal Production (SAP) and Wildlife Management and Conservation (WMC) specializations.

# Doctoral studies

During doctoral studies, students are expected to acquire an understanding of their chosen subject area, develop advanced research skills, and conduct original research that contributes to the knowledge and understanding of the field. This may involve designing and conducting experiments, analysing data, developing theories, or applying existing knowledge to new problems or contexts. In addition to skills, doctoral students are also expected to display strong critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills. This includes the ability to evaluate and synthesize complex information, communicate research findings to both academic and non-academic audiences, and collaborate with others in their field. Ultimately, the goal of such studies is to prepare students to become independent scholars and experts in their field, capable of bringing new knowledge and insights to the broader academic community. Besides their research activities, Ph.D. students at the FTZ are encouraged to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals, present their results at international conferences, and participate in teaching and science popularization. They also undertake a doctoral examination including the defence of their doctoral thesis according to their ISP (Individual Study Plan). Currently, the FTZ offers studies in three study programmes.

## TROPICAL AGROBIOLOGY AND BIORESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Programme guarantor:** Prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.

**Education:** 37 – agriculture (50%), 3 – biology, ecology and environment (50%)

**ISCED-F:** 0888

**Accreditation valid:** November 18, 2029

**Language of study (accreditation):** English

**Standard length of study (maximum length of study):** 4 years (8 semesters)

**Minimum number of credits:** 240

**Possibility of studying in a combined form:** yes

**Tuition fee (for 1 year of study):** CZK 8,000

### TABM DOCTORAL DEGREE BOARD:

#### Chairman of the Board:

prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.

#### External members:

prof. RNDr. David Honys, Ph.D.

prof. Lukáš Kratochvíl, Ph.D.

Ing. Martin Kulma, Ph.D.

Ing. Jiban Kumar, Ph.D.

Prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc.

#### CZU members (excluding FTZ):

doc. Ing. Jaroslav Havlík, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Pavel Klouček, Ph.D.

prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.

#### Internal members:

prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.

doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D.

doc. RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D.

Ing. Olga Leuner, Ph.D.

prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.

doc. Tersia Kokošková (Needham), Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Zbyněk Polesný, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.

Ing. Iva Viehmannová, Ph.D.

## SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Programme guarantor:** Prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.

**Education area:** 37 – agriculture (100%)

**ISCED-F:** 0888

**Accreditation validity:** December 17, 2028

**Language of study (accreditation):** English

**Standard length of study (maximum length of study):** 4 years (8 semesters)

**Minimum number of credits:** 240

**Possibility of studying in a combined form:** yes

**Tuition fee (for 1 year of study):** CZK 8,000

### SRD DOCTORAL DEGREE BOARD:

#### Chairman of the Board:

prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.

#### External members:

Ing. Bo-Anne Rohlík, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Ondřej Dvouletý, Ph.D.

#### CZU members (excluding the FTZ):

prof. Ing. Lukáš Kalous, Ph.D.

#### Internal members:

doc. Ing. Miroslava Bavorová, Ph.D.

Ing. Olga Leuner, Ph.D.

Ing. Jana Mazancová, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Klára Urbanová, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.

## AGRICULTURE IN TROPICS AND SUBTROPICS

**Programme guarantor:** Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.

**Education area:** 37 – agriculture (100%)

**ISCED-F:** 0888

**Language of study (Accreditation):** English

**Accreditation valid:** November 18, 2029

**Standard length of study (maximum length of study):** 3 years (6 semesters)

**Minimum number of credits:** 180

**Possibility of studying in a combined form:** yes

**Tuition fee (for 1 year of study):** CZK 80,000

### ATS DOCTORAL DEGREE BOARD:

#### Chairman of the Board:

prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.

#### External members:

prof. RNDr. David Honys, Ph.D.

prof. Lukáš Kratochvíl, Ph.D.

Ing. Martin Kulma, Ph.D.

Ing. Jiban Kumar, Ph.D.

prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc.

#### CZU members (excluding the FTZ):

doc. Ing. Jaroslav Havlík, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Pavel Klouček, Ph.D.

prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.

#### Internal members:

prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.

doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D.

doc. RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D.

prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.

Ing. Olga Leuner, Ph.D.

doc. Tersia Kokošková (Needham), Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Zbyněk Polesný, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.

Ing. Iva Viehmannová, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.

All three doctoral study programmes at the FTZ have undergone an internal accreditation process and are approved by the Council for Internal Evaluation of the CZU. The topics of dissertations are approved by the DDB (Doctoral Degree Board), and applicants are admitted to study on the basis of a comprehensive evaluation. During their studies, students undergo department attestations twice a year, where they have to show the fulfilment of their ISP (Individual Study Plan), and progress on their research work.

TAB. 2.1 NUMBERS OF GRADUATES IN 2025

ZS-TABM – 7x ZS-SRD – 4x

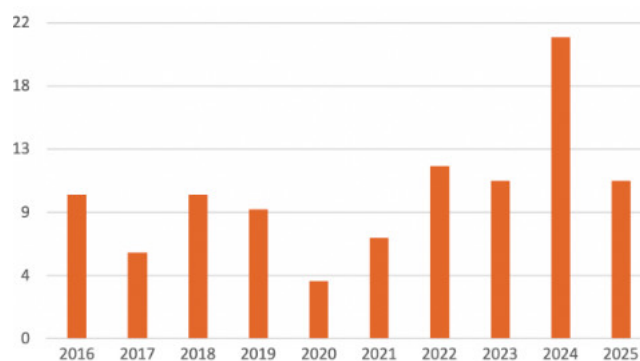
## Students in accredited study programmes

The total number of Bachelor's and Master's students in 2025 was 389 (5 students less than in 2024). All students studied in full-time forms of study. In addition, 28 students studied in lifelong learning – at the University for the "Third Age". The overviews below contain a review of all study programmes.

More than half of the students were international students, most of whom were students from the Global South countries. As such, the Faculty maintains a multicultural environment, enabling the mutual interaction of Czech and international students.

Most foreigners in 2025 were from Ghana, Nigeria, India, Zambia, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Slovakia, Myanmar, and the USA, (see the following chart: all figures below are from 31st October 2025).

GRAPH 2.1 THE NUMBER OF PH.D. GRADUATES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



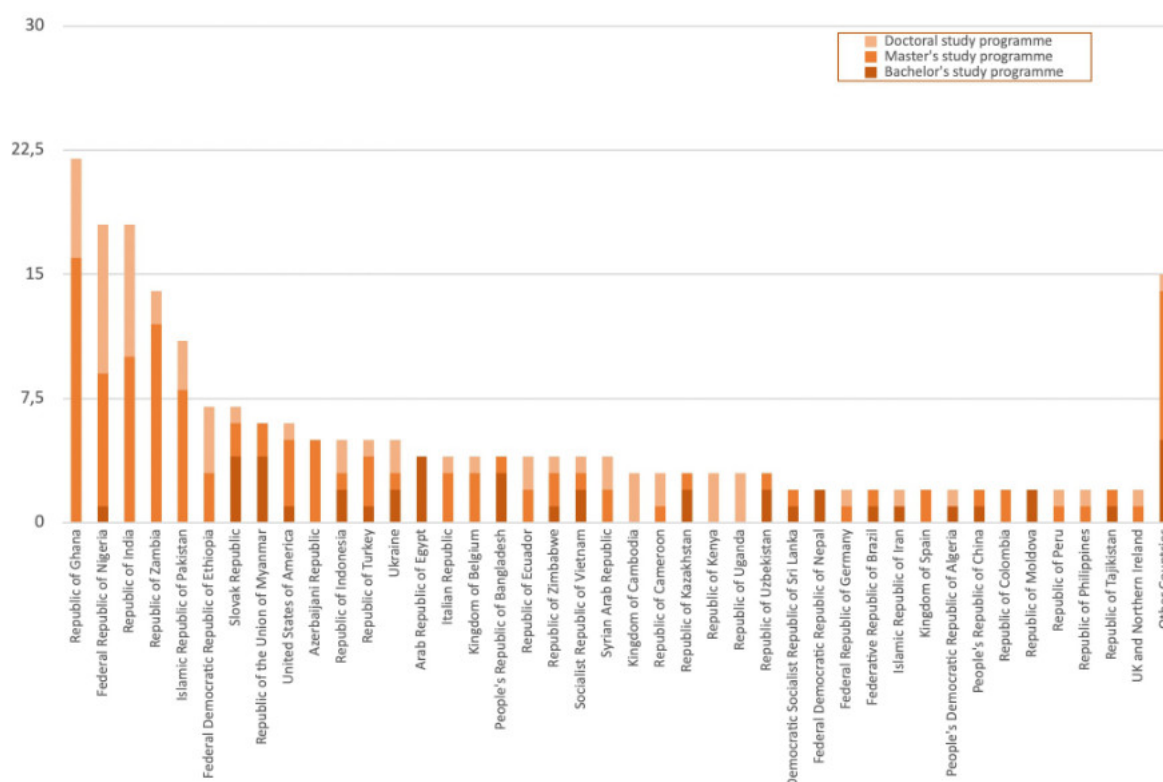
The graph shows that the number of PhD graduates declined in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the subsequent years, the number of graduates increased again. In 2024, a strong cohort graduated, whose studies had been extended by approximately six months due to the pandemic, together with students who enrolled shortly after this period. In 2025, the number of graduates stabilized at levels comparable to previous years.

TAB. 2.2 NUMBER OF PH.D. STUDENTS - 31.10.2025

Year of study	D-ATS	D-SRD	D-TABM	Total
1.	1	9	13	23
2.	1	9	8	18
3.	1	8	10	19
4.	0	12	14	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>86</b>

This table shows the detailed distribution of doctoral students by programme and type of study.

GRAPH 2.2 NUMBERS OF FOREIGN STUDENTS BY MOST REPRESENTED COUNTRIES (31.10.2025)



**TAB 2.3 TYPE OF STUDY  
- BACHELOR'S STUDY  
PROGRAMMES**

Year of study	B-ICARD		B-TZE	
	cz	other	cz	other
1.	7	16	101	3
2.	5	11	41	-
3.	1	12	36	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>5</b>

**TAB 2.4 TYPE OF STUDY - MASTER'S STUDY PROGRAMMES**

Year of study	N-ASRD		N-IDAE		N-TCME		N-TFA		N-TFS		N-WLPMC		N-TAE	
	cz	other	cz	other	cz	other	cz	other	cz	other	cz	other	cz	other
1.	-	6	-	11	1	2	4	10	-	-	12	7	-	3
2.	-	15	2	28	10	8	1	2	3	5	6	13	-	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

**TAB 2.5 TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS  
BACHELOR'S AND MASTER STUDY PROGRAMMES**

Year of study	FULL-TIME STUDY		DISTANT STUDY	
	cz	other	cz	other
1.	120	60	-	3
2.	75	77	-	3
3.	37	14	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

**TAB 2.6 TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS  
DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMMES**

Year of study	FULL-TIME STUDY		PART-TIME STUDY	
	cz	other	cz	other
1.	5	12	4	2
2.	2	13	-	3
3.	4	12	1	2
4.	3	18	-	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>

**TAB 2.7 STUDENTS IN STUDY PROGRAMMES IN ACADEMIC YEARS (31. 10. 2025)**

Study programme	2016 / 2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
<b>B-ICARD</b>	51	91	76	63	92	106	85	72	56	52
<b>B-TURS</b>	37	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>B-TZE</b>	176	154	164	195	197	234	189	176	172	183
<b>N-AFS</b>	23	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>N-ASRD</b>	39	35	41	32	49	48	49	26	25	21
<b>N-IDAE</b>	50	59	43	40	50	53	50	30	47	41
<b>N-TAE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	6
<b>N-TCME</b>	39	28	21	12	23	34	44	32	27	21
<b>N-TFA</b>	16	11	11	10	12	16	17	14	14	17
<b>N-TFS</b>	7	4	2	2	5	20	27	25	19	8
<b>N-WLPMC</b>	30	22	27	28	30	42	42	32	31	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>389</b>

## Other educational activities, lifelong learning

Following the strategic goal of the CZU (priority strategic goal 3.1 "Linking educational activities in study with the involvement of students in scientific and research work"), students were involved in the creative activities of the Faculty and especially in research and development projects within their final and seminar papers, and partial assignments on grant projects.

Close cooperation also took place with the application sector in the fields of science and research (collaboration with research institutes, implementation of research for application in the private sphere), development projects (partnerships with companies and non-profit organizations), and teaching (sharing external lecturers in taught subjects, offers of internships for students in companies and non-governmental organizations involved in international development projects, offers of diploma theses in cooperation with the application sphere).

Since 2013, the subject "Block of Experts" has been introduced in Bachelor's programmes to enable presentations by experts with practical experience. In 2024, this was attended by five international development experts from Czech NGOs, academia, companies and state institutions.

The FTZ regularly offers a lifelong learning course within the University of the Third Age entitled "*Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Tropical Regions*." The course lasts four semesters and includes lectures, field excursions, and laboratory experiments that provide participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical experience. Its capacity was fully filled in 2025 when the new cohort began.

In 2025, a new initiative was launched with the aim of strengthening cooperation with secondary schools. All departments prepared engaging presentations reflecting their research focus and field experience, which are now actively offered to high schools across the Czech Republic as a complementary educational resource to enrich their standard curricula. Doctoral and Master's students serve as the primary presenters, thereby further developing their communication and presentation skills. This initiative represents a mutually beneficial strategy, enhancing educational outreach while simultaneously supporting the professional development of our students.

## Student support at the faculty

Student counselling is understood to be an integral part of working with students. For this reason, counselling has long been provided in the main areas following the Higher Education Act:

- in the field of study and pedagogy,
- in the psychosocial domain,
- in the field of professional careers,
- in the legal area and
- in the field of access to information.

Counselling is provided through several communication channels: students can obtain the necessary information electronically on the Internet, the students' Intranet or by e-mail or contact with the FTZ specialist counsellor for the given area directly or by phone. Consultation through MS Teams has been recently adopted as well.

In 2024 the CZU opened a new CZU University Counselling Center (CPS) to coordinate counselling services within the university. The CPS covers Mental Health Counselling, Career Center activities and provides Counselling services for Students with Special Educational Needs. A faculty coordinator is regularly in contact with both the students and the CPS to discuss the agenda and help students navigate the counselling and support system for the student population.

The FTZ mainly supports pedagogical counselling, which involves the staff of the Academic Administration Office, one specialized pedagogical counsellor, the Vice-Dean for Education and Quality, and two teachers – coordinators of 1st-year Bachelor's programmes. In addition, there is mutual counselling between students and the Faculty.



International students are allowed consultations beyond the regular consultation hours, and one specialized employee of the Faculty's Academic Administration Office is assigned to foreign applicants. In 2021, the Faculty also introduced systematic work by "Student Ambassadors," assisting foreign applicants and new international students. A group of Master's degree students worked as student advisors (ambassadors) in 2025.

At the FTZ, exceptionally gifted students are motivated by a system of merit scholarships (a scholarship during their studies and a one-off scholarship for the State Final Examination). The current merit scholarship is CZK 1,500 per month. A total of 14 outstanding students were supported during 2025.

Furthermore, students are motivated by participation in grants from the Internal Grant Agency of the Faculty, where they are involved in scientific teams with doctoral students and teachers. They also participate in development projects abroad (approximately 15 to 20 Bachelor's and Master's students per year). They can also be supported in terms of international mobility, associated (organized by the International Relation Office) with their qualification work (support for students going abroad to collect data for their qualification work).

Since 2013, a group of graduates has been introduced within the professional social network LinkedIn, (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5062023>). Through this network, the Faculty maintains contact with graduates .

In order to make the Faculty environment more friendly and comfortable, a room for students to relax and study was retrofitted in 2024. Comfortable armchairs, seating bags have been purchased and students can use the room daily according to their needs.

## Interest in studies at the faculty

In 2025, the Faculty received 460 applications for Bachelor's and 427 applications for Master's programmes. The number increased significantly during 2018 – 2022. The increase slowed in 2023, especially for Czech applicants to Bachelor study programmes. The admission procedure has become more and more selective, and the quality of admitted students is increasing every year. However, applicants still face significant problems when entering study, mainly due to the difficulty of obtaining a visa to the Czech Republic for applicants from African and Asian countries.

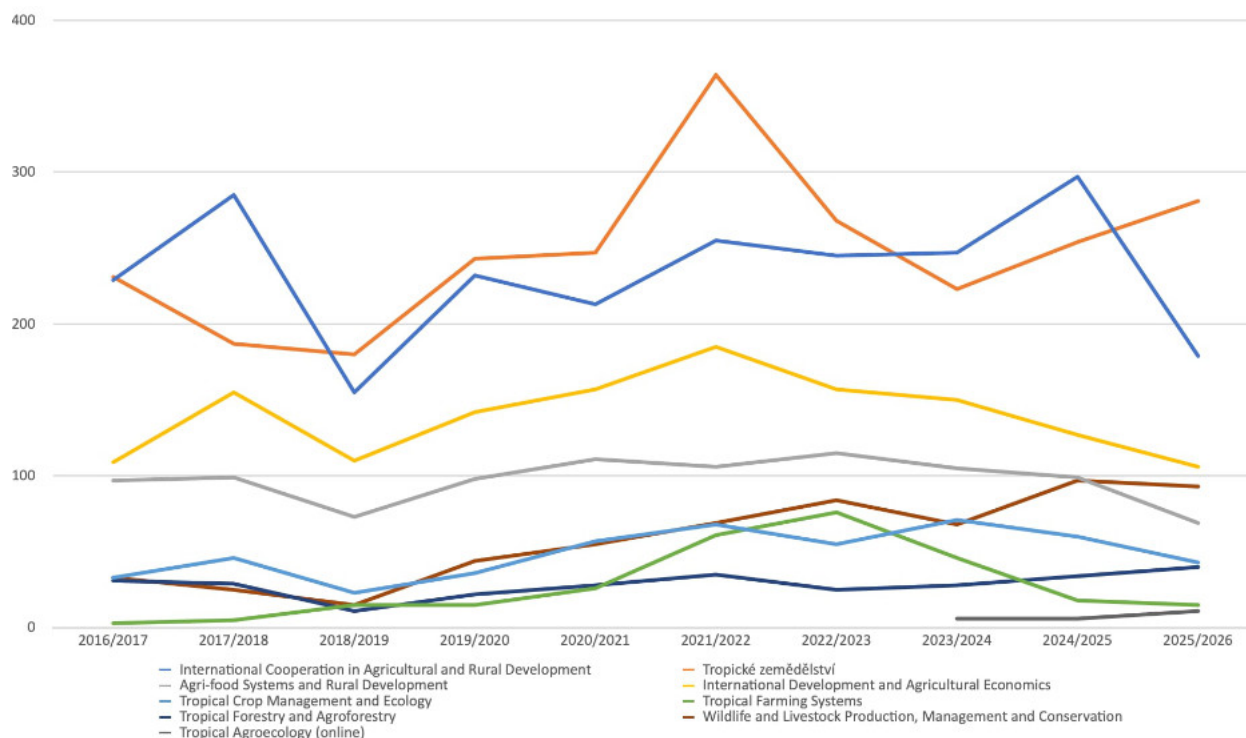
Potential applicants for Bachelor's studies were approached primarily through online advertising on social networks and in cooperation with the [vysokeskoly.cz](http://vysokeskoly.cz) website. The Faculty was also opened to prospective students during open days held in January, March and November and through events for the general public, such as the Night of Scientists or Sciencefest. Representatives of current students also participated in fairs for high schools, some of whom presented the opportunities to study at the FTZ in their former high schools. Faculty members have also participated in several seminars and panel discussions in the country and abroad to communicate the possibilities of studying at the Faculty.

The admission procedure for Bachelor's degree programmes takes into account the previous achievements of applicants in the form of good results in national olympiads and the study average of earlier studies - admission without an entrance exam for Bachelor's degree programmes up to an average of 1.6 (decrease from 1.8 in 2021) from their graduation certificate or the last completed year of high school.



# Number of applications

GRAPH 2.3



TAB 2.8 BACHELOR'S STUDY PROGRAMMES

Study programme	2016 / 2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
ICARD	229	285	155	232	213	255	245	247	297	179
TZ	231	187	180	243	247	364	268	223	254	281
<b>Total</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>460</b>

TAB 2.9 MASTERS'S STUDY PROGRAMMES

Study programme	2016 / 2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
ASRD	97	99	73	98	111	106	115	105	99	69
IDAE	109	155	110	142	157	185	157	150	127	106
TCMAE	33	46	23	36	57	68	55	71	60	43
TFS	3	5	15	15	26	61	76	46	18	15
TFA	31	29	11	22	28	35	25	28	34	40
WLPMC	33	25	15	44	55	69	84	68	97	93
SAP	–	–	–	9	20	31	29	39	51	44
WMC	–	–	–	35	35	38	55	29	46	49
TAE (online)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	6	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>377</b>

# Statistics admission procedure

## ADMISSION PROCEDURES FOR BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES

The admission procedure varies depending on the chosen Bachelor's programme. For the Tropical Agriculture programme, the entrance examination consists of a test in English and Biology. Applicants with foreign education additionally undergo an interview in the Czech language. For the ICARD programme, the admission procedure has two rounds. In the first round, the admission committee selects applicants based on the submitted documents and their suitability for the study programme. Selected applicants are then invited to the second round – the actual entrance examination in English and World Geography. Applicants are admitted to study at the FTZ according to their ranking based on the points achieved in the entrance examination.



## ADMISSION PROCEDURE FOR MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

Applicants had to provide a CV, an annotation of their Bachelor's thesis and a motivation letter in English for all study programmes. The entrance exams involve an English interview focussed on the programme content. In the oral interviews for all programmes, the candidate had to achieve at least 60 points out of 100 according to the criteria set by the examination committee for each programme – i.e. according to their level of professional and standard English, an assessment of their cross-sectional knowledge, previous experience, experience in the field, and the focus and quality of their Bachelor thesis. Applicants are admitted to study at the FTZ according to the evaluation of the points obtained in the entrance exam up until the capacity of the study programme.

Admissions committees are proposed by the programme guarantors and approved by Board of the Dean of the Faculty.

Detailed statistical overviews, based on the Decree of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports No. 343/2002 Coll., giving the procedure and conditions for publishing data on university admission procedures, are posted on the official board of the faculty.

**TAB 2.10 STATISTICS ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

Study programme / Specialisation	Number of applications	Complete	Attended	Terms met	Terms not met	Admitted in the first round	Admitted in total	Commented study
International Cooperation in Agricultural and Rural Development	179	179	165	29	136	29	29	14
Tropické zemědělství	281	281	203	172	31	172	172	107
Agri-food Systems and Rural Development	69	69	63	18	45	18	18	3
International Development and Agricultural Economics	106	106	95	31	64	31	31	6
Tropical Agroecology	11	8	10	10	0	10	10	3
Tropical Crop Management and Ecology	43	42	39	17	22	17	17	3
Tropical Forestry and Agroforestry	40	36	40	25	15	25	25	13
Tropical Farming Systems	15	15	14	0	14	0	0	0
Wildlife and Livestock Production, Management and Conservation/ SAP Sustainable Animal Production	44	43	41	14	27	14	14	2
Wildlife and Livestock Production, Management and Conservation/ WMC Wildlife Management and Conservation	49	49	47	29	18	29	29	15





# Science and Research

## Activities of office of research, science and doctoral studies

The Department of Science, Research and Doctoral Studies, staffed by the Vice-Dean for Science, Research, and Doctoral Studies and an administrative officer, provides comprehensive organizational and administrative support across several key academic and research functions within the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences. It supports especially the activities of the Faculty's Scientific Board and Doctoral Degree Boards, manages habilitation and professorship appointment procedures, and ensures the effective distribution of science and research related information. The department also organizes institutional support for scientific research activities, oversees the operation of the Faculty's Internal Grant Agency (IGA), and handles all administrative tasks related to doctoral studies, ensuring that all related processes run efficiently and in accordance with valid regulations. Since 2025, it has also been responsible for the activities of the Research Ethics Committee at FTZ.

## Research Ethics Committee

In 2025, the Research Ethics Committee was established at FTZ on July 1, by Dean's Regulation 3/2025. The Committee was established for the purpose of assessing research project proposals carried out under the FTZ CZU, with the aim of ensuring compliance with ethical, legal, and professional standards. The committee has six members (the chair, one academic staff member from each department, and one student from FTZ) who are appointed and dismissed by the Dean of FTZ CZU for a term of up to three years. The chair is usually the Vice-Dean for Science, Research and Doctoral Studies at FTZ CZU. The Committee reviews the submitted applications at its regular meetings, which are held twice a year (usually at the beginning of the semester). In 2025, the Committee met in person once, specifically at its first constituent

meeting on September 3, and then worked on preparing the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Research Ethics Committee (issued as Dean's Regulation 15/2025) and prepared the necessary application form.

## Professorship and habilitation procedures

The FTZ is entitled to carry out procedures for the appointment of full professors and habilitation procedures in the field of "Tropical Agriculture and Tropical Ecology". In these procedures, the teaching and scientific qualifications of a candidate who is a distinguished and recognised personality in his/her field are evaluated.

### Professorship procedures in 2025:

- The procedure for the granting of a professorship of Dr. Sc. Habil, Dr. Sc. Agr., Ing. Miroslava Bavorová was initiated and a five-member Evaluation Committee was approved by FTZ Scientific Board on October 17, 2025.

**There were no habilitation procedures in 2025.**



## FTZ scientific board

The original Scientific Board operated until the appointment of the new Board, ensuring continuity in the faculty's academic and research governance during the transition period.

### FTZ MEMBERS

prof. Dr.ir. Patrick Van Damme	Chairman, Dean of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences
prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.	Department of Food and BioResource Technology
doc. Ing. Miroslava Bavorová, Ph.D.	Department of Economics and Development
doc. Francisco Herrador Ceacero, Ph.D.	Department of Wildlife and Animal Sciences
prof. Dr. Ing. Eloy Fernández	Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry
prof. Ing. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D.	Department of Wildlife and Animal Sciences
prof. Ing. Ladislav Kokoška, Ph.D.	Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry
prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.	Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry
doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.	Department of Food and BioResource Technology
prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, Ph.D.	Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry

### EXTERNAL MEMBERS (OUTSIDE THE CZU)

prof. RNDr. Daniel Frynta, Dr.	Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Charles University
prof. Dr. RNDr. Oldřich Lapčík	Department of Chemistry of Natural Compounds, Faculty of Food and Biochemical Technology, The University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague
doc. Ing. Jan Chyský, CSc.	Division of Electrotechnics, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, The Czech Technical University in Prague
prof. RNDr. Josef Novotný, Ph.D.	Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Faculty of Science, Charles University
prof. RNDr. Vojtěch Novotný, CSc.	Department of Ecology, The Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences
doc. Mgr. Zdeněk Opršal, CSc.	Department of Development and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Science, Palacký University Olomouc
doc. RNDr. Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Ph.D.	The Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of The Czech Academy of Sciences

### CZU MEMBERS

doc. Ing. Vilém Jarský, Ph.D.	Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, CZU
prof. Dr. Ing. František Kumhála	Faculty of Engineering, CZU
prof. PhDr. Michal Lošťák, Ph.D.	Faculty of Economics and Management, CZU
Ing. Kateřina Černý Pixová, Ph.D.	Faculty of Environmental Sciences, CZU
prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.	Faculty of Agrobiolgy, Food and Natural Resources, CZU

With the appointment of the new dean, a new Scientific Board was appointed with effect from June 26, 2025, for a term ending on April 25, 2029. It has 20 members.

### FTZ MEMBERS

doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.	Chairman, Dean of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences
prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.	Department of Food and BioResource Technology
doc. Ing. Miroslava Bavorová, Ph.D.	Department of Economics and Development
Mgr. Barbora Černá Bolfiková, Ph.D.	Department of Wildlife and Animal Sciences
prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejzmanová, Ph.D.	Department of Wildlife and Animal Sciences
prof. Ing. Ladislav Kokoška, Ph.D.	Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry
prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.	Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry
doc. Ing. Johana Rondevaldová, Ph.D.	Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry

### EXTERNAL MEMBERS (OUTSIDE THE CZU)

prof. Ing. Jakub Fischer, Ph.D.	Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, The Prague University of Economics and Business
prof. Dr. RNDr. Oldřich Lapčík	Department of Chemistry of Natural Compounds, Faculty of Food and Biochemical Technology, The University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague
doc. Ing. Jan Chyský, CSc.	Division of Electrotechnics, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, The Czech Technical University in Prague
prof. RNDr. Josef Novotný, Ph.D.	Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Faculty of Science, Charles University
prof. Dr. Ing. Petr Maděra	Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, The Mendel University in Brno
doc. Mgr. Zdeněk Opršal, CSc.	Department of Development and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Science, Palacký University Olomouc
prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, Csc.	The Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of The Czech Academy of Sciences
prof. Ing. Tomáš Polícar, Ph.D.	University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

### CZU MEMBERS

prof. Dr. Ing. František Kumhála	Faculty of Engineering, CZU
prof. PhDr. Michal Lošťák, Ph.D.	Faculty of Economics and Management, CZU
doc. Mgr. Lukáš Trakal, Ph.D.	Faculty of Environmental Sciences, CZU Prague
prof. Ing. Eva Vlková, Ph.D.	Faculty of Agrobiolgy, Food and Natural Resources, CZU Prague

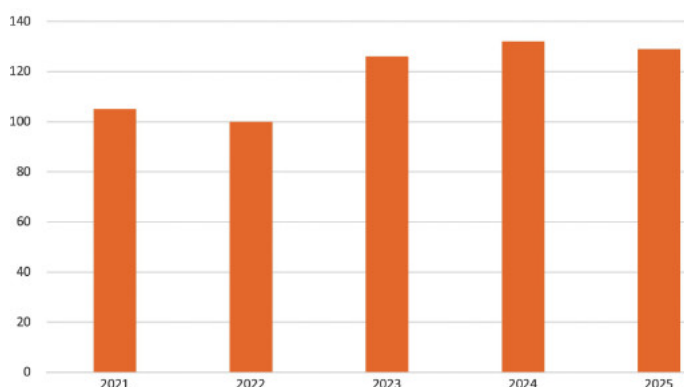
# Publications and results in Science and Research

The Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ) is a unique institution in the Czech Republic, striving to become a leader in the field of tropical agrisciences research. Our long-standing efforts have been directed toward this goal, encompassing a wide spectrum of research activities, strategic international partnerships, and a strong emphasis on increasing both the quantity and quality of scientific outputs. In the highly competitive scientific environment, success is measured not only by research achievements but also by their visibility through high-impact scientific publications. To support this, the FTZ has established a robust system to encourage both staff and students to publish their research in top-tier journals and present it at academic conferences.

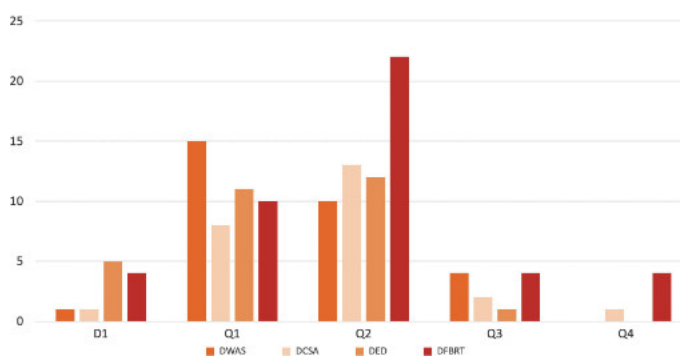
Our commitment to nurturing scientific authorship is particularly evident in our approach to student engagement. For doctoral students, a scientific article accepted in a peer-reviewed journal with an Impact Factor (IF) is a mandatory part of the qualifying requirements, alongside the traditional dissertation. The student must be the first author of the article, which must be thematically aligned with the approved dissertation topic. Furthermore, an alternative and increasingly recognized format for Ph.D. thesis defence is a set of published papers. This format requires at least three articles accepted in IF-ranked journals, with the student serving as the first author on at least two of them. All publications must directly relate to the approved dissertation topic.

Academic staff are motivated through a structured annual evaluation system, which balances teaching and research performance. Teaching contributions are tracked via STAT points and thesis supervision, while research performance is assessed based on publication output. This

**GRAPH 3.1 NUMBER OF FTZ PUBLICATIONS IN THE LAST 5 YEARS**



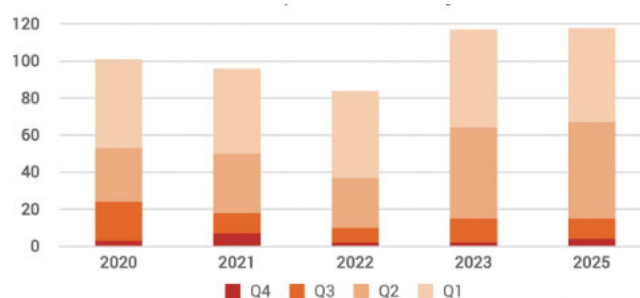
**GRAPH 3.3a DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED PAPERS OVER QUARTILES BASED ON IF (WOS)**



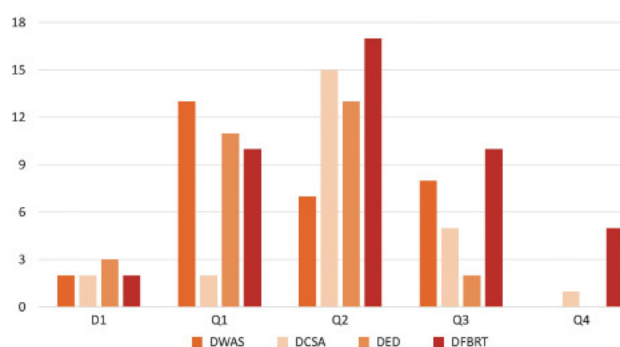
includes the number of publications, journal quality (quartile ranking), number of co-authors, and the individual's authorship position—particularly the role of corresponding author. Moreover, the Faculty has doubled the point value for Scientific articles published in Nature Index journals to motivate academics publishing under this prestigious publisher (Dean's Regulation 14/2025). The total number of citations of each academic staff member recorded in the WoS Core Collection database is also taken into account (citations of works published within the last 5 years). In light of evolving national research evaluation frameworks, such as the M17+ Methodology, the FTZ's incentive system is also being adapted. The following outputs of research activity will soon also be included in academic staff annual evaluation system: patents, utility models, and book chapters.

In 2025, a total of 128 articles were published in journals indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus databases. After a significant increase in the FTZ's publishing activity in 2023 compared to 2021 and 2022, this has stabilized over the last three years, averaging around 130 published articles per year (Graph 3.1 NUMBER OF FTZ PUBLICATIONS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS (2021-2025)). 119 articles have been published in WoS journals with IF; 1 article was published in WoS journal without IF; 7 articles were published in Scopus journals with SCImago Journal Rank (SJR); and 1 article in other peer-reviewed journals - see the graphs below which give an overview of the evolution of the number of articles with IF over the last five years. One monograph book was published in 2025 with affiliation to the FTZ, and a further 8 book chapters in books on various topics, including in particular sustainability, and plant and animal genetic resources. Moreover, two certified methodologies were developed at the Faculty. The Faculty also organized or co-organized a total of 8 national or international conferences and 3 exhibitions. Furthermore, over 40 other scientific outputs were recorded, which mainly encompassed oral or poster presentations at scientific conferences and symposiums.

**GRAPH 3.2 DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED PAPERS OVER QUARTILES (2020 - 2025)**



**GRAPH 3.3b DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED PAPERS OVER QUARTILES BASED ON AIS (FORD)**



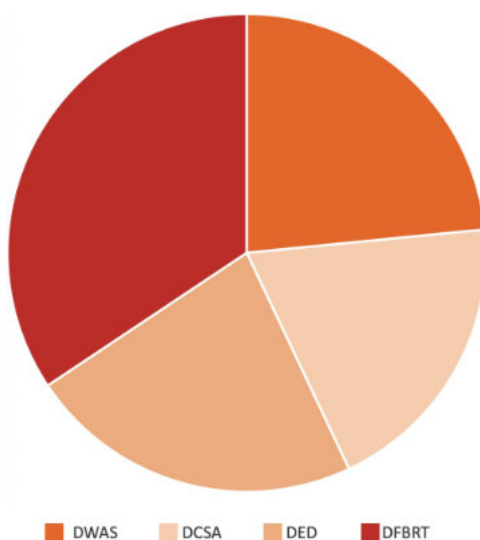
The majority of publications based on IF were in Q2 journals (52), followed by Q1 (41), Q3 (11), D1 (10), and Q4 (5). Similarly, AIS classification shows the highest number of publications in Q2 journals (48), followed by Q1 (33), Q3 (24), D1 (8), and Q4 (7). These figures indicate a strong concentration of FTZ's research output in mid-to-high quality journals, with a notable emphasis on Q1 and Q2-ranked outlets in both metrics. The relatively lower number of publications in Q3 and Q4 journals suggest a strategic orientation towards visibility and impact in reputable scientific platforms.

Last 5 years (2021-2025) distribution of published papers over quartiles based on IF are shown in the graph 3.2.

The evaluation of research and programmes of targeted support for research, development and innovation based on M17+ Methodology is trending away from the IF as one of the important indicators of the quality of publications and instead introduces the AIS (Article Influence Score). In an AIS, journals can still be divided into quartiles according to their WoS categories, but in the full 17+ Methodology FORD (Fields or Research and Development) divisions are required to be applied. The graph below shows a comparison of the distribution of papers published in 2025 in quartiles based on IF (WOS) and AIS (FORD) respectively.

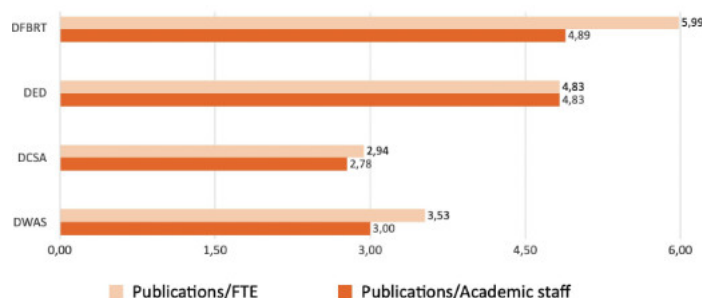
Individual departments exhibit different publishing activity, which is illustrated in Chart 3.4. This may be influenced to some extent by the numbers of academics working in individual departments. Thus, an important performance indicator is the number of published papers per academic staff member and per full-time equivalents (FTE) (Graph 3.5a Average of publications in 2025 per FTE/Academic staff). It can be seen that in 2025 the lowest performance was at DCSA, with an average output of 2.94 published papers per FTE and 2.78 per academic staff, while the highest was at DFBRT, reaching 5.99 and 4.89, respectively. On the other hand, it is also important to note that the average output of published papers per member of academic staff of FTZ remains the highest in the university and among the highest in the Czech Republic. To maintain high-quality publications in the long term, it is essential that publication outputs are distributed equally among all academic staff. One of our main goals is that each academic staff member of the FTZ should have at least one publication in an IF per year. However, in 2025, 2 (out of a total of 34 academic staff at the FTZ) did not publish a single publication. On the other hand, almost half of all academic staff of the FTZ were authors/co-authors of at least three articles each (Graph 3.5b Distribution of published papers in 2025 at the FTZ by individual academic staff).

CHART 3.4 DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATION IN 2025 (WOS) AMONG DEPARTMENTS

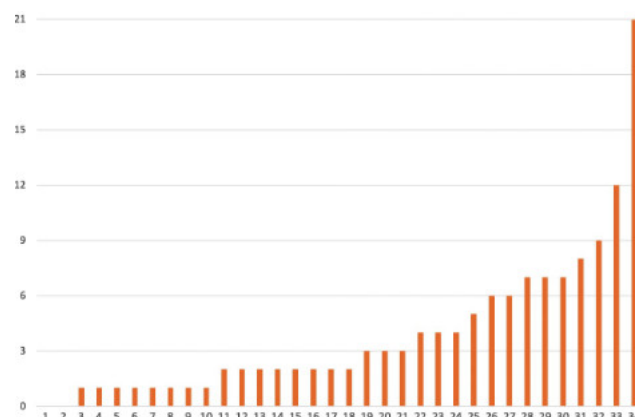


DWAS – Department of Wildlife and Animal Sciences DCSA – Department of Crop Science and Agroforestry  
 DED – Department of Economics and Development DFBRT – Department of Food and BioResource Technology

GRAPH 3.5a AVERAGE OF PUBLICATIONS IN 2025 PER FTE / ACADEMIC STAFF



GRAPH 3.5b DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED PAPERS IN 2024 AT FTZ BY INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC STAFF

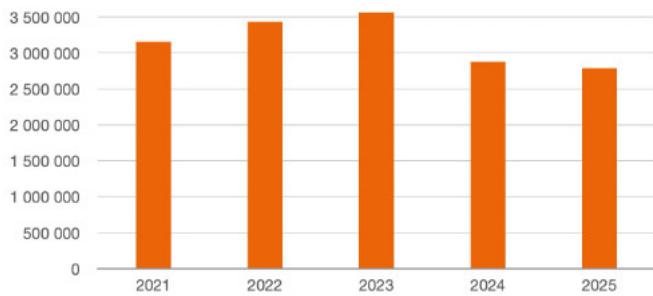


# Projects and grants

## SPECIFIC UNIVERSITY RESEARCH (SUR)

In 2025, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences received funding for Specific University Research (SUR) in the amount of CZK 2,785,907. These funds were used in accordance with the Rules for the Provision of Special Purpose Support for SUR under the Act on Support for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation and were spent in full. The graph 3.6 shows the evolution of the total subsidy for SUR over the last five years.

**GRAPH 3.6 TOTAL SUBSIDY OF SPECIFIC UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AT FTZ FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS (IN CZK)**



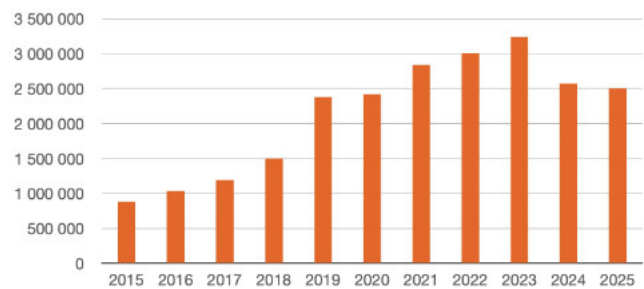
## FTZ INTERNAL GRANT AGENCY

The majority of SUR funds were administered through the Internal Grant Agency of the FTZ (IGA FTZ). Specific Research encompassed research activities carried out by teams that included students enrolled in accredited Master's and Doctoral programmes. These activities were closely linked to students' thesis work and formed an integral part of their academic development. IGA FTZ grants were intended to foster the independent creative work of students within their respective disciplines, while simultaneously strengthening their engagement in research and project-based activities. The scheme also supported collaboration between students and academic staff, facilitating the formation of research teams under the supervision of experienced researchers.

Project leaders were members of the academic staff, and each project was required to maintain a balanced composition, where the number of participating Ph.D. and Master's students was at least equal to the number of academic staff involved. In 2025, in line with updated internal regulations of the FTZ, IGA funds could also be used to cover personnel expenses of early-career researchers, in addition to student scholarships.

The funds allocated to the IGA FTZ have shown a continuous upward trend over the previous ten years; however, this trend was interrupted in 2024, when the total allocation decreased for the first time. In 2025, the budget remained at a lower level, confirming this change in development – see Graph 3.7. In 2025, 15 one-year projects were supported for a total amount of CZK 2,500,000. These projects involved 210 Master's and doctoral students; see the table 3.4.

**GRAPH 3.7 TOTAL DISTRIBUTED BUDGET OF INTERNAL GRANT AGENCY OF FTZ FROM 2015 – 2025 (IN CZK)**



TAB 3.4 THE BUDGET OF THE INTERNAL GRANT AGENCY OF THE FTZ (IGA FTZ)

NAME OF THE PROJECT	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	BUDGET (CZK)
Waste valorisation for environmental protection	Tatiana Alexiou Ivanova	7	117 000 CZK
Food security and innovative food processing methods	Jan Banout	24	286 000 CZK
Agroecology and profitability of agri-food sector	Miroslava Bavorová	40	442 000 CZK
Welfare of wild and domestic tropical ungulates	Francisco Ceacero Herrador	21	190 000 CZK
Monitoring Genetic Evolution in Animal Populations	Barbora Černá Bolfíková	19	228 000 CZK
Induction of Artificial Autopolyploidy for Advancing Genetic Enhancement and Improvement in Plants	Eloy Fernández Cusimamani	5	137 000 CZK
Wildlife behaviour and ecology inside and outside of formally protected areas in the West African savanna	Pavla Hejčmanová	7	63 000 CZK
Enhancing Inclusiveness, Competitiveness, and Sustainability in Food Systems	Petra Chaloupková	19	143 000 CZK
Pharmacological potential and chemical composition of plant-derived products	Ladislav Kokoška	17	214 000 CZK
Farm, forest, veld, and fork – strategies to improve sustainable animal production and consumption	Tersia Kokošková	4	84 000 CZK
What is the role of agroforestry in biodiversity conservation and provision of ecosystem services?	Bohdan Lojka	10	136 000 CZK
The Rural Dimension of Agenda 2030 in Low-Income Countries	Jana Mazancová	18	286 000 CZK
Indigenous plant agrobiodiversity and ethnobiology in the tropics	Zbyněk Polesný	2	67 000 CZK
Applications of 3D visualisations in termite biology	Jan Šobotník	1	56 000 CZK
Biotechnology: a tool for crop improvement	Iva Viehmannová	6	51 000 CZK
		<b>210</b>	<b>2 500 000 CZK</b>



## EXTERNAL GRANTS AND PROJECTS

In 2025, FTZ staff and students participated in external projects, including 11 EU-funded grants and 13 national research grants funded by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, Czech Development Agency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The tables below summarise all these projects, including the principal investigator, and the total project budget. Details can be found on the FTZ website: <https://www.ftz.czu.cz/cs/r-6860-projekty-a-spoluprace-s-praxi/r-21597-projekty>

TAB 3.5 OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL PROJECTS

Project name	Duration	Provided by / Provider	Project Coordinator	Project Budget	Contact Person / Principal Investigator
Phosphogypsum Processing to EU Critical Raw Materials	2022-2025	The Technology Agency of Czech Republic	Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Formation de l'Enseignement Agricole (ENSFEA)	1 000 000 EUR	Hynek Roubík
Genetic monitoring of wolves	2024-2026	The Technology Agency of Czech Republic	Charles University	13 683 008 CZK	Barbora Černá Bolfíková
CZU mobiLAB 2.0 - Modular Molecular Biology Laboratory	2025-2028	CZU	CZU	3 000 000 CZK	Hynek Roubík
Supporting the application potential and commercialization of a sealing cap for testing volatile substances	2025-2028	CZU	CZU	3 000 000 CZK	Ladislav Kokoška
AgriSci-UA Platform: Strengthening Research Capacities and Deepening Collaboration Among Ukrainian Universities in Agricultural Sciences	2025	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	CZU	1 670 000 CZK	Hynek Roubík
Supporting Ukrainian Students-Refugees through Academic Collaboration between Universities in Moldova and the Czech Republic	2025	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	CZU	1 165 000 CZK	Tatiana Alexiou Ivanova
Novel Sustainable Forward-Osmosis Seawater Desalination Process - deSalSea	2025-2028	The Technology Agency of Czech Republic	University of the Basque Country (Spain)	7 431 079 CZK	Hynek Roubík
Tropical and Subtropical Treasures: The Path to Sustainability and the Conservation of Natural Resources	2025-2026	The Prague City Hall	CZU	250 000 CZK	Anežka Daníčková
Strengthening Climate-Resilient Agricultural Markets in Western and Southern Provinces of Zambia	2025-2027	Czech Aid	People in Need	30 000 000 CZK	Jana Mazancová
MWAZACO: Mine Water Atlas of the Zambian Copperbelt	2025-2028	Czech Republic	Development Association	4 017 000 CZK	Hynek Roubík
Revive Tigray: Sustainable Livelihoods through Water Access and Value Chain Development	2025-2027	Czech Aid	People in Need	2 500 000 CZK	Jana Mazancová
Modernization and Raising the Prestige of Higher Agricultural Education in Moldova	2025	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	CZU	1 320 000 CZK	Tatiana Alexiou Ivanova
SmartAgriCambodia: Advancing Sustainable Agriculture in Battambang	2025-2027	Czech Aid	CZU	36 500 000 CZK	Petra Chaloupková

## FOREIGN PROJECTS

In 2025, 13 foreign projects were implemented under the guidance or cooperation of FTZ experts. The implementation of these projects has aspects of international and research activities (applied research) and provides practical knowledge for students and teachers.

All development projects implemented under the leadership of the FTZ are presented on the Faculty's website in both Czech and English. For more information see: <https://www.ftz.czu.cz/en/r-9423-projects-and-partnerships>.

**TAB 3.6 OVERVIEW OF FOREIGN PROJECTS**

Project name	Duration	Provided by / Provider	Programme	Operator	Project Budget	Contact Person / Principal Investigator
GLOFOR – EMJM in Global Forestry	2022-2028	European Commission	Erasmus+	University of Copenhagen	4 864 800 EUR	Bohdan Lojka/Petra Chaloupková
Structural Capacities for Tackling Wicked Problems (SCORE)	2022-2025	European Commission	Erasmus – Cooperation partnerships	Methodius University in Skopje	121 705 EUR	Hynek Roubík
DIGITAF – DIGItal Tools to help AgroForestry meet climate, biodiversity and farming sustainability goals: linking field and cloud	2022-2026	European Commission	Horizon Europe	National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA)	3 667 138 EUR	Bohdan Lojka
UNICOM – Universities-Communities: strengthening cooperation	2023-2027	European Commission	Erasmus+	Universita di Genova	988 435 EUR	Hynek Roubík
AGRIGEP – Assessment and implementation of Agriculture and Life Science Universities' first Gender Equality Plans in widening countries	2023-2025	European Commission	Horizon Europe-Widera	Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences	998 237 EUR	Jana Mazancová
OSIRIS – Open Science to Increase Reproducibility in Science	2023-2026	European Commission	Horizon Europe-Widera	UMC Utrecht	1 688 433 EUR	Hynek Roubík
ADVALUE Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains through Strengthening Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in East African Doctoral Education	2024-2026	European Commission	Erasmus+	Nuertingen-Geislingen University	800 000 EUR	Petra Chaloupková
BIO-CAPITAL - Mobilising investments for protecting and restoring biodiversity by harnessing innovative financial solutions and advanced geospatial analytics	2024-2027	European Commission	Horizon Europe	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague	298 875 EUR	Hynek Roubík
Combined Use of EGNSS and Copernicus Data to Develop Innovative Downstream Services for the Users from Chile and Colombia	2024-2026	European Commission	Horizon Europe	LESROJEKT-SLUŽBY Ltd	1 499 893 EUR	Hynek Roubík
MSCA4UKRAINE - Yelizaveta Chernysh	2023-2025	European Commission	MSCA4Ukraine	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague	150 439 EUR	Hynek Roubík
H2SCALE - Paving the way for setting up scalable, green hydrogen-based economic models for local communities in the Danube Region project	2024-2025	European Commission	Interreg Danube	University of Pécs	117 740 EUR	Hynek Roubík
V-BIOCHAR:Vermicompost & Biochar Integration for Climate-Smart Farming	2025-2026	UNDP	Czech Challenge Fund - UNDP-IRH-00181	ADRA CR	66 615 EUR	Hynek Roubík
CI4VC Collaborative Innovation for Sustainable Value Chains: a case study approach	2025	International	Project Call - International	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague	7 000 EUR	Petra Chaloupková

A more detailed description of some of these projects is contained in the chapter *International Relations*.

## LONG-TERM PROJECTS

### ANTELOPE CONSERVATION – GIANT ELAND CONSERVATION IN WEST AFRICAN SAVANNAH

- **Principal investigator:** Karolína Brandlová
- **Project duration:** since 2010
- **Provider:** international grants and private donations

The Antelope Conservation NGO associates scientists, students and enthusiasts who want to participate in biodiversity conservation and to change the fate of the Western Giant eland and other antelope species in the West and Central African savanna. The NGO is based at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague and closely cooperates with students and staff from Wildlife Ecology Lab.

The team members have 25 years of experience in antelope conservation in the West African savannah. The team provides scientific evidence for conservation management decisions, builds capacities for antelope conservation and provides support for field operations. Antelope Conservation also developed and implemented environmental education and awareness programmes for everyone from school kids to the general public in many countries both in Africa and Europe and provides carefully designed educational and awareness materials for all types of public use with special focus on Western Africa (mostly in French).

In 2025, the Antelope Conservation NGO launched the year with several expeditions to Senegal. The identification team led by experienced student of the faculty worked in the Bandia and Fathala reserves to determine the parentage of newly born calves of the critically endangered Giant eland—an essential part of maintaining the studbook the NGO has managed since 2008. In February, chairwoman Karolína Brandlová negotiated cooperation with local partners in Senegal, while project specialist Markéta Grůňová explored new concepts for environmental education at a workshop for local communities. In March, the team travelled to the Central African Republic to assess opportunities for collaboration with local institutions and visited the Chinko Reserve, managed by the African parks, and home to the eastern subspecies of Giant eland. In June, the team returned to Senegal, this time to the Niokolo Koba National Park, the last refuge of the wild western subspecies of the Giant eland. Two students from the FTZ and members of Antelope Conservation joined the Project Lycaon and wildlife monitoring efforts in cooperation with the park's management. Throughout the year 2025, members continued their annual outreach activities in the Czech zoos, as well as on a field of the faculty and university.

## Postdoc positions

In the reporting period, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague successfully launched a call for four two-year postdoctoral positions aimed at strengthening its internationally recognized research and addressing key challenges in tropical and subtropical regions. The positions were opened across four core departments: the Department of Food and BioResource Technology, the Department of Wildlife and Animal Sciences, the Crop Science and Agroforestry, and the Department of Economics and Development. All positions were successfully filled by highly qualified researchers, who will contribute to further advancing the faculty's scientific excellence and international collaboration.

## Conferences

In 2025, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ), Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU Prague), played an active role in organising and hosting several **international and national conferences** that strengthened its position as a hub for interdisciplinary dialogue, research collaboration, and innovation.

In June 2025, CZU Prague hosted the **Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnobotany (SEB)** for the first time in the Czech Republic. The conference brought together researchers, academics, and students from around the world to explore ethnobotany, biocultural diversity, and traditional plant knowledge. The programme combined keynote lectures, workshops, poster sessions, and field excursions, alongside a dedicated "Teaching Tuesday" focused on innovative approaches, including immersive VR applications in education.

FTZ also contributed as a partner to the Annual Conference of the **Czech Evaluation Society (ČES) 2025**, held under the theme "Evaluation in a Dynamic World." The conference addressed contemporary evaluation challenges, including the use of artificial intelligence, methodological approaches, and the role of higher education institutions. The programme featured plenary discussions, thematic sessions, and practical workshops, as well as a student evaluation competition.

The **6th International Multidisciplinary Conference for Young Researchers (MCYR 2025)**, organised by the BioResources & Technology Division at FTZ, further highlighted the faculty's commitment to supporting early-career scientists. With more than 210 participants from across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas, the conference provided a dynamic platform for interdisciplinary exchange, networking, and the development of new collaborations. Organised in partnership with several international initiatives, MCYR continues to grow as an important global meeting point for emerging researchers.

The Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ) also contributed to the organisation of the **22nd European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ERSCP 2025)**, which was held for the first time in the Czech Republic in September 2025. Hosted at CZU Prague and organised by EMPRESS, the conference focused on "Multi-stakeholder cooperation on sustainability," highlighting the roles of business, academia, the public sector, and civil society in advancing sustainable consumption and production (SCP).

The event brought together leading experts and stakeholders to exchange knowledge, share innovative approaches, and foster collaboration across sectors. By hosting ERSCP 2025, CZU Prague reinforced its role as an active platform for international dialogue on sustainability and contributed to shaping future strategies and practices in this key area.



## Awards

### JOSEF HLÁVKA AWARD AND PROFESSOR STOKLASA PRIZE

PhD student **Şeyma S. Celina** has been awarded both the **Josef Hlávka Award** and the **Prof. Stoklasa Award**, recognising her exceptional academic performance and research excellence.

For Şeyma, the awards represent an important milestone: "Receiving the Josef Hlávka Award and the Professor Stoklasa Award is a deeply meaningful honour for me. They reflect years of hard work, dedication, and passion for science and research, and they represent important recognition from the Czech academic community. These awards inspire me and strengthen my motivation to continue pursuing high-quality and impactful science."



Her research focuses on the molecular and ecological dynamics of the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV) and its primary vector, the tick *Hyalomma marginatum*, across the Western Palaearctic region. By combining molecular data with ecological and computational approaches, she investigates how genetic and environmental factors influence the distribution of this species and its capacity to transmit the virus.

Her work contributes to a deeper understanding of host–vector–pathogen interactions and supports more effective disease surveillance and public health preparedness. In the context of climate change and increasing global animal movement, her research is particularly relevant for advancing One Health approaches that connect animal, human, and environmental health.

Professor Stoklasa Prize is the most prestigious award for PhD students in the country for the doctoral thesis.

Şeyma has demonstrated exceptional academic performance through impactful research on zoonotic viruses. She is the author of eight peer-reviewed articles in Q1 journals, including two D1-ranked papers. Her first-author publications in *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, *Transboundary and Emerging Diseases*, and *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* have contributed to understanding the ecology, molecular evolution, and epidemiology of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV), a WHO-prioritized emerging pathogen. She has presented her work at six international conferences. The full list of her publications is attached. Further, she serves as a reviewer for *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*.

She is a two-time recipient of the CZU Rector's Prize for Publication Output for her D1/Q1 first-author publications. She earned her MSc degree at CZU with Summa Cum Laude, supported by Czech Government and Merit Scholarships.

### MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AWARD

**Neha Gupta** was awarded for Outstanding Doctoral Research at CZU Prague.



On 10 November 2025, Neha Gupta, a PhD graduate of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ), Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU Prague), was recognised for her exceptional doctoral research titled "The Impact of Artificial Polyploidisation on the Biological Activities of Medicinal and Ornamental Plants." The aim of the thesis was to enhance the therapeutic and agricultural potential of polyploid plants. The work offers a new way to naturally increase the quality, yield, and market value of plant-based products for pharmaceutical, cosmeceuticals and nutraceuticals industries.

She successfully completed her doctoral studies in just three years, demonstrating remarkable dedication, scientific excellence, and research focus.

In recognition of her significant contribution to the fields of agriculture, forestry, and environmental sciences, she received the Minister of Agriculture Award for the best doctoral research.

Her work provides valuable new insights into plant biotechnology and opens up promising opportunities for practical applications in both research and industry.

### PROFESSOR MIROSLAV VLČEK SCHOLARSHIP

Beenzu Munkombwe Muzyamba, a student of the FTZ, CZU Prague, has been awarded the Professor Miroslav Vlček Extraordinary Scholarship in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the international student community.

Through her active involvement in student support, representation, volunteer activities, and academic engagement, she has made a meaningful impact on campus life and serves as an inspiring example of commitment and community spirit.

## THE FTZ DEAN'S AWARD FOR THE BEST SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION OR POPULARISATION OUTPUT

Professor Pavla Hejčmanová Recognised for Her Contribution to Wildlife Conservation and Science Communication

Professor Pavla Hejčmanová is a leading expert in tropical ecology and agriculture at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ), Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU Prague). She heads the Wildlife Ecology Lab, focusing on the ecology and conservation of large mammals.

For more than 25 years, she has been dedicated to the conservation of antelopes in Senegal. She was the first member of today's Antelope Conservation team to begin field research in the region, aiming to identify the distribution and feeding ecology of the last remaining individuals of the critically endangered western subspecies of the Derby eland. Her doctoral research laid the foundation for an internationally recognised team that remains the only group in the world exclusively focused on the conservation of antelopes in West and Central Africa.

Professor Hejčmanová is a founding member of Antelope Conservation, a member of the IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group, and a research associate at the Institute of Zoology of the Zoological Society of London.

Among her most recent achievements is the Dean's Award of FTZ for the best publication/science communication output of 2025, awarded for the exhibition "25 Years of Antelope Conservation." The exhibition '25 Years of Antelope Conservation' told the story of dedication to wildlife conservation with nothing else than a strong scientific background and engagement for capacity building. It celebrated not only the beauty of antelopes and African savannas, but also the people behind all the work. The exhibition aimed to inspire young early career researchers and professionals for a deeper connection between science and society, and showed that effective conservation begins with understanding, respect, shared responsibility, and last but not least the perseverance. Through the conservation of antelope, they work for people and nature.

## THE FTZ DEAN'S AWARD FOR THE BEST MOODLE COURSE

1<sup>st</sup> Place was awarded to Ing. Tereza Pilařová, Ph.D. for the outstanding design and implementation of the course Migration and Development.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place was awarded to doc. Ing. Karolína Brandlová, Ph.D. for the high-quality development and long-term enhancement of the course Introduction to Wildlife Management.

## THE FTZ DEAN'S AWARD FOR TEACHING ACTIVITY

The Rector's Award for Excellence in Teaching for the academic year 2024/2025 was awarded to Associate Professor Ing. Karolina Brandlová, Ph.D., in recognition of her outstanding contribution to education and her dedicated approach to teaching.



## FTZ research groups

There are 15 research teams at the FTZ, which consist of academic staff, research staff, technical staff, doctoral students and FTZ students:

### – THE ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOUR RESEARCH GROUP

The Animal Physiology and Behaviour team, established in 2018, focuses on the links between physiological and behavioural processes in both wild and domestic species, with a particular emphasis on mammals. Its research covers feeding ecology, reproductive and social behaviour, development of secondary sexual traits, animal welfare, and the quality and safety of animal production. The team also conducts haematological, biochemical and hormonal analyses, as well as parasitological monitoring. Research projects are carried out worldwide, especially in tropical and subtropical regions, and are supported by the Common Eland and Guanaco Research Facility.

### – BEHAVIOURAL STUDIES IN AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

The Behavioral Studies in Agri-Food Sector research group focuses on understanding human behaviour within the agri-food sector through interdisciplinary approaches combining economics, sociology and psychology. Its research generates robust empirical insights for both academia and policy-making, with the aim of supporting sustainable innovation, improving rural livelihoods, ensuring compliance with food regulations, and strengthening food security and safety. The group's long-term vision is to contribute to a resilient and sustainable agri-food system by providing evidence-based knowledge that helps decision-makers address key global challenges, including climate adaptation and the transformation of food systems.

### – THE BIORESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH TEAM

The BioResources and Technology Division (BRT) is dedicated to unlocking the potential of biogas plants and sustainable technologies worldwide. Our broad spectrum of activities encompasses research, development, implementation, project coordination, and communication and dissemination services. Our multidisciplinary approach allows us to address complex environmental challenges and contribute to sustainable development on a global scale. Together, we strive to share our knowledge, uphold the highest research quality standards, execute impactful projects, and celebrate the remarkable individuals who make our work possible.

### – THE BIOENVIRO RESEARCH TEAM

The BioEnviro Research Team focuses on developing sustainable and diversified energy solutions for rural communities. Its research explores the valorisation of agricultural residues and invasive plant species, optimization of energy crop processing, and sustainable conversion of municipal solid waste and wastewater biosolids into energy. The team also conducts environmental assessments, including life cycle analysis, greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint evaluation, to ensure that proposed solutions contribute to environmentally responsible and resilient energy systems.



### – CONSUMERS' BEHAVIOUR & CAPACITY BUILDING (COBE)

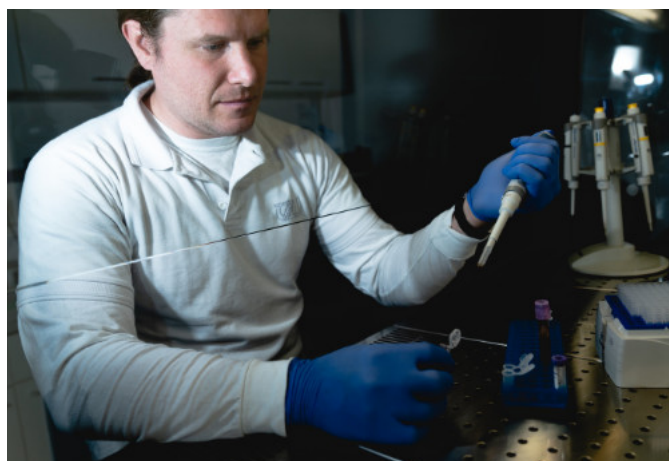
The COBE (Consumers' Behaviour & Capacity Building) research group focuses on understanding consumer behaviour and strengthening capacities of individuals and communities to address key global challenges, including sustainable agriculture, food security, natural resource management and rural development. Its research explores consumer attitudes and decision-making, changes in consumption patterns, global agricultural value chains, leadership in the agri-food sector, and the development of skills and employability in an international context. The team is actively involved in international research and development projects, particularly within EU programmes and development cooperation, and collaborates with partners across Europe, Asia and Africa. By combining research, education and practical engagement, COBE contributes to building resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for future generations.

### – THE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH GROUP

The cooperative research team, established in 2017 at the Department of Economics and Development of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, focuses on collective action among small-scale producers, particularly in countries with a socialist historical background. Its research examines how producer cooperatives and farmers' organisations can improve market access, income opportunities and overall livelihoods of rural populations. The team analyses economic and social impacts of cooperation, including the role of leadership, social capital, motivation to cooperate, and effects on gender and youth, as well as the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. With field activities spanning Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa, the research contributes to broader themes such as transparent and competitive markets, inclusive value chains, and the development of ethical and sustainable supply systems in line with current European policy frameworks.

### – THE E4 (ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, EMERGENCE & EPIDEMIOLOGY OF ZOOSES) RESEARCH GROUP

The research group focuses on zoonoses—diseases transmitted between animals and humans—with the aim of understanding the mechanisms by which pathogens cross species barriers, including transmission to humans. Its work primarily targets viral pathogens, while also addressing bacteria and protozoa. The research integrates field studies, laboratory analyses and advanced data modelling to monitor pathogen circulation between wild and domestic animals. Using molecular, immunological and microbiological methods, the team detects and characterises pathogens and studies their genetic relationships with hosts to better understand their evolution. By combining these approaches, the group provides a comprehensive view of host–pathogen interactions, contributing to improved surveillance and prevention of emerging infectious diseases.



#### – THE FOOD SECURITY RESEARCH GROUP

The research group focuses on enhancing food security in developing countries, with a particular emphasis on food processing technologies that ensure sufficient production of safe, high-quality, and nutritious foods. Key priorities include developing cost-effective preservation methods using renewable energy, such as solar drying and solar cooking, and exploring natural compounds as food preservatives. In addition, the group investigates socio-economic factors affecting food security, including agricultural practices, land tenure systems, and policies, while also assessing the quality of locally produced foods to support sustainable and resilient food systems.



#### – MEGERA: MOLECULAR ECOLOGY, GENETICS AND EVOLUTIONARY RESEARCH OF ANIMALS

Our research group is focused on a different aspects of animal biology using genetic tools. We study population genetics usually of mammalian species (insectivores, carnivores, ungulates, etc.) and we are highly interested in interspecies interactions including wildlife and their domestic forms (hedgehogs, spiral horned antelopes, wolves-dogs, etc.). We participate in several conservation projects and we try to apply our results into conservation practice (eland). We also study evolutionary processes that formed domestic animals and we search for candidate genes of specific diseases (dogs).

#### – THE TERMITE RESEARCH TEAM (TRT)

The research group focuses on termites, exploring their phylogeny, ecology, and symbiotic relationships with microorganisms. The team also investigates termite behaviour, including chemical and alarm communication, to better understand their social interactions and ecological roles.

#### – TRIBE | THE TROPICAL BOTANY AND ETHNOBIOLOGY LAB

The Tropical Botany and Ethnobiology Lab (TRIBE) studies tropical and subtropical plants and their traditional uses, aiming to preserve both biodiversity and cultural knowledge. Research focuses on ethnobotanical surveys, agrobiodiversity management, and taxonomy of wild and cultivated species, supporting sustainable livelihoods, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and rural development. TRIBE also maintains a living plant collection and herbarium at the Botanical Garden of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague.



#### – THE TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH GROUP

The Tropical Biodiversity Group studies the role of agroforestry in conserving plant and animal diversity, focusing on tree domestication, neglected and underutilized species, and farmers' preferences in tropical systems. Using molecular markers, the group analyses the genetic diversity of wild and cultivated crops and trees—such as baobab, bitter kola, camu-camu, rice, cocoa, and avocado—to support conservation and sustainable use in tropical regions.

#### – THE TROPICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

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 of tropical and subtropical regions.



#### – TRACE | TROPICAL FARMING SYSTEMS & ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

The TRACE (Tropical Farming Systems & Ecological Economics) research group focuses on improving food security and economic resilience of farming communities exposed to climate risks. Its interdisciplinary research links agrobiodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and value chains, with emphasis on sustainable land use, homegardens, neglected and underutilized species, and non-timber forest products, supporting rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation in tropical regions.

#### – THE WILDLIFE ECOLOGY LAB

Our research group focuses on various aspects of habitat and species conservation management. We conduct a broad scale of field surveys and studies mostly in Africa, with special attention paid to antelope and giraffe conservation, mitigation of human-wildlife and wildlife-livestock conflict, protected areas management, and environmental education. We are also involved in the ex situ conservation and research realized in European zoos. We apply our research results and advanced techniques of population management in the conservation of threatened species, namely the Western Derby eland in Senegal.



# International relations

## The importance of international activities for the FTZ

International engagement and cooperation with foreign partners remain one of the key priorities of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ).

In 2025, the FTZ's international activities focused particularly on strengthening bilateral collaboration with partner institutions—especially those in low-income countries—advancing the implementation of international projects supported through programmes such as Erasmus+, Horizon, and CzechAid, and preparing new proposals for additional international project funding.

Approximately 49% of FTZ students (of the total number) come from 60 countries around the world (e.g. Nigeria, Ghana, India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Slovakia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Zambia et al.). Most of the modules are taught in English thanks to the Bachelor's programme International Cooperation in Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Master's programmes: International Development and Agricultural Economics, Agri-food Systems and Rural Development, Tropical Crop Management and Ecology, Tropical Forestry and Agroforestry, Wildlife and Livestock Production, Management and Conservation, Tropical Farming Systems, Agricultural Sciences and Farming Systems in the Tropics and Subtropics (double degree) and Global Forestry (multiple degree). PhD-level programmes are also taught in English: Tropical Agrobiology and Bioresource Management, Sustainable Rural Development, Agriculture in the Tropics and Subtropics.

FTZ students are motivated to study English and other world languages as part of their preparation for future professions and are also motivated thanks to the opportunity to participate in studies or training abroad within the Erasmus+ programme. The FTZ participates in the organization of seminars, training, summer schools, and research projects in cooperation with major world institutions. International development projects are also implemented.

In 2025, the FTZ launched a newly accredited Double Degree Programme in Agricultural Development – International Development and Agricultural Economics in partnership with Prince of Songkla University (PSU) in Thailand. This unique two year programme allows students to study at both CZU and PSU, gaining international academic experience with a strong focus on tropical agriculture. Upon successful completion, graduates are awarded two Master's degrees (one from CZU and one from PSU) reflecting the programme's strong academic integration and global outlook.

## New forms of higher education implemented in cooperation with foreign partner institutions

### COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS: A CASE STUDY APPROACH (CI4VC)

The project Collaborative Innovation for Sustainable Value Chains: A Case Study Approach (CI4VC), supported by the ELLS network, brought together academic staff and students from BOKU (Austria), the CZU (Czechia), and SLU (Sweden) in a crossuniversity and crossdisciplinary collaboration. Its main objective was to connect students horizontally across the three ELLS partner institutions and vertically across different study programmes within each university, enabling them to jointly develop case studies analysing sustainable value chains from selected East African countries. Five case studies – focusing on coffee (Ethiopia), mango (Kenya), tea (Rwanda), sorghum (Somalia), plantains (Uganda), and beans (Tanzania)—circulated among the partner universities based on a shared template, ensuring a transdisciplinary approach supported through courses such as Plant Protection Biology, Value Chain Management, Marketing of Tropical Products, and Scientific Communication. Students evaluated sustainability from a broad foodsystems perspective, addressing production, processing, crop improvement, stakeholder engagement, consumption patterns, waste

management, and final recommendations. Their work culminated in presentations, posters, and a countryspecific degustation menu presented at the Green Plate Forum 3.0 event in June 2025 at BOKU, where students and academic staff from ELLS universities, alongside invited stakeholders and decisionmakers, exchanged insights on sustainable and inclusive value chains linked to traditional plantbased foods. The project was also presented at the ELLS 2025 General Assembly and Forum, held at SLU in Sweden from 13–15 November 2025.

## The Erasmus+ programme

### ERASMUS+ IN 2025 AT FTZ IN NUMBERS

**Number of agreements (= institutions) (KA103/KA107, 171) 24/33**

#### Mobility of students (KA131/KA171):

- Outgoing students FTZ – study stays (SMS) – 13/0.  
Number of months 57/0\*
- Outgoing students FTZ – traineeship (SMP) – 3/9.  
Number of months 10/17\*
- Outgoing students FTZ – KA131 BIP 2 students for 10 days in total.
- Erasmus+ KA131 – Short-term mobility of PhD students – 7 students for 166 days.
- Graduate internships 1 students for a total of 90 days.
- Incoming students – study stays – 55/30.  
Number of months 182/103\*
- Incoming students – traineeship – 6/17.  
Number of months 15/39\*

#### Mobility of teaching and other staff (KA131/KA171):

- Outgoing FTZ staff 14/31. Number of days 49/315

The most frequent destinations of FTZ staff were countries: the Republic of Moldova, Cambodia, Germany, Belgium, Hungary, Ethiopia, Thailand, and others.

- Incoming staff 2/34. Number of days 14/405\*

\* These are months and days in 2025 from the academic years 2024/25 and 2025/26.

The Erasmus+ programme is traditionally one of the main activities within the international activities of the FTZ. By 2025, the FTZ had concluded bilateral agreements with the following 24 institutions within the respective programme countries (i.e. KA103):

- 1) The University of Wageningen, Netherlands
- 2) La Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain
- 3) La Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain
- 4) La Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Spain
- 5) The University of Kassel, Germany
- 6) The University of Hohenheim, Germany

- 7) Montpellier SupAgro, France
- 8) O Instituto Politécnico de Castelo Branco, Portugal
- 9) Szent István University, Hungary
- 10) Ghent University, Belgium
- 11) The Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium
- 12) L'Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium
- 13) La Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italy
- 14) La Università degli Studi di Catania, Italy
- 15) Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey
- 16) Akdeniz University, Turkey
- 17) La Università degli Studi della Basilicata, Italy
- 18) The Agricultural University Plovdiv, Bulgaria
- 19) Die Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn, Germany
- 20) L'Haute École Charlemagne, Belgium
- 21) Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Croatia
- 22) The University of Angers, France
- 23) La Universidad de la Laguna, Spain
- 24) La Universidad de Cádiz, Spain.

## Erasmus+ projects

### CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The new project *Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains through Strengthening Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in East African Doctoral Education – 'ADVALUE'* addresses the need for qualified doctorates and future academic professionals in agricultural sciences who impact the research and teaching capacities of their Higher Education Institutions and contribute to local and regional achievement of SDG goals with the development of sustainable agricultural value chains. In line with this, the specific objectives of ADVALUE are:

- modernised doctoral programmes with innovative course offers in transdisciplinary research methods and value chain approaches,
- strengthened stakeholder involvement to ensure needs orientation and innovation potential,
- capacity building of staff and students, and
- improved quality assurance and development in doctoral education.

The joint development of four doctoral modules (aka scientific working, transdisciplinary research, rangeland management, and agricultural value chains) involves about 120 staff and 160 students in online and offline events. The online training and collaboration provide access to more persons beyond 32 EU study trip participants, 80 pilot training participants and other conference travels. After pilot testing and evaluating the new courses, the implementation in about 30 degree-programmes at the four partner universities in Kenya and Uganda is possible as well as the adaptation of the project results through dissemination of the actively participating network partners to ensure sustainability of the project's outputs. Accompanying these activities, strategies of further improving the quality of doctoral education are elaborated and discussed, including the public exchange on two project conferences (multiplier events).

ADVALUE emphasizes stakeholder involvement on all levels, from the local universities' cooperation with working life partners up to the national exchange and support by associated governmental partners, as well as the international exchange.

In 2023 was furthermore running project called UNICOM – Universities – Communities: strengthening cooperation. The aim of this project is to enhance universities' social role through boosting university-community engagement leading to the elaboration of state policy on supporting the third mission of universities for ensuring social cohesion, resilience, sustainability and prosperity in Ukraine. UNICOM is a project with a total funding of 988,431 Euro and will run for 4 years.

The **UNICOM project (Universities – Communities: strengthening cooperation for sustainable development)**, launched in 2023, focuses on strengthening cooperation between Ukrainian universities and their surrounding communities by transferring best practices from EU countries, including the Czech Republic. Running from 1 February 2023 to 30 January 2027, with a total budget of €988,431, the project supports the development of policies enhancing the "third mission" of universities, alongside capacity-building activities for academic staff in areas such as resilience, sustainability, inclusion, entrepreneurship, environment, public health, and social cohesion. A key outcome is the establishment of national models of university–community cooperation centres (UNICOMs), supported by the "Open University" programme, which connects academic expertise with community needs and promotes student civic engagement. The project will also deliver a policy paper and roadmap to support higher education reform in Ukraine. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hyněk Roubík and his team contribute by sharing their expertise with project partners, facilitating the transfer and structural implementation of these approaches in the Ukrainian context.

### **INTERNATIONAL CREDIT MOBILITY (ERASMUS+ KA 171)**

In 2025, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences coordinated a range of projects under the Erasmus+ programme, specifically within the "International Credit Mobility" framework. A total of 32 projects were running concurrently, stemming from the 2022 (implementation period 2022-2025), 2023 (implementation period 2023-2026) and 2024 (implementation period 2024-2027) calls. These initiatives spanned a diverse group of countries, including Albania, Algeria, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cameroon, East Timor, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Morocco, Niger, Samoa, Senegal, Somaliland, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. Detailed information about partner universities and the number of mobilities can be found in the previous pages.

Notably, the CZU received 192 mobilities in 2023 and 262 in 2024 under this project, with more than half of these mobilities allocated to the FTZ. In 2025, the FTZ received 23 mobilities. Thanks to the European Commission's ERASMUS+ KA171 international credit mobility initiative, the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague (the CZU) was ranked among the top three most successful applicants nationwide. This allowed CZU employees and students to participate in cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange and share experiences across borders.

The ERASMUS+ KA171 project is a three-year initiative that is submitted annually, aimed at enhancing the capacity of higher education institutions, disseminating best practices, and fostering international collaboration with non-EU partner states. The international credit mobility programme at the CZU underscores its commitment to inclusivity, providing support to disadvantaged student groups, and aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education. The ERASMUS+ initiative serves as a vital tool for internationalisation, offering extensive opportunities for professional and academic development for both employees and students. Through its engagement with ERASMUS+, the FTZ and CZU demonstrate a strong commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing. Looking ahead, the

CZU aims to continue building on its international exchange efforts, leveraging ERASMUS+ to shape a future where academic cooperation and exchange transcend national borders in a meaningful and impactful way.

### **Erasmus+ KA171 (3-Year) Calls Active in 2025**

- Call 2022–2025
- Call 2023–2026
- Call 2024–2027
- Call 2025–2028

### **Number of Interinstitutional Agreements within Erasmus+ KA171 (International Credit Mobility)**

- Call 2022–2025: Agreements with 17 countries
- Call 2023–2026: Agreements with 12 countries
- Call 2024–2027: Agreements with 7 countries
- Call 2025–2028: Agreements with 3 countries

### **Planned Staff and Student Mobilities within Erasmus+ KA171 (Both Incoming and Outgoing)**

- Call 2022–2025: 105 mobilities
- Call 2023–2026: 106 mobilities
- Call 2024–2027: 134 mobilities
- Call 2025–2028: 23 mobilities

### **Countries Involved in Erasmus+ KA171**

- Call 2022–2025: Philippines, Bhutan, Algeria, Fiji, India, Indonesia, South Africa, Cambodia, the Cameroon, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Niger, Senegal, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, East Timor
- Call 2023–2026: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Algeria, Albania, East Timor, the Cameroon, Morocco, Samoa, Somaliland, the Central African Republic, Thailand, Uzbekistan
- Call 2024–2027: Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Moldova, Senegal, Thailand
- Call 2025–2028: Angola, Fiji, Zambia

### **Erasmus+ KA171 Student and Staff Mobilities in 2025 under Calls 2022-2025, 2023-2026 and 2024-2027:**

- 1 incoming staff mobility from Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 1 incoming staff mobility from Moldova
- 1 incoming student mobility for studies from Uzbekistan
- 1 outgoing staff mobility to Samoa
- 1 outgoing staff mobility to Uzbekistan
- 1 outgoing student mobility for traineeship to Ethiopia
- 2 incoming staff mobilities from Algeria
- 2 incoming staff mobilities from Thailand
- 2 incoming staff mobilities from Uzbekistan
- 2 incoming student mobilities for studies from Thailand
- 2 outgoing staff mobilities to Central African Republic
- 4 outgoing staff mobilities to Morocco
- 2 outgoing student mobilities for traineeship to Algeria
- 2 outgoing student mobilities for traineeships to Albania
- 2 outgoing student mobilities for traineeships to Moldova
- 3 incoming student mobilities for studies from Algeria
- 3 outgoing staff mobilities to Algeria
- 4 incoming student mobilities for studies from Somaliland
- 5 outgoing staff mobilities to Ethiopia
- 5 outgoing staff mobilities to Moldova

### **Erasmus+ "International Credit Mobility" Project – 2025 Bilateral Agreements**

As part of the Erasmus+ programme, the "International Credit Mobility" (KA171) project, which focuses on cooperation with partner

countries, the FTZ has established bilateral agreements with the following institutions in 2025:

- 1) **The Fiji National University**, Fiji
- 2) **University Jose Eduardo dos Santos**, Angola
- 3) **University of Zambia**, Zambia

More information is available on the faculty website: <https://www.ftz.czu.cz/en/r-9422-international-relations/r-10720-erasmus/r-16500-international-credit-mobility>.

### COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

The FTZ is a partner in the Erasmus+ SCORE project "Structural Capacities for Tackling Wicked Problems Programme". The main coordinator of the project is the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Macedonia. Other partners include Panepistimio Ioanninon (Greece) and Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria). The implementation of the project with a budget of over 32,000 EUR is planned for the 2022-2025 period.

Modern policy implementations and organizational frameworks fail to create a sustainable approach to solving hard-to-identify problems that are a growing global challenge. These include problems that are difficult to define, or difficult to solve, and require different approaches to their ultimate solution. Poverty, climate change, health, gender equality and justice are all so-called "wicked" problems that are part of the SDG agenda. This project thus aims to create a cooperation structure and develop a model for solving these problems. Broader transnational capacities are involved, suggesting a bottom-up approach in social planning processes. The goal is to show that such a problem can be solved with a holistic approach.

The project supports and strengthens European cooperation on this topic, while also proposing and piloting new research in the fight against climate change. Specific topics to be addressed include environmental and climate change, interregional cooperation, and research and innovation. The project consortium will mutually benefit from active participation. Practically, project participants will be able to demonstrate determination and their ability to solve many problems in the relevant fields, thereby creating a basis for organizations to be able to implement such approaches. In addition, through the implementation of the project and subsequent phases, a new generation of participants will acquire the knowledge, tools and methods needed to solve wicked problems. The sharing of best practices and the development of interconnected higher education systems will be supported through the sustainability network, models, e-tools and guidelines developed within the project. More information about the project is available on the website <https://score-eu.org/>.

### ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER'S DEGREE

The FTZ is a partner of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree programme "Global Forestry" (GLOFOR) as part of the new concept of the Erasmus+ programme, mainly thanks to its English-taught programme "Tropical Forestry and Agroforestry". GLOFOR is organized by a consortium of five top European universities in the field of forestry under the leadership of the Danish University of Copenhagen. Other partners are AgroParisTech (France), Die Technische Universität, Dresden (Germany) and the University of Padua (Italy).

The consortium also cooperates with so-called "associate" partners, such as the University of Bamenda (The Cameroon), Tribhuvan University (Nepal), ICRAF (Kenya), the Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania) and others. It is a two-year, English-taught, world-class

Master's programme that prepares graduates to address the enormous current challenges and potential of forestry in middle- and low-income countries. Through a high level of research-based education, graduates will acquire the required competencies for working with global forestry issues, such as practical and international experience and openness to foreign cultures. These are all competencies needed to work both as a researcher and to work in the tropics, e.g. with a development agency, doing consultancy, NGOs, international organizations, ministries and government institutions. Successful students will also be able to apply to high-level international Ph.D. programmes.

The structure of the programme is as follows - during the first year, students will receive a thorough introduction to the local and global role of forestry in middle- and low-income countries. All students will spend their first semester in Copenhagen, where teachers from all universities in the consortium will join in the teaching activities. During February of the first year, all students and one teacher from each partner university participate in a joint field course in a middle- or low-income country. Students then move to either Dresden or Padua to complete their first year. In the second year, students focus on a specific specialisation at one of the other partner universities. More information about the project is available on the website <https://globalforestry.eu/>.

## Agrinatura Association

The FTZ is an active member of the international organization the Agrinatura Association. This is a unique institution of its type in Europe and is an important link between Europe and the Global South in agricultural research and education. This membership brings benefits in the form of the exchange of information, contrasting visions, participation in international EU-funded projects and networking at a European and global level. Agrinatura member organizations are actively involved in a number of research and education projects focussed primarily on developing countries in the Tropics. Agrinatura strengthened its partnership with various partner networks such as the ICA (the Association for European Life Science Universities), IROICA, RUFORUM (the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture), SEARCA (the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture), YPARD (Young Professionals in Agricultural Research for Development).

## Student ambassadors

The Student Ambassadors (SA) of the FTZ are a team of 17 students from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas who contribute to a welcoming and internationally oriented environment at the FTZ.

During the year, the Student Ambassadors supported new and prospective students through email guidance, online Welcome Courses, and in-person assistance. They were involved in the Multicultural Course



and provided Erasmus+ support, helping students adapt academically and socially.

They actively participated in Faculty events, including Faculty Day, where they organised a Pub Quiz and prepared international dishes. They also promoted the Faculty during Open Days and, in cooperation with the PR team, contributed to Instagram content, promotional videos, and updated SA materials. The Student Ambassadors remain committed to sustainability through the Spring and Christmas Swaps, which promote reuse and responsible consumption.

They maintained connections with alumni and labour market representatives at events such as the CZU Garden Party and organised a Communication Workshop focused on personal development and employability skills. They also took part in other activities, such as the Cambodia Exhibition, Masopust, and Christmas celebrations, linking local traditions with the Faculty's international environment.

The head of the Student Ambassadors, Beenzu Muzyamba Munkombwe, was formally recognised through the Prof. Vlček Award in appreciation of her outstanding activities and contribution to the Student Ambassador programme. Through close cooperation with Faculty management, the Student Ambassadors continue to foster an inclusive and supportive international community at the FTZ.

## Horizon Europe

The Faculty is actively involved in the prestigious Horizon Europe programme, which supports cutting-edge research and innovation with a global impact. The following overview presents the current portfolio of five projects implemented at FTZ, including both ongoing initiatives and those launched this year. These projects reflect the faculty's key thematic areas, such as sustainable agriculture, food security, natural resource management, and rural development, and highlight strong international partnerships as well as the practical relevance and societal impact of FTZ research.

### OSIRIS: OPEN SCIENCE TO INCREASE REPRODUCIBILITY IN SCIENCE

Reproducibility is crucial to the progress and impact of Research and Innovation (R&I) as it confirms or corrects the outcomes of single studies, resulting in higher quality research, more reliable and implementable outcomes, and a reduction in research costs. Embedding reproducibility in the strategy and design of research should thus be regarded as a key precondition of research quality. Unfortunately, only a fraction of published studies can be reproduced due to science's need to be continuously innovative, pressure to publish, a lack of transparent reporting, and career assessments based on quantity rather than quality. Currently, the burden of improving reproducibility lies with the researchers, as there are limited- to no incentives to encourage active engagement in reproducibility, and ideas for improvement have never been tested in practice. That is the reason for the OSIRIS project (funded by the European Union). In this project, the FTZ is a leading WP.

### AGRIGEP: ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCE UNIVERSITIES' FIRST GENDER EQUALITY PLANS IN WIDENING COUNTRIES

Recently, the EC has prioritized addressing gender inequality in research and development (R&D) as a key objective. Regarding this, the FTZ also had success in the Horizon Europe calls with the support of the [AGRIGEP project](#) (The Assessment and Implementation of Agriculture and Life Science Universities' first Gender Equality Plans in

widening countries (2023–2025), No. 101094158), which brings together 6 partners in a consortium (besides the CZU, the Hungarian University of Life Sciences (Leader) (Hungary), the University of Primorska (Slovenia), La Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya BarcelonaTech (Spain), the Association for Hungarian Women in Science (NaTE) (Hungary), and Yellow Window (Belgium)). This project aims to evaluate the status of Gender Equality Plan (GEP) implementation in universities, enhance capabilities through intensive capacity-building efforts, and devise and execute agriculture-specific GEPs focused on the life sciences. These plans will include sector-specific measures and strategies aimed at driving long-term institutional reforms. Furthermore, the project promotes the integration of gender equality issues into the education system. On 25 September 2025, the CZU hosted the final conference of the EU-funded AGRIGEP project (Rooting Sustainable Change: Inclusive Gender Equality Plans in Agriculture and Life Sciences Universities in Central and Eastern Europe). Held in a hybrid format, the event brought together researchers, educators, policymakers, and practitioners from across Europe to reflect on gender equality, diversity, and inclusion in higher education, with a particular focus on Central and Eastern Europe. The conference highlighted practical experiences with the implementation of Gender Equality Plans (GEPs), shared actionable insights, and contributed to discussions on sustainable institutional change and future policy recommendations in the field of agriculture and life sciences.

### DIGITAF: DIGITAL TOOLS TO BOOST AGROFORESTRY

The DIGITAF project runs from July 2022 to June 2026. The project is coordinated by INRAE – Institut National de Recherche pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement, France, and involves a consortium of 26 European and international partners. At the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Bohdan Lojka leads the project team. DIGITAF addresses key barriers to the wider adoption of agroforestry practices in Europe. Building on a comprehensive understanding of agroforestry benefits for climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable farming, the project develops tailored, user-friendly, and open-source digital tools. These tools are designed to support a broad range of stakeholders—from policymakers and farmers to advisors and consumers—by linking field data with advanced digital solutions. By bridging science, practice, and digital innovation, DigitAF contributes to unlocking the full potential of agroforestry systems and supports the transition towards more resilient and sustainable agricultural landscapes in Europe and beyond.

### BIO-CAPITAL: FINANCING BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

The BIO-CAPITAL project, coordinated by the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague through the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, brings together 17 partners from 13 European countries to develop innovative financial instruments supporting biodiversity conservation and restoration. Responding to increasing pressure on ecosystems, the project links biodiversity monitoring with new financing approaches that go beyond traditional funding models. Using Earth observation technologies, BIO-CAPITAL collects data across five pilot sites in Europe to design tools that incentivise private investment in nature protection. At the beginning of April, the kick-off meeting of the BIO-CAPITAL international consortium took place at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. In the coming years, the team will collaborate with local partners—such as farmers and conservation organisations—to develop practical tools applicable in real-world settings. By leading this international initiative, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences further strengthens its role in advancing applied research addressing global sustainability challenges.

**COMUNIDAD: COPERNICUS-BASED SERVICES FOR LATIN AMERICA**

The COMUNIDAD project (Combined Use of EGNSS and Copernicus Data to Develop Innovative Downstream Services for Users from Chile and Colombia) is funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe programme (HORIZON-EUSPA-2022-SPACE). The project aims to strengthen cooperation between Europe and Latin America by building a stakeholder community focused on the effective use of Copernicus Earth observation data. COMUNIDAD supports the co-development of user-oriented algorithms, services, and applications tailored to local needs, while enhancing the quality and usability of

Copernicus global products. It explores the combined use of Copernicus data and European Global Navigation Satellite Systems (EGNSS), with pilot activities in Chile (forestry) and Colombia (rural development), and potential for knowledge transfer across CELAC countries. The project establishes a comprehensive framework for the use, development, testing, and evaluation of Copernicus-based downstream services in agriculture, forestry, and rural development. By engaging local stakeholders—including farmers, institutions, and SMEs—it fosters innovation, technology uptake, and sustainable socio-economic development in the region.





## Strategic management support plan (PPSR)

PPSR projects are funded by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (MSMT).

In 2025 the following projects were implemented within MSMT projects.

### INCREASE THE USE OF DISTANCE LEARNING METHODS IN FULL-TIME STUDY PROGRAMMES

- **Sub-part:** Strengthening the quality of new forms of education  
**Coordinator:** Jiří Hejkrlik / Klára Urbanová

The aim is to improve the availability of study materials in electronic form, and to introduce innovative solutions that will help to increase the efficiency and quality of distance education.

### STRENGTHEN THE QUALITY, OPENNESS AND INTERNATIONALISATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

- **Coordinator:** Olga Leuner

International internships are an integral part of the Doctoral Study Programmes (DSP) at the FTZ, as they not only enhance the quality of the DSP but are also crucial in its internationalisation. The aim of this institutional plan sub-division is to support Ph.D. students in internships with a minimum duration of one month. These internships could be carried out at quality workplaces in the Czech Republic, but mainly abroad in institutions and in companies and other relevant organisations.

The following steps led to the achievement of the set objectives: i) the announcement of the selection procedure (transparent conditions were drawn up and a selection committee was set up); ii) the selection of students; iii) agreements with students: a contract was drawn up with each Ph.D. student containing the conditions linked to financial support;

iv) the implementation of the internships: the Ph.D. students completed their internships at a Czech or foreign workplace; v) follow-up and feedback: the graduates of internships submitted reports on their stay.

**Conclusion: A total of 7 students were supported.**

### COOPERATION OF THE FTZ WITH FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- **Coordinator:** Petra Chaloupková

The goal of this project is to strengthen the strategic management of internationalisation through the support of cooperation via strategic partnerships and membership in international networks and organisations where the FTZ/CZU provides secretariats and is part of the management of these organisations (AGRINATURA, YPARD, ELLS), e.g. via joint projects and possible involvement in networks, in order to strengthen sustainable strategic management at all levels of the CZU, helping to reduce the administrative burden and strengthening investments in and social capital existing at the CZU (i.e. in the intellectual capital of the CZU). The project also includes the promotion of these networks among teachers and students and their involvement in joint activities.

### SUPPORT OF STUDENT MOBILITIES ABROAD

- **Coordinator:** Petra Chaloupková

The aim of this project is to support the mobility of students and teachers beyond the scope of Erasmus+ projects and the development of global competences (skills to be acquired in an international academic and cultural environment) of students, in order to obtain high-quality and competent graduates who will actively contribute to the sustainability of life for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to deepen the dimension of education in such a way as to form socially responsible graduates. The project supported 11 FTZ students who went for data collection abroad as part of the preparation of their diploma theses. They travelled to Cambodia, the Cameroon, Thailand, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Nigeria and France.

## PROMOTING AND REPORTING ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) OF THE FTZ/CZU

- **Main coordinator:** Klára Urbanová / Martina Komárková

In 2025, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences actively promoted the principles of social responsibility, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and international cooperation. Throughout the year, FTZ organised a series of events and exhibitions highlighting its long-term partnerships, research, and educational activities.

### KEY ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

- **15 Years of Cooperation with the Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia**  
In March, the FTZ celebrated 15 years of collaboration with the RUA through a photo exhibition and a thematic seminar. The events highlighted joint research projects, summer schools, student experiences, and a new 2025–2027 project, emphasising the long-term impact of international cooperation.
- **25 Years of Antelope Conservation**  
On April the Faculty marked a quarter-century of antelope conservation, celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Antelope Conservation Programme. The event featured lectures on Derby's eland conservation by Assoc. Prof. Karolína Brandlová, a photo exhibition with commentary from faculty experts, and guest contributions from former ambassadors and government representatives, underlining FTZ's commitment to biodiversity protection.
- **National Development Day – We and the World (May 25)**  
The FTZ participated in International Partnerships Day at Czernin Palace as part of the Crendes platform. Vice-Dean Petra Chaloupková and students presented study opportunities in development and sustainability, sharing insights from field research in Senegal, Zambia, and Cambodia. Activities of the Antelope Conservation program were also featured.
- **20 Years of Cooperation with Moldova**  
In December, the FTZ celebrated two decades of engagement in higher education, agricultural development, and research collaboration with our Moldovan partners. The anniversary event in Prague included a presentation on key project outcomes by Doc. Tatiana Alexiou Ivanova, a photo exhibition showcasing 20 years of joint projects, a coffee break with Moldovan specialties, and a performance by the Moldovan folk ensemble Kodrianka. The celebration was attended by representatives of the Moldovan Embassy, emphasizing the importance of academic partnerships in broader Czech Moldovan relations.

### Communication and Outreach

The FTZ regularly communicated its CSR activities and achievements via its website, social media, university-wide channels such as Živá univerzita, and external platforms including Vysokeskoly.cz and CzechStudies. Faculty experts provided commentary on current issues through media collaborations, while promotional materials, paid campaigns, and leaflets highlighted the FTZ's status as a Fairtrade and socially responsible faculty.

## STRENGTHENING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF RESULTS OF CREATIVE ACTIVITIES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN VARIOUS FORMS; PROMOTING THE POPULARISATION OF SCIENCE AND COMMUNICATION OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY AND TARGET GROUPS

- **Coordinator:** Klára Urbanová / Martina Komárková

In 2025, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ) at CZU Prague continued to actively promote the results of its research and communicate their societal impact through a wide range of events, conferences, podcasts, and exhibitions. These initiatives targeted prospective students, the public, and international partners, highlighting the Faculty's educational programmes, research activities, and engagement in sustainable development.

### ACTIVITIES TARGETED AT PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

**Open Days (January, March, November 2025):** Visitors explored FTZ study programmes, laboratories, the Botanical Garden, and the Herbarium. Researchers, Student Ambassadors, and representatives from BeFair and Antelope Conservation presented their work.



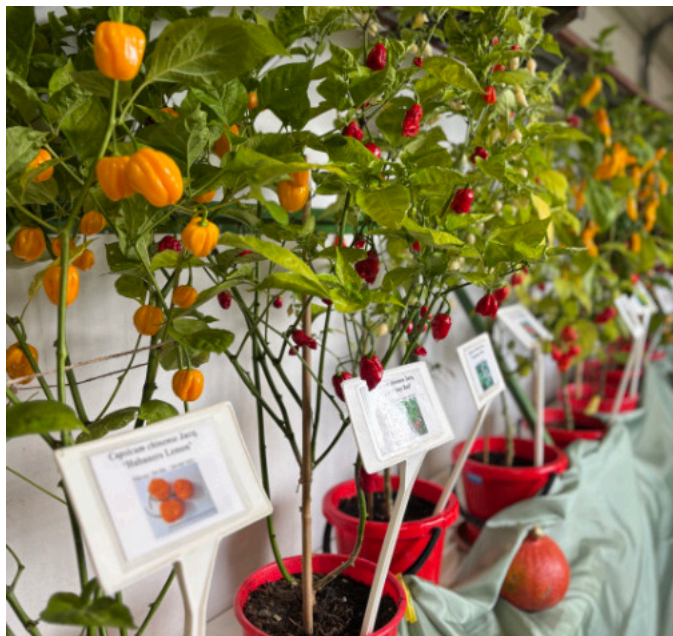
**Education and Recruitment Fairs:** the FTZ participated in the Socrates Fair, the Festival of Science, the Night of Scientists, and international fairs in Southeast Asia. In November 2025, the FTZ presented its study programmes and research activities at the *Study in Europe Fair* in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and at the *OCSC International Education Expo* in Bangkok, Thailand. These events strengthened partnerships and allowed alumni engagement.

**Open House Praha (17–18 May 2025):** For the first time, over 300 visitors toured the Tropical AgriSciences Pavilion, experiencing the modern campus facilities and learning about sustainable and functional design.

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

**Země Živitelka Agricultural Fair (23 August 2025):** the FTZ showcased scientific methods in animal research and conservation, emphasising applied science for sustainable agriculture.

**Harvest Festival in Lány (5 September 2025):** Visitors enjoyed demonstrations of agricultural machinery, workshops, children's activities, and presentations from FTZ units, including the Antelope Conservation Society.



**FTZ Chilli Exhibition (October 2025):** A special exhibition focusing on chilli cultivation, biodiversity, and its practical applications.

**Book Launch at the Botanical Garden (October 2025):** the FTZ organised a ceremonial book launch, combining educational outreach with cultural engagement.

## CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

**Sex, Gender, and Females in Zoology (23 April and 16 October 2025):** Assoc. Prof. Karolína Brandlová, Ph.D., presented research on reproductive behaviour, ecology, and gender aspects in science. The lectures were part of the AGRIGEP (Horizon Europe) project promoting gender equality.

**Czech Evaluation Society Annual Conference (12 June 2025):** the FTZ shared the Erasmus+ project evaluation approaches and awarded student competition winners.

**Final AGRIGEP Conference (25 September 2025):** Over 80 participants discussed Gender Equality Plans, long-term sustainability, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement.

**Society for Ethnobotany Annual Conference (8–12 June 2025):** The first SEB conference in the Czech Republic with international experts, workshops, excursions, and virtual reality teaching tools.

**ERSCP 2025 – European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (15–18 September 2025):** the FTZ hosted this prestigious international conference focused on sustainability and cross-sector collaboration.

**6th International Multidisciplinary Conference for Young Researchers (MCYR 2025):** A platform for young researchers to present interdisciplinary projects on sustainability, technology, plants, animals, and society.

## PODCASTS AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

In 2025, the FTZ further used podcasts to communicate research, practical applications, and the human stories behind scientific work:

**Assoc. Prof. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D., Dean of the FTZ:** Leading Excellence: The Future of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences –

academic leadership, student support, well-being, and international collaboration.

**Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Alexiou Ivanova:** Research on Biofuels and Environmental Technologies – sustainable energy, biomass research, and solutions for both Czechia and developing countries.

**Ing. Markéta Houdková, Ph.D.:** From Tropical Scents to Natural Antibiotics – ethnobotanical research in Indonesia and its global impact.

**Ing. Jiří Hejkrlik, Ph.D., Vice-Dean of FTZ:** How a Cup of Coffee Can Change a Farmer's Life – fair trade initiatives, sustainable sourcing, and the FTZ's role in promoting ethical supply chains.

## SUPPORTING THE ACTIVITIES OF STUDENT ORGANISATIONS AS ACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE QUALITY FUNCTIONING OF THE CZU, ESPECIALLY IN ITS EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

- **Coordinator:** Klára Urbanová / Martina Komárková

The Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ) actively collaborates with student organisations that play an important role in enhancing both the educational and community life of the CZU. Key partners include the Student Ambassadors, BeFair at the CZU, and the Antelope Conservation Association.

Student organizations participate in the running of Open Days and other public events where the FTZ presents its activities, such as the Night of Scientists and the Garden Festival. Initiatives led by Student Ambassadors, including the traditional Spring and Christmas Swap and the Learn & Discuss series, contribute to community building and raise awareness of sustainability and environmental issues among students and staff.

As a Fairtrade Faculty, the FTZ benefits from the ongoing engagement of BeFair, which supports activities such as serving Fairtrade refreshments during Easter and Christmas Fairs and providing information about Fairtrade initiatives at Faculty events. On April 30, the Faculty hosted a BeFair Picnic to further promote awareness of Fairtrade practices.

This year, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ) again joins forces with the BeFair association to participate in the nationwide exhibition *Výstava na stromech* ("Exhibition on Trees"). Taking place from 4 to 11 October 2025, during the Week of Decent Work, the outdoor exhibition will be located in the CZU campus grounds.

Under the theme *Invisible Thorns*, the exhibition highlights the real cost of cut flowers imported daily from Kenya, which supplies around 40% of Europe's flowers. It raises awareness of low wages, poor working conditions, environmental impacts, and the prevalence of sexual harassment in the flower industry, while also showing the positive effects of Fairtrade certification. The exhibition is organised by Fairtrade Czech Republic and Slovakia, with support from the Czech Development Agency, and aims to engage the public directly with issues of fair and sustainable work practices.

The FTZ is also actively represented within the Antelope Conservation Association, which works to protect the Derby antelope in Senegal. Faculty teachers and students contribute to this international conservation effort, strengthening the link between education, research, and practical field action.



## The FTZ in the media

In 2025, the Faculty of Tropical Agriculture achieved a total of 229 media appearances. Online media played a dominant role (174 appearances), but the Faculty also maintained a significant presence in broadcast media—on television (21) and radio (14)—which are key to building credibility and broader societal impact.

The FTZ's media profile has long been shaped around topics that reflect today's most critical global challenges. The faculty is perceived in the media as a relevant voice in the field of health and zoonoses within the context of the interconnectedness of humans, animals, and the environment (One Health), as well as an expert on sustainable agriculture and adaptation to climate change, and a significant actor in the field of biodiversity conservation and the relationship between humans and nature. A strong and unique element of the FTZ communication is its emphasis on development cooperation and field research in a global context, which clearly distinguishes the Faculty from other institutions.

In addition to specialised topics, media coverage focused on presenting study programmes, Faculty activities, with events for prospective students and the general public also playing an important role. Topics related to Open House days, outreach events, festivals, and student activities appeared regularly, contributing to building awareness of the Faculty, its openness, and its international character.

Media coverage shows a relatively balanced representation of the FTZ's main pillars. The topic of human, animal, and ecosystem health from a One Health perspective is strongly associated in the media with expert commentary by Jiří Černý. The areas of global development and sustainable agriculture in practice have long been represented by Hynek Roubík. Biodiversity and nature conservation are most frequently associated with Karolína Brandlová in the media.

Through its media outputs, the FTZ effectively connects expert knowledge with current social issues and communicates them clearly to the public. A key factor is the combination of specific experts and the faculty's institutional presence as a whole, which strengthens its position as a trusted partner for the media.

The FTZ's media communications in 2025 reflected the Faculty's key themes while actively contributing to shaping public debate on sustainability, nature conservation, and global development. At the same time, they significantly supported recruitment efforts and the building of relationships with the public.

# Financial report

## Management of the state non-investment contribution and subsidies in 2025

**TAB 6.1 DRAWING ON THE ALLOWANCE FOR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

	DRAWN (IN CZK)
Wages and salaries	16 240 672
Payroll deductions 35.22%	5 662 316
Other operating cost	1 172 127
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33 422 309*</b>

**TAB 6.2 DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC UNIVERSITY RESEARCH**

	SVV FTZ
The IGA Organisation	45 907
Organisation of a student scientific conference	265 731
Internal grants	2 500 403
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 812 041</b>

## TAB 6.3 DISBURSEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

	RVO FTZ
Wages and salaries	17 803 415
Payroll deductions	6 262 782
Scholarships	302 341
Other current assets	358 201
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 726 739</b>

## TAB 6.4 OTHER

University of the Third Age	21 000
Students with Specific Needs	19 524
Basic subsidy for foreign students, students with governmental scholarships – English language teaching (category G)	1 555 650
Government scholarships H	75 362
Government scholarships (category G)	3 448 000
Achievement and exceptional government scholarships (category G)	211 840
Allowance for short stays	333 746
DSP Scholarships for doctoral programmes	12 090 340 **
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17 755 462</b>

## TAB 6.5 PROJECTS FOR SUPPORT OF STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT:

PSSM NON-INV	1 225 600
PSSM INV	0
<b>TOTAL of the state non-investment contribution and subsidies in 2025</b>	<b>79 942 151</b>

\* 10.347.194 CZK transferred to the Operational Funds. Savings in this amount were generated due to higher contributions to educational and research activities compared to 2024 and responsible management of the Faculty funds. Part of these savings is earmarked as future expenditures for postdoctoral positions at individual departments.

\*\* 19.520 CZK transferred to the Operational Funds.

\*\*\* 3.229.070 CZK transferred to the Operational Funds.

Category B – studies in the Czech language  
 Category G – studies in the English language  
 PSSM – Strategic Management Support Programme



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