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Czech and Bulgarian Agricultural Research Institutions Strengthen Their Cooperation

Visit to Troubsko brought an exchange of experience, a cooperation agreement and a joint visit to the Země žitelka agricultural fair

From **17 to 21 August 2026**, three colleagues from the **Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science “Obraztsov Chiflik”** near the Bulgarian city of Ruse visited the **Forage Crops Research Institute in Troubsko, Czech Republic**. The five-day professional visit took place within the **Erasmus programme** and provided an opportunity for exchanging experience, presenting research activities and exploring further opportunities for cooperation.

During their stay, the Bulgarian colleagues became acquainted with the activities of **Agricultural Research Ltd. (ART)** and the **Forage Crops Research Institute**, including individual departments, research facilities and current research topics. The programme also included a presentation of the activities of the Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science “Obraztsov Chiflik”, allowing participants to compare the research focus and conditions of agricultural research in the two countries.

The visitors toured **field trials, genetic resources of legume crops and the portfolio of varieties bred in Troubsko**, including their potential applications in agricultural practice. An interesting part of the programme was a visit to the unique laboratory breeding facility for bumblebees, where **Bombus terrestris** is reared under the **Czech Bumblebee** brand. The guests also visited the molecular biology and plant protection laboratories.

The professional programme was complemented by discussions on current issues in agriculture and research. Topics included **crop composition in Czech and Bulgarian agriculture, the size and operation of farms and agricultural enterprises, agricultural subsidy policy, research funding and the transfer of research results into practice**.

The visit also included a tour of the joint exhibition of Czech agricultural research institutions at the international agricultural fair **Země žitelka in České Budějovice**, where the guests had an opportunity to see how the results of Czech agricultural research are presented at one of the country's major agricultural events.

Agreement opens the door to further cooperation

An important outcome of the visit was the **signing of a Mutual Cooperation Agreement** between the two institutions. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science “Obraztsov Chiflik” by its Director, **Assoc. Prof. Galina Dyakova, Ph.D.**, and on behalf of Agricultural Research Ltd. in Troubsko by its Director, **RNDr. Jan Nedělník, Ph.D.**

The agreement provides a framework for further developing cooperation between **IASS “Obraztsov Chiflik” Ruse and Agricultural Research Ltd. (ART)**, particularly in the field of scientific and professional activities. Both institutions agreed to support joint activities not only in the areas already discussed, but also in other fields in which both organisations are active.

“The exchange of experience is highly valuable to us. Meetings like this allow us to compare approaches to agricultural research in different European countries while also identifying concrete opportunities for future cooperation. The agreement we have signed is an important step towards ensuring that our contacts are not limited to a one-off visit, but develop into long-term cooperation,” said **RNDr. Jan Nedělník, Ph.D.**

The visit of the Bulgarian colleagues was therefore not only an opportunity to present the research activities of both institutions, but above all **another step towards strengthening international cooperation and sharing expertise in agricultural research, plant breeding, plant protection and the transfer of research results into practice.**

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