



# Tropical News

"Newsletter for  
FTA friends"

July 2024

FIND IN THIS ISSUE NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR FURTHER COOPERATION WITH THE FACULTY

## Welcome

*Dear students, colleagues, alumni, and FTA friends!*

*Welcome to yet another issue of Tropical News, our faculty newsletter.*

It's the second one for 2024, and again it is fully packed with thrilling news from our very active faculty. The first half of the year brought some changes at faculty management level that were also linked to changes at central, university level. As it is, we now have a representative at vice-rector level which is, if I may say so, politically seen quite interesting... As a result, we have 2 new vice-deans who are continuing to further our faculty's agendas, but also bringing new winds! So, welcome Hynek and Klára.

Last year's annual reports brought interesting information, esp. at the level of our university's rankings which have improved tremendously when compared to previous years, but also to other Czech universities. Ranking positions are mainly the result of the respective institutes' research outputs as evidenced by publications in high-level, high-impact factor journal articles. In this newsletter, you will see some examples of interesting research done by our faculty. It is through this kind of research that we gather the data that allow us to publish often ground-breaking results. A number of our research initiatives come from collaborations with high-level international partners. Producing joint publications with multi-disciplinary, international teams is another element in improving our position in rankings. The new or budding collaborations that are presented in this newsletter will eventually lead to more fruitful research and teaching activities, and to more exposure on the international front.

Enjoy reading about our activities, and feel free to re- and interact with the content of this newsletter!

With my deaneast regards!

**PROF. DR. IR. PATRICK VAN DAMME**

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## Alumni Club SIGN IN

- Get up-to-date information on what's going on in your alma mater.
- Find a job, internship or personal mentor.
- Connect not only with CZU alumni and students but also with employers, employees, and supporters of the university (CZU).

## Our Successes

### Grafted plants have bloomed in the garden of the Belgian Embassy in Morocco, symbolizing an intimate connection between North and South



This unique project was spearheaded by Belgian artist Eric van Hove in collaboration with Patrick Van Damme, a leading expert on tropical agriculture and Dean of the FTA. The Charbagh Diplomatic Labyrinth, designed in a classical Roman style with influences from Islamic Garden traditions, represents the journey from foreignness to citizenship. Moroccan and Belgian/European plant species were grafted together, illustrating the complex interdependence of the two regions.



The garden's centerpiece includes four grafted plum trees, each symbolizing the hope for strengthened bilateral relations. After three years, the successful grafts are now flowering, embodying the deep-rooted connection between the North and South. This diplomatic labyrinth, with its geometric tiles, gardens, and fountains, reflects the embassy as a place of both administrative complexity and harmonious collaboration. Learn more [here](#).

### Czech Virology Conference

The Czechoslovak Virology Conference 2024 took place on February 15-16 at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. Organized by RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D., and his team, with support from the National Institute of Virology and Bacteriology and the Czech Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the conference marked its return after a five-year hiatus due to COVID-19. The event brought together virologists from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and abroad to discuss diverse topics in virology and foster scientific collaboration.

### National Development Day: Celebrating Development and Humanitarian Efforts



On April 25, 2024, the first National Development Day took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, featuring representatives from various sectors, including the FTA. The event began with speeches from President Pavel and Minister Lipavsky, recognizing our efforts in development and humanitarian activities. A panel on "Czech Aid - Results and Prospects" followed and representatives from the FTA participated in discussions on education, awareness, and climate security. In the afternoon, the Czernin Palace gardens hosted activities for the public. The day highlighted global humanitarian efforts and featured interviews with rescuers and reporters from crisis zones. Learn more [here](#).

### Professor Bohdan Lojka appointed President of the European Agroforestry Federation EURAF

In the last week of May 2024, the 7th European Agroforestry Conference was held at Mendel University in Brno, attracting 396 delegates from 43 countries. Under the auspices of the Minister of Agriculture Marek Vybourný and the Minister of the Environment Petr Hladík, participants had the opportunity to listen to 137 presentations on the potential benefits of agroforestry. One of the keynote speakers and the newly elected President of the European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF) was Professor Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. In his speech, Professor Lojka stressed the importance of agroforestry systems for improving farm climate resilience and biodiversity in the Czech Republic. Under his leadership, EURAF will focus on linking scientific research with practical field experience, underlining the importance of agroforestry for sustainable development and environmental protection.

### FTA starts new Erasmus+ project with agricultural universities in Kenya and Uganda

The goals of the green deal for a climate-neutral and globally fair society are part of the EU priorities for university cooperation with African partners. The project ADVALUE focuses on the training and research topics of sustainable agricultural value chains and is funded by the EU Erasmus+ programme for capacity building in higher education.

The acronym ADVALUE stands for Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains through Strengthening Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in East African Doctoral Education. The three-year collaborative project started in January 2024. The central core of the project activities is the development of four modules that will be integrated into the doctoral education of the East African partners and which will aim at improving the quality of teaching and research.



## The FTA gets new project funded by ELLS

The new project "Networking through student cooperation on case study challenges (NET-COOP)" is supported by the ELLS network and the project team consists of academic staff from BOKU, the CZU and the SLU. The main goal of the project is to connect students of master's study programmes of three ELLS universities (horizontally) and at the same time of different study programmes (vertically) within any one university so that they can jointly develop a proposal for a case study in the form of an international project focused on the eating habits of refugees who had to leave their country.



## Green Plate Forum 2024 in Vienna

On Tuesday 25 June, the Green Plate Forum 2024 event took place at the BOKU University in Vienna and focused on sustainable eating and environmental protection through unique culinary practices and recipes from different cultures. This activity was implemented within the project "Networking through student cooperation on case study challenges (NET-COOP)" funded by a grant from the Euroleague for Life Sciences in which 3 partner universities (the CZU in Prague, the SLU from Sweden and BOKU from Austria) cooperate. This event was part of a student initiative organized and conceived at a final joint meeting of students who participated in the development of joint case studies during the summer semester and who shared their knowledge from different perspectives according to the focus of their respective study programmes and subjects.



## Project BIO-CAPITAL

New Project merges space tech and private capital to boost biodiversity. The EU-funded BIO-CAPITAL project is set to transform biodiversity conservation by integrating private investment with space technology. Coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Hynek Roubik from the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, this initiative unites 17 partners across 13 countries.

BIO-CAPITAL aims to develop financial tools that leverage Earth observation data to protect and restore ecosystems. By using satellite technology, the project will monitor environmental health and pinpoint areas needing attention. Learn more [here](#).

## Conference of the Czech Evaluation Society

The Annual Conference of the Czech Evaluation Society was held at FTA, on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This two-day meeting offered a varied programme focusing on evaluation in different fields, from education to social inclusion.

At the beginning of the conference, the participants were welcomed by Daniel Svoboda from the Czech Evaluation Society and Michal Lošťák, Vice-Rector for International Relations of the Czech University of Life Sciences.

Participants had the opportunity to take part in practical workshops, thematic sessions and panel discussions in which they discussed, among others, teaching in multicultural environments and the integration of the gender dimension into evaluations. The conference became a platform for sharing experiences and finding more effective ways of using evaluation methods.

## Project COMUNIDAD: Connecting Europe and Latin America

COMUNIDAD, supported by Horizon Europe, connects Europe and Latin America using Copernicus data. It focuses on developing customised algorithms and products for local users in Chile and Colombia.

The aim is to develop a framework for data use in agriculture and forestry, including pilot applications with Technology Readiness Level 4 (TRL4). The project promotes the uptake of satellite navigation and sustainable development through collaboration with local partners.

The project consortium includes the CZU, LESPRO, BOSC, UAYSEN, SOCIALINNOLABS, the UAM, FNC and FIA.

## Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TAČR) Environment for Life – Genetic monitoring of the wolf (2024-2026)

As a top predator, the grey wolf is a key species in many ecosystems around the world. Human perceptions of it can then be controversial, ranging from a flagship and umbrella types of conservation to negative perceptions in pastoral communities. The urgent need to address and mitigate this polarization perceived by many stakeholders makes this species in many ways a model species.

The aim of this project is to develop genetic monitoring of the wolf, which provides indispensable information in describing the recolonization of Central Europe and in mitigating conflict with humans. As the wolf phenotype can be confused with the dog and does not allow easy individual identification, it is an essential tool for verifying species affiliation, possibly verifying hybridisation with the dog and determining abundance. The data are also used in the study of the genealogy and viability of the population and the study of the spatial ecology of the species. Genetics is also an indispensable tool in the analysis of livestock attacks and forensic cases. Harmonisation of the genetic markers used allows cross-border comparisons. The needs of nature conservation institutions and the social topicality of the topic, including its politicization and tabloidization, require routinization, automation and acceleration of these procedures, which requires deeper cooperation between primary research institutions (Charles University, Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague) and the applied sphere (The Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic).

Principal investigator is the Faculty of Science of Charles University, the co-investigator is the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, and the application guarantor is Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic (NCA).

The project aims to streamline and automate genetic procedures through close cooperation between research institutions and the applied sphere.



## National meeting of representatives of botanical gardens of the Czech Republic at the CZU



A national meeting of representatives of botanical gardens of the Czech Republic, organized by the Botanical Garden of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, took place at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague.

The programme included a recapitulation of activities for 2023, plans for 2024 and expert lectures. During the meeting, honorary memberships of the UBZ of the Czech Republic were formally recognised as eminent personalities of botany and natural sciences. Mr. and Mrs. Hlaváč were awarded for their lifetime contributions.



## The Society for Ethnobotany Annual Meeting 2025 will take place in Prague

**WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT NEXT YEAR'S SEB MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN EARLY JUNE IN PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC.**

The conference will take place at the Czech University of Life Sciences and finalized dates, field trips, and registration will be announced in the late summer/early fall. In the heart of Europe, this meeting will draw a truly international attendance from the ethnobotanical community. **You won't want to miss it!**

# International Cooperation

## Long-term cooperation with universities from Indonesia

The FTA representatives were honored to welcome the delegation from two Indonesian universities to our faculty on 5th March, namely the Rector of Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Prof. Arif Satria, and Vice-Rector for Planning and Partnership of Tadulako University (UNTAD), Prof. Aiyen Tjoa, accompanied by esteemed members from their respective institutions. Building upon previous collaborations a longstanding cooperation has been established. Discussions focused on future collaborations and strengthening the existing Memorandums of Understanding.

## New world-class Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Global Forestry

Deforestation and forest degradation account for 10-15 % of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, contribute massively to the global loss of biodiversity, and undermine the livelihoods of millions of people who depend heavily on forests and the uncultivated environment for their livelihoods.

Global Forestry (GLOFOR) is a two-year English language world-class Erasmus Mundus MSc programme preparing graduates to deal with forestry's tremendous contemporary challenges and potentials with the problems of biodiversity protection, climate change, and the development of a circular bio-economy.

## International Conference on Inclusive Education in Multicultural Classrooms

The International Conference on Inclusive Education in Multicultural Classrooms was held at Izmir Katip Çelebi University in Turkey. Its theme was Challenges and Opportunities in Multicultural Learning Environments.

Dr. Petra Chaloupková, Vice Dean for International Relations, participated on behalf of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences. The conference brought together leading academics and educators to discuss inclusive pedagogy, curriculum development and strategies for navigating diverse classroom environments.

## IROICA Webinar Universities and Mobility in a Time of Global Polycrises

On Thursday, 30 Ma2024, the IROICA (International Relations Officers' Network of the Association for European Life Science Universities) hosted a webinar titled "Universities and Mobility in the Time of Global Polycrises". The event focused on the challenges and opportunities that universities face in maintaining academic mobility amidst global crises such as climate change, pandemics, political instability, and economic disruptions. The webinar featured expert speakers who discussed strategies for fostering international collaboration, supporting student and staff mobility, and ensuring resilience in higher education institutions. The participants explored how universities can adapt to rapidly changing global circumstances while continuing to promote international exchange and cooperation.

## Linking aquaculture and small-scale biogas technology in Zambia

The project 'Through Biogas Technology to Increase the Resilience of Communities in the Western Province of Zambia' contributes to the food and nutritional security of small-scale farmers including female farmers heading their households and increasing their resilience to climate change. The intervention targets four outputs, such as increasing the awareness and demand of smallholder farmers for biogas technology, increasing the capacity of biogas service providers, launching a financing scheme for biogas technologies, and increasing farmers' knowledge of the use of biogas technology, while integrating cross-cutting principles such as good governance, human rights and gender equality, and environmental sustainability.



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The project consortium which consists of People in Need (Člověk v tísni) as a coordinating institution, the CZU and Keepers Zambia Foundation (KZF) actively seek synergies with other entities operating in the Western Province and coordinate their activities with relevant programmes implemented in Zambia. Read more about the project [here](#).

## Cooperation with the Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry in Vietnam continues

For the fourth time, the FTA has been funded for Erasmus+ KA171 mobilities for students and staff to develop research on biogas technology as a sustainable solution of waste2energy with strong potential for rural women's empowerment (BioResource and Technology Team FTA). Following last year's mutual exchange of two PhD candidates from each university and five academic staff including the rector of the HUAF, this year, ahead of the IRO, prof. Pham Huu Ty visited the FTA to set new project proposals and seek experts from other faculties (FLD).

## Empowering Communities in Zambia through Integrated Farming since 2019

Since 2019, a team from FTA and Faculty of Agrobiological, Food and Natural Resources at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague has been actively engaged in Zambia, working to enhance sustainable agricultural practices and improve the livelihoods of local communities through integrated farming projects. Our efforts in Zambia build on a rich history of collaboration that began in 2019 and continues to this day, demonstrating our long-term commitment to development and sustainability in the region. The project [Integrated Farming II](#) successfully enhanced the productivity and resilience of local farming systems by combining traditional knowledge with innovative technologies. Through workshops and on-site training sessions, farmers learned about soil conservation, efficient water management, integrated pest management, small-scale aquaculture, and more. The following project [Integrated Farming III](#) aims to deepen the impact of our work by enhancing farmers' capabilities to cope with the challenges of climate change and market fluctuations. By connecting farmers to broader markets and supporting value-added production, we are working to create a more sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector in Zambia. Over the years, our projects in Zambia have had a profound impact on local communities, improving food security, increasing income levels, and fostering sustainable agricultural practices including sustainable semi-intensive fish production (more than 20 fishponds were constructed). Our long-term presence in the region has enabled us to build strong partnerships with local institutions and stakeholders, ensuring that the benefits of our projects are sustained beyond their duration.

## Strengthening scientific capacities and cooperation of Ukrainian universities in AgriSciences – AgriSci-UA

The platform aims to strengthen the capacities and cooperation of young teachers, researchers and master's and doctoral students at selected Ukrainian universities by creating a platform – The AgriSciences Platform for sharing information on Agrarian Sciences. Learn more [here](#).

## Long-term research and development activities of the FTA in Ethiopia continue with a project focused on rehabilitation of Cheleleke wetlands

The Cheleleka wetlands and surrounding forests provide crucial services by stabilising the microclimate, functioning as an effective natural wastewater treatment facility, providing habitat for unique biodiversity, and generating livelihoods for the local population.



Nevertheless, the wetland is currently undergoing a significant degree of degradation. The size of Cheleleka has experienced a gradual decline in area over the long term due to the combined effects of climate change and anthropogenic activities, including deforestation, settlement expansion, waste accumulation, and the discharge of toxic substances from industry and intensive agriculture. The pollution of the wetland has a deleterious effect on biodiversity and the livelihoods of the local population, for whom it serves as an essential source of water for irrigation, livestock watering, fishing and recreational activities. As a result, the wetland can no longer fulfil these functions for the local communities and ecosystems.

The FTA contributes to the project's objective of reducing the degradation of the Cheleleka wetland by restoring its functionality and enhancing the stability of surrounding farming systems and agrobiodiversity. The FTA is specifically involved in introducing sustainable agricultural practices, including agroforestry systems, homegardens, the utilisation of forest products and sustainable farm intensification. These practices are environmentally friendly and resilient to climate change, leading to improved agricultural production for local smallholders, cooperatives, and communities.

Furthermore, the adoption and perception of these changes and challenges by local households and the financial returns of introducing new farm practices and strengthening value chains with local products are also key activities.

The project is being realised in collaboration with Mendel University Brno and Holistic Solutions, with financial support from the Czech Government.

## Dean of the FTA Explores Collaboration Opportunities in Uzbekistan: A Step Towards Joint Initiatives in Water Harvesting and Climate Change Mitigation.

Patrick Van Damme recently completed a fruitful visit to Uzbekistan, engaging with the University of Digital Economics and Agrotechnology in Tashkent. Funded by the ERASMUS+ KA171 call 2022 and initiated by Dr. Muhtor Nasirov from Samarkand State University, this visit strengthened a 15-year partnership. It resulted in discussions on collaborative projects, particularly a proposed summer school on Water Harvesting Techniques, crucial for local agriculture. The visit also advanced the CZU's MoU with Tashkent, potentially extending to Samarkand, pending approval. The next steps include securing funding, incorporating these universities into Erasmus+ exchanges, and exploring FAO support. This initiative aims to tackle climate challenges in Uzbekistan through education and innovation, marking a new era of cooperation between the institutions. More details [here](#).



## Expedition to the mountain areas of the Western Balkans

In March 2024, representatives from the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, in collaboration with colleagues from Rhine-Waal University (Germany) and the University of Gastronomic Sciences (Italy), conducted an expedition to the Western Balkans, specifically Albania, Kosovo, and Northern Macedonia. The objective was to assess the current state of, and challenges in the agricultural sector, focusing on sustainable value chains for medicinal plants and forest products. The expedition included field surveys in protected mountain areas and interviews with a range of stakeholders, such as farmers, agribusiness entrepreneurs, academics, and cooperative representatives. The programme featured lectures, visits to local farms, forest product collection points, and meetings with development network representatives. Funded mainly by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, this initiative aims to promote sustainable development and enhance international cooperation and knowledge exchange between the FTA and European institutions.

## Thanks to Erasmus+ KA 171 the FTA and FAPPZ started activities in Somaliland

The FTA, together with the FAPPZ, was successful in acquiring funds within the Erasmus + project KA171 supporting the mobility of students and staff, for the mobility of students and staff between the CZU and the University of Hergeisa and the University of Burao. Dr. Jana Mazancová (FTA) and Prof. David Modrý (FAPPZ) visited Somaliland in February 2024 to prepare the short-term mobilities of staff and three-month mobilities of PhD candidates and MSc students.

The focus is on sustainable rural development, traditional pastoralist livelihood and veterinary services. With the rectors of the universities and deans of the veterinary faculties, the Czech experts discussed the practical part of veterinary services and the feminization of veterinary studies and disciplines. Six academic staff and four students from Somaliland universities will be hosted at the FTA at the end of September 2024. The FTA has also started a collaboration with the Czech-East African Joint Chamber of Commerce.



## Staff mobility from the RUA to the CZU

Dr. Samnang Nguon of the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) in Cambodia participated in a 10-day Staff Mobility for Training at the Laboratory of Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology (LEE) led by Prof. Ing. Ladislav Kokoška of the FTA at the CZU Prague. During the mobility, he familiarized himself with the team's expertise, laboratory facilities, and experimental design for antimicrobial susceptibility testing and GC-MS analysis and received specialized training in the vapored-phase antibacterial activities of essential oils from tropical plant extracts and engaged in discussions about the analysis and interpretation of GC-MS results. Additionally, he assisted a Master's student with research, collaborated with researchers and PhD students at the laboratory and participated in departmental defense for a PhD dissertation, and discussed potential future collaborations with faculty members and researchers.

## Academic Issues / Alumni

### New Leadership Changes at the Czech University of Life Sciences

Professor Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D., has been appointed as the new Vice-Rector for Strategy. His previous role as Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Tropical Agrisciences for Science and Research has been taken over by Associate Professor Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D. These changes in management became effective on January 15, 2024.



Professor Banout has played a pivotal role in the development of the Institute of Tropical Agriculture, transforming it into an independent faculty within the CZU.

This achievement is particularly noteworthy as it stands unique in the European academic landscape. Over his eight-year tenure, he has significantly contributed to the growth and recognition of the faculty.

The FTA also has a new vice-dean for the FTA development, namely Assoc. Ing. Klára Urbanová, Ph.D.

### Congratulations

- **Doc. Ing. Zbyněk Polesný, Ph.D.** was appointed a member of the editorial board of Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems.
- **Nishanth Gurav** have been selected as a Society for Ethnobotany (SEB) Student Ambassador and therefore a member of the SEB students committee.
- Minister of Agriculture Award: **Ing. Dumitru-Claudiu Sănduță**: Why people buy food directly from farmers: Case study from Moldova
- Rector's Award for thesis: **Ing. Barbora Růžičková**: Processing and usage of Fig Leaves (*Ficus carica* L.)
- Dean's Prize for Master's Thesis **Ing. Anna Wildová**: In vitro growth-inhibitory effect of plant extracts and alkaloids against diarrheal and probiotic bacteria
- The Dean's Prize for the best bachelor thesis was awarded to **Bc. Nicole Dřímálová** for her thesis "Antiproliferative effect of common *Nepenthes* species on adenocarcinoma cells".
- Rector's Awards for Excellence:
  - Bc. Klára Kohoutová**
  - Bc. Ginny McAllister**



### When FTA Alumni got together in São Tomé and Príncipe

FTA alumni undoubtedly possess high-level expertise in tropical agriculture and rural development. Three alumni with a Lusophonic background—Blanka Křivánková (private sector), Jana Mazancová (academia), and Sumner Metzger (CSO)—excelled in the competition for the decentralized evaluation of the three-year **Capacity Strengthening Activities to Government and Local Communities** under the **UN World Food Programme's** Country Strategic Plan in São Tomé and Príncipe. They collaborated with colleagues from the Icon-Institute and 4GEval to produce an evaluation report with policy recommendations on sustainable school feeding programmes and local production and consumption, enhancing food security in the small tropical island nation. Read the full report [here](#).

### Horizon Europe project AGRIGEP has reached its halfway point

Exciting updates from our EU-funded project on implementing Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) in Agriculture and Life Science Universities! As we hit the mid-term mark, we're thrilled to share our progress. Alongside our six consortium partners and five sister projects, we've hosted numerous awareness-raising events on gender equality, inclusion and diversity in academia, teaching, and research, and participated in the European Sustainable Development Week at the CZU. We've also showcased our work at various international conferences. Recently, we gathered at one of our partner institutions, the Universidade Politecnica de Catalunya in Barcelona, for an energizing summer school on GEPs. Now, we're gearing up for an engaging webinar series with our sister projects. Stay tuned for more updates on our social media channels, subscribe to the newsletter and visit our website at [www.agrigep.eu](http://www.agrigep.eu). Gender equality matters to us!

### Month of Women in Science

The CZU and the project AGRIGEP celebrated Women in Science. In February 2024, the Czech University of Life Sciences (CZU) launched the campaign 'Month of Women in Science' in honour of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11 and the International Day of Women on March 8.

This initiative, supported by the AGRIGEP project, spotlighted the achievements of female scientists and academics while promoting gender equality, inclusion and diversity in agriculture and life sciences. AGRIGEP, funded by the EU under Horizon Europe, aims to foster equal opportunities and inclusivity at universities specializing in these fields. Throughout February, the CZU featured weekly profiles of female researchers, started with Ing. Jana Mazancová, PhD, from the Department of Sustainable Technologies at the FTA.



## Thanks to the National Recovery Plan the FTA goes for modern digital study materials

After two years of implementation, funds from the National Recovery Plan facilitated the creation of digital study materials for seven Master's courses using diverse methods such as virtual reality, instructional videos, interactive timelines, testing, and presentations. These resources enable students to manage their study time independently and improve their academic performance. Additionally, seven new software programs for data processing and modelling in the research of energy flows, animal behaviour, and botany were acquired, significantly enhancing the quality of teaching.



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## Student Ambassadors activities



At the FTA Student Ambassadors play a key role in welcoming and supporting new students through various events and activities. This year they organized, and supported a Learn and Discuss session on illegal trade alongside the Turtles Rescue programme exhibition, a Welcome Course for new students, Spring SWAP and also supported a follow-up discussion on biodiversity and conservation in connection with the Gandoca Exhibition.

Together with the members of the Be Fair organization at the FTA they participated in the FTA Open Days.



## The BeFair team

communicates the concept of fair trade, ensuring that products are obtained without the use of child labour and that farmers and their suppliers are properly rewarded financially. BeFair's activities also cover broader themes such as sustainability, recycling, second-hand fashion, and maximizing food use. The association promotes ideas of alternative farming, community gardens, agroforestry, and permaculture. This year they participated in the CZU Easter Market and participated the guided tours in Botanical Gardens.

## Meet Our Alumni



### CARINE UWAMAHORO

Carine UWAMAHORO hails from Rwanda and currently works as a Laboratory Research Specialist at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (DFGF). This non-profit organization is dedicated to the conservation and protection of gorillas and their habitats through extensive research, anti-poaching efforts, public education, and community engagement. The DFGF collaborates closely with local governments, communities, and international partners to ensure the survival of these majestic creatures.

Carine pursued a Master's degree in Wildlife Management and Conservation (WMC) at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. Her education provided her with a solid foundation in ecological sciences and practical skills essential for wildlife conservation. This programme has enabled her to make significant contributions to conservation efforts in Rwanda, aligning with her passion for wildlife preservation and the sustainable management of natural habitats.

## Invitation

### JOIN THE 5<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Multidisciplinary Conference for Young Researchers (MCYR) is being organized by the BioResources and Technology Division (FTA, CZU) in collaboration with the AgriSciences Platform, the OSIRIS and COMUNIDAD projects.

The conference aims to enable early career researchers from various disciplines to expand their professional networks, establish new collaborations and have insightful discussions with peers and experts, focused on fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and supporting the next generation of researchers on key topics under the sub-theme: "Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges".

### Conference details

When: **3-4 OCTOBER 2024**

Venue: **THE FTA, CZU**

For more details please follow this link: [mcyr.ftz.czu.cz](https://mcyr.ftz.czu.cz)

