



ULST Timisoara
**Multidisciplinary Conference on
Sustainable Development**
15-16 May 2025



The Vital Role of Agriculture in the European Union

Carmen Simona DUMITRESCU^{1*}, Cosmin Sălășan^{2*}, Iasmina Iosim³, Sorin Mihai Stanciu⁴, Simona Cristina Constantinescu⁵

1 University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, Department Management and Rural Development, e-mail: carmendumitrescu@usvt.ro

2 University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, Department Management and Rural Development, e-mail: cosminsalasan@usvt.ro

3 University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, Department Economy and Firm Financing, e-mail: iasminaiosim@usvt.ro

4 University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, Department Economy and Firm Financing, e-mail: sorinstanciu@usvt.ro

5 University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, Department Economy and Firm Financing, e-mail: simona_constantinescu@usvt.ro

Corresponding authors: carmendumitrescu@usvt.ro, cosminsalasan@usvt.ro

Abstract: *Agriculture plays a crucial role in the European Union's economy, ensuring food security, providing raw materials, and supporting rural livelihoods. In addition, the agricultural sector preserves cultural traditions, maintains rural communities, and promotes sustainable development. However, the EU's agricultural sector is confronted with a range of complex challenges that threaten its long-term stability and growth. Environmental concerns such as climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, and the overexploitation of natural resources are pressing issues that need urgent attention. Moreover, the EU agricultural sector faces growing competition in global markets, alongside rising protectionism and trade barriers that complicate its ability to remain competitive. These challenges are compounded by internal policy inconsistencies and regulatory divergences across EU member states, which complicate the implementation of cohesive strategies to tackle climate change and other environmental issues. The diversity of agricultural practices, from intensive farming to small-scale organic producers, further exacerbates the complexity of creating a one-size-fits-all policy solution. The need for adaptable and multi-layered policy responses is critical to address both the environmental and economic dimensions of the sector's future. This paper explores the EU's agricultural sector, with a particular focus on its role in global agricultural trade. It discusses how the EU, as a global player, navigates the challenges posed by differing national regulations, trade agreements, and international market trends. The paper emphasizes the importance of balancing domestic sustainability goals with global competitiveness, particularly in light of the EU's Green Deal and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Ultimately, it argues that targeted, coordinated policies are essential to ensure the EU remains a leader in sustainable agricultural production, while addressing the environmental and market-related challenges that shape the sector's future.*