**Hellenic Republic**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Granting awards to twenty - nine (29) Faculty Staff of the Agricultural University of Athens, ranked amongst the top scientists worldwide, on the Commemoration Ceremony Event of the National Day of the 25th of March 1821.**

On Wednesday, March 20 2024, a Commemoration Ceremony Event of the National Day of the 25th of March 1821 was held at the Ceremony Hall of the Central Administration Building of the Agricultural University of Athens (AUA). The Rector of the Agricultural University of Athens, Mr. Spyridon Kintzios, Professor, has delivered the Celebratory Speech, entitled: “Education in Greece, throughout the period of Ottoman rule”. In his zealous speech, the Rector has highlighted the importance of Education in the difficult years of the Turkish-occupied, inasmuch the harsh environment established, especially in time periods of conflict and contention, as well as emphasizing the great contribution of the Church, towards the foundation of schools. Besides, the Rector has stressed the pivotal role of the National Martyr Rigas Feraios, who has depicted the cartographic masterpiece of the Chartae of the Balkan Peninsula, marking the particular value of the cartography of Charta of Greece, which comprises a lot of information about the Greek place names and the history of Hellenism, thus contributing essentially to the historical and geographical culture of the Nation.

Furthermore, the President of the Association of the Teaching Research Staff of AUA, Mr. Dionissios Kalivas, Professor, along with the President of the Laboratory and Teaching Personnel of AUA, Mr. Nikolaos Papandreou, have addressed their greetings respectively. Subsequently, the part of the ceremony event on granting honorable awards to the distinguished Faculty Staff of the University took place, who had been ranked in the List of the top scientists throughout the world, according to the recent Ranking of the Bibliometric Study of Ioannidis JPA., (2023), based on the Scopus database of the International Publishing House Elsevier and published on October 4 2023, entitled: “Updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators”, (<https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/6> ), comprising an update of the List, which represents the top of the most-cited scientists globally, in various disciplines.

Indeed, such a List is released annually, ranking the impact and appeal of the scientific work of approximately 10.000.000 scientists and researchers across the world, classifying them into 22 major scientific fields and 176 sub-fields. In addition, the analysis carried out by a group of experts of Stanford University under the leadership of Professor John Ioannidis has been conducted, based on a number of indicators focusing on the impact of the published work of the top of the most-cited scientists throughout 2022, while pertaining to the assessment of the relevant indicators for over 8.000.000 scientists worldwide. Furthermore, that Study lists all the scientists, whose published research works have accelerated progress in their respective fields, thus having influence on the advancement of the work achieved by other scientists.

The Rector of the Agricultural University of Athens, Mr. Spyridon Kintzios, having also achieved that significant distinction, during his short greeting, has praised all the awarded members of the large agricultural family for the high-level knowledge offered and imparted on a national and global level. It is worth mentioning that this significant distinction confirms the international recognition and popularity of the high - level research carried out at the Agricultural University of Athens, highlighting its role as a special and unique Hub of Creativity and Innovation. It is equally noticeable that granting such awards assumes particular significance at the specific time, when Public University is under attack, in many respects, while wrestling bravely with challenges, with a view to preserving the social commodity and right of highest importance, namely, the public and free education system.

The twenty - nine (29) Academic Community Members of the Agricultural University of Athens named in the List, are referred to in the Table below, in alphabetical order and distributed as follows:

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| **Number**  | **Full Name**  | **Department** |
| 1 | John Valiantzas, Former Professor | Department of Natural Resources Development & Agricultural Engineering |
| 2 | John Vontas, Professor | Department of Crop Science |
| 3 | Dionysios Gasparatos, Professor | Department of Natural Resources Development & Agricultural Engineering |
| 4 | Antonis Zampelas, Professor | Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition |
| 5 | George Zervakis, Professor | Department of Crop Science |
| 6 | George Zervas, Professor Emeritus,  | Department of Animal Science |
| 7 | Nickolas Kavallieratos, Associate Professor,  | Department of Crop Science |
| 8 | Spyridon Kintzios, Professor | Department of Biotechnology  |
| 9 | Ioannis Klonis, Professor Emeritus | Department of Biotechnology  |
| 10 | Apostolis Koutinas, Professor  | Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition |
| 11 | Nikolaos Lambrou, Professor | Department of Biotechnology  |
| 12 | Ioanna Mandala, Professor | Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition |
| 13 | Chrysanthos Maraveas, Assistant Professor  | Department of Natural Resources Development & Agricultural Engineering |
| 14 | Angeliki Menegaki, Professor | Department of Regional and Economic Development |
| 15 | Konstantinos Mountzouris, Professor | Department of Animal Science |
| 16 | Demetres Briasoulis, Professor Emeritus | Department of Natural Resources Development& Agricultural Engineering |
| 17 | Georgios-Ioannis Nychas, Professor Emeritus | Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition |
| 18 | Efstathios Panagou, Professor | Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition |
| 19 | George Papadakis, Professor | Department of Natural Resources Development & Agricultural Engineering |
| 20 | Seraphim Papanikolaou, Professor | Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition |
| 21 | Ioannis Politis, Professor | Department of Animal Science |
| 22 | Dimitrios Savvas, Professor | Department of Crop Science |
| 23 | Panagiotis Simitzis Associate Professor | Department of Animal Science |
| 24 | Panagiotis Skandamis, Professor | Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition |
| 25 | Konstantinos Soulis, Assistant Professor | Department of Natural Resources Development& Agricultural Engineering |
| 26 | Petros Tarantilis, Professor | Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition |
| 27 | Ilias Travlos, Associate Professor | Department of Crop Science |
| 28 | Eleni Tsiplakou, Associate Professor | Department of Animal Science |
| 29 | Spyros Fountas, Professor | Department of Natural Resources Development& Agricultural Engineering |

On the following link, there is access to all the photos captured at the Ceremony Event:

[Photos -29 FACULTY STAFF](https://auagpa-my.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/g/personal/alikifotini_aua_gr/Eu8j8ph0sgRLtWrXHgPenRIBxjMAOgSLrhySl9p_ZT09uw?e=gtaGuW)

 After the awarding ceremony event, the presentation of a short-term musical programme took place, under the music supervision of the *Music Lab* of the Agricultural University of Athens.