THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
– a meeting place for the green sector
ACADEMY – name given to a seat of higher learning or a learned society. The word derives from the Greek school founded by Plato on the outskirts of Athens, beside an olive grove dedicated to the legendary hero Akademos. (From the Swedish National Encyclopedia.)

Royal academies in Sweden:
Royal Swedish Academy of Fine Arts (founded in 1735)
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (founded in 1739)
Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities (founded in 1753)
Royal Academy of Music (founded in 1771)
Royal Swedish Society of Naval Sciences (founded in 1771)
Swedish Academy (founded in 1786)
Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences (founded in 1796)
Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (founded in 1811)
Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (founded in 1919)
The Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Swedish folk culture (founded in 1932)
The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA) – a meeting place for the green sector

The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry is a free and independent network organisation for the advancement of agriculture, horticulture, fishing, aquaculture, food, forestry, forest products, reindeer herding, bioenergy, environment, tourism, recreation and the history of forestry and agriculture. We work, through non-affiliated dialogue and analyses, on issues that concern all and interest many!

KSLA has around 600 Swedish, overseas and honorary fellows. Our work is carried out by boards, committees and working parties, and in addition to Academy meetings we hold conferences and seminars, etc. KSLA administers a number of funds for the distribution of prizes, awards, scholarships and research grants. The Academy replies to referrals in issues concerning the green sector.

An independent academy

The Academy is an independent, autonomous organisation that appoints its own fellows and that works on questions initiated by its fellows. KSLA has access to funds of its own and also administers a number of foundations for which the benefactors have specified the purpose and use. A common feature of all these foundations is that they aim to promote scientific research and development within the green sector.

Brief history

The ‘Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture’ was founded in 1811 on the initiative of Crown Prince Carl Johan, later King Karl XIV Johan of Sweden. He probably had the French Academy of Agriculture as his model. Crown Prince Carl Johan also became the first president of the Academy. At that time, around 85% of the population of Sweden were involved in agriculture and the Academy acted as a central administration body.
Many current Swedish institutions within the green sector have their origins in the Academy: The Ministry of Rural Affairs, The Swedish Board of Agriculture and a large section of the research council Formas are but a few. For many years, the Academy supervised the Rural Economy and Agricultural Societies and also directed agricultural research activities, a task that was later taken over by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. In 1956, forest activities were intensified and the name of the Academy was changed to ‘The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry’.

**Organisation**

The Academy is led by its President (chairman), with a vice-President as deputy. The mandate period for both is four years. The Academy Collegium acts as the Academy’s governing body. The Collegium is made up of the President, vice-President, Academy Secretary, Chairs of the three Sections and a further nine delegates, of which each Section elects three. The Academy Presidium (the Collegial Working Party) is made up of the President, vice-President and Academy Secretary. The daily work of the Academy is directed by the Academy Secretary, who is also managing director and head of the Academy secretariat.
Academy activities

**Three sections**

Within the Academy there are three sections: the General Section, the Agricultural Section and the Forestry Section. Each section consists of Swedish fellows, overseas fellows and honorary fellows.

The Academy’s activities are carried out within its boards, committees and working parties, and through meetings, conferences and seminars. Both Academy fellows and external forces are involved in the work and the Academy endeavours to gather the best available expertise for constructive debate.

**The fellows – the most important resource**

Academy fellows come from research, practice, administration and industry, but represent the Academy in their personal expertise. The task of the secretariat staff is to inspire and enable fellows to offer their collective experience and knowledge for the ‘good of society’, as stated in the Academy’s mission statement. Fellows turning 65 years of age usually do not reduce their involvement – on the contrary, many see increased opportunities to contribute to the work of the Academy on retirement from their professional posts.

New fellows are elected on proposals from existing fellows, with the aim of complementing and extending the Academy’s expertise in actively working towards positive development of the green sector. Election of new fellows takes place once a year and is ratified at the December meeting.

**Boards and committees**

Within the Academy there are permanent boards for finance, prizes and awards, grant allocation and library and archives.
Within KSLA there are committees that work on:
- Energy issues
- Research policy
- International forestry issues
- International agricultural issues
- Rural development
- Food quality and health
- Sustainable development
- Forest techniques and logistics
- Silviculture
- Fishery issues
- Development of profitable agricultural production
- Water issues

Projects
The Academy also works in more short-term projects involving reviews of interdisciplinary knowledge, syntheses and future studies within areas identified by the Academy as being particularly important for the future development. One such project is the Secretariat for International Forest Issues (SIFI), www.sifi.se.

Research grants and scholarships
Over the years, the Academy has received various donations, from which funds are distributed in the form of research grants and travel scholarships that contribute to the development.

Prizes and awards
To inspire increased knowledge within the Academy’s areas of activity, the Academy distributes prizes and awards to deserving practitioners, researchers and research organisations. These are awarded at the formal meeting of the Academy on 28 January each year. The prizes include:
- The A.W. Bergsten Prize, awarded to ‘individuals who through outstanding scientific work, successful teaching or comparable practical work have contributed towards awakening attention and interest for agriculture and its associated sectors’.
- The Academy’s Supreme Gold Medal ‘for particularly outstanding lifetime achievements within the Academy’s field of work’.
- The Academy’s Gold Medal ‘for extraordinary achievements within the Academy’s field of activity’.
The Academy’s Silver Plaquette ‘for having in a deserving way awakened interest in the land-based industries’.

**Historical activities**

The Academy’s unit for forest and agricultural history of land-based industries (ANH) carries out inter-disciplinary research into the history of forest and agriculture. The aim is to create an understanding of the importance of developing these industries, to enhance the self-image of people working in the green sector and to provide historical background when the Academy is dealing with current and future issues. The unit also has an active and well-equipped research library that specialises in the history of the land-based industries. This library is also available to the public. Its literature is listed in the LIBRIS database, which is available on the internet. KSLA also has comprehensive archives containing material on the Academy’s activities and reflecting the development of Swedish agriculture.

**Publications**

The Academy’s journal (KSLAT) contains lectures and discussions from Academy meetings, seminars and conferences, as well as reports from the Academy’s committees and working parties. Certain issues of KSLAT are only published on the Academy website [www.ksla.se](http://www.ksla.se), where the printed issues are available as download files. Collaborative projects with other organisations are often published in separate issues.

A digital quarterly newsletter with shorter accounts of the Academy’s activities is also published.

In addition, the Academy publishes books on the history of the land-based industries in the book series Skogs- och Lantbrukshistoriska meddelanden (SOLMED) and the pamphlet series Miscellanea, which consists of personal bibliographies, literature reviews, etc.
Welcome to Enaforsholm!

The Academy runs the Enaforsholm estate in western Jämtland, very suitable for relaxing and easily accessible outdoor activities. Enaforsholm is owned by the A.W. Bergsten Foundation, which is administered by the Academy. The Academy and the host couple at Enaforsholm welcome all with an interest in nature to this paradise, which provides board and home-cooked food at very reasonable prices.

Enaforsholm can accommodate guests in 2–8 bedrooms. A couple of cottages are equipped for self-catering. In total, there are around 50 beds. This outdoor centre is also suitable for small conferences or private gatherings. The conference facilities can accommodate up to 35 people.

Enafors and its surroundings offer unforgettable nature and culture experiences. Ånnsjön is one of the most bird-rich lakes in the Swedish mountain region, soapstone products are made in Handöl, while the impressive Tännforsen rapids and the graceful Brudslöjan waterfall are a short car journey away, as is Storulvån, where many begin their hikes in the ‘Jämt triangle’ to Blåhammaren and Sylarna.

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See also www.enaforsholm.se
The Academy house

The beautiful house belonging to the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry is located at Drottninggatan 95 B in Stockholm, Sweden. It was built in 1869 and was originally designed for the Petrological College and the country’s petrological engineers were educated here until 1917. The house contained laboratories for metallurgical experiments, lecture theatres and residential accommodation.

The house was then used by the Metallographical Institute and in 1947 the Slavonic Institute of Stockholm University occupied the premises. The Academy took over the house after the University moved to Frescati and required the Academy’s experimental field. The move was completed in 1972. Extensive renovations were carried out in 1990. The exterior matches that of the neighbouring house, the former Institute of Technology. Both buildings are in the Renaissance style, with rich stucco architecture. The elegant staircase, which has remained unchanged since 1869, is an official listed building feature, as is the exterior.

If you would like to know more about the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, please visit our website: www.ksla.se
The task of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry is to promote agriculture and forestry and their related fields with the support of science and practical experience in the interest of society.

The Academy mission statement