



1813–2013

*The role of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry is, with the support of science and practical experience, to promote agriculture and forestry and related activities, for the benefit of society. The Academy was founded in 1811 at the initiative of Karl XIV Johan and started its work on 28 January 1813.*

## The Academy's 200<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Meeting

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### Academy Laureates' thanks

Per Wramner.....2



KSLA 200 years old  
1813–2013

## Per Wramner, the Academy's Large Gold Medal

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**The 200<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Meeting of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry on 28 January 2013**

*Your Majesties*

*Excellencies*

*Ladies and gentlemen*

On behalf of the laureates I would like to express our warm thanks to the Academy for awarding us these prestigious prizes. It is a great honour and we appreciate it very much. We represent different parts of the green sector; agriculture, forestry, fisheries, nature conservation and so on. We have different professional backgrounds, both from science and as practitioners. We come from different parts of society, both public and private. But we have one major thing in common: a strong dedication to this sector, a strong conviction of its significance.

The green sector does not represent yesterday. It represents tomorrow, the modernity. It will give us new products and continue to provide us with important ecosystem services. Its significance to mankind will increase even more in the future.

Also many traditional agricultural activities represent this modernity, for example management of natural pastures. Forty years ago, I worked with the conservation of a traditional agricultural landscape of great value – Valle härad in Västergötland. Today, I have the privilege to spend a large part of my spare time in a small, 150 years old cottage in that arcadian area. I enjoy grazing animals, beautiful open sceneries, rich flora and fauna.

This particular region with its unique biodiversity and beauty is a result of hard work of generations of farmers. I would like to agree with the old Greek Xenophon who wrote that “*agriculture for an honourable and highminded man is the best of all occupations or arts by which men procure the means of living.*”

In the green sector there are close links between production and conservation. They affect each other but are also dependent of each other.

The green sector is generally characterized by dedication and strong feelings. This is particularly true for fishing and hunting. I worked with fisheries management for many years. In that work, the emotional factor played an important role. It was fascinating but made my job quite difficult.

Finally, a true story from my work with conservation 40 years ago. I had been negotiating a whole day with an old farmer on the establishment of a nature reserve on his farm. We made no progress. I was just about to give up and leave, to come back later, when he said:

“You are too strong, you damned socialists! I can’t fight you anymore. I give up! Take my pastures, my forest, the whole farm if you want, and take my wife too!! But let me keep my hunting and fishing rights.”

And so we did, except for the wife. We bought the farm but he stayed on it for the rest of his life, devoting himself to hunting and fishing.

I propose that we raise our glasses to celebrate the Academy.

Skål!

*Per Wramner*