



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 206th Commemorative Meeting

January 28, 2018

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The Principal Speech is not yet available in English

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Academy President Lisa Sennerby Forsse

The Commemorative Meeting of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA), January 28, 2018

The Academy and the Global Perspectives

Your Excellency

Honourable Minister

Honorary Fellows

New Fellows

Laureates

Fellows of the Academy

Distinguished Guests

KSLA's vision is *"We strengthen the green sectors for a sustainable future"* and our portal paragraph underlines this with its wording : *"The task of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry is to promote agriculture and forestry and associated activities with the support of science and practical experience and in the interest of society."*

The Royal Swedish Academy of Forestry and Agriculture was founded on the initiative of Crown Prince Karl Johan, the future king Karl XIV Johan. The Academy held its first meeting on January 28th 1813. Its purpose was to work for the benefit of Swedish agriculture at a time when Sweden, after its unsuccessful Finnish War of 1808-1809, had lost Finland to Russia. Admittedly, Sweden obtained compensation for the loss by conquering Norway, which was compelled in 1814 to form a union with Sweden, but the forced marriage of the two countries only lasted for just under a century. During the lifetime of the union Sweden was a desperately poor country, one of the very poorest in Europe, an underdeveloped country suffering from extreme poverty, famine and sickness. Moreover, during the 19th century there were many crop failures and around one million Swedes emigrated to America in the hope of making a better life for themselves.

Today, the situation is different; Sweden is one of the richest countries in a highly globalised world where the conditions for Sweden's staple industries are largely determined by international events and agreements. The major challenges of our time are presented by the need to control climate change while at the same time seeing that a growing global population obtains food, water and fuel – on a sustainable basis. These are broadly the same challenges as when our Academy was founded for the benefit of Sweden – but in contrast to 1813 the perspective has broadened to where it is now global and includes all the world around us.

The Academy has a long tradition of taking action internationally and globally, and our Plan for Activities and Policy for 2017–2020 emphasises international and global perspectives. In a digitalised world that is more and more characterised by a never-ending flow of information, and where what some people call alternative facts have recently become everyday matter, it is urgent to defend the international exchange of ideas on scientific grounds. Together with more countries and new bodies feeling an ever growing responsibility for sustainable development, global political solutions are becoming possible. An example of this is the Paris Agreement and not least Agenda 2030, which will enable us to take joint action to promote sustainable development at national, regional and global levels. What then are the global perspectives to which KSLA can contribute with its knowledge and experience?

International aspects are countless in the work of our committees and as of 2018 the Academy will also have an International Board Committee. It will deal with e.g. Agenda 2030 topics where the green sectors will be strongly represented. The 17 sustainability goals are in all essentials all dependent on ecosystem services from our forests, farmland, and water resources, which means that many goals are highly relevant to KSLA's activities. Common to all of them is the fact that they require multi-disciplinary input – in terms of both research and practical effort. One important principle is that the goals throughout the entire agenda are interrelated and it is quite clear that agriculture and forestry play an important role for all the goals. There are also direct connections with trade, sustainable consumption and a number of other socio-economic dimensions, all of which are areas of relevance and current interest to KSLA.

An example of how we go about our work on Sustainability Goals is provided by the invitation to a round-table conference sent during the autumn of 2017 to experts and decision-makers, which will focus on Africa when debating the role of agriculture and forestry in Agenda 2030, and how KSLA can contribute. It is a matter of urgency to meet the need of poor countries to develop and to discuss how Swedish development co-operation can contribute to higher productivity and sustainability in farming and forestry. In this respect the focus is mainly on Goal no. 2 “End Poverty & Hunger”. The recommendations of this round-table conference will have an important influence on the work of the Board Committee.

When it comes to forests and forestry – especially the role of forests in climate activities – during the year, KSLA has also initiated and participated in a number of seminars and workshops. In this area there are points in common and links between Goal no. 13 “Climate” and Goal no. 15 “Ecosystems and Biodiversity”. A case in point is the joint seminar with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) that took up the issue of forest multi-functionality and sustainability in Europe. The background to this is the report on *Multi-functionality and sustainability in the European Union's forests*. This takes up important aspects of the role of Europe's forests when it comes to sustainability and the climate. The report is the work of the Academies of Science in the EU countries. It is intended to serve as a preface to the policy discussion on the role of the forest that is currently taking place within the EU Commission. The report shall also contribute to IPCC's (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's) work. The content of the report has already aroused discussions on the role of the forest in climate activities, and this will continue during the spring with KSLA as the forum.

A further example of Agenda 2030 activities in the Academy is provided by the seminar in which Professor Dagmar Haase, the 2016 Wallenberg professor appointed by KSLA, participated. The topic of discussion was research and development relating to urban sustainability and green infrastructure in European cities and also in cities in China, Africa and Latin America. The focus was on equitability and justice in a global perspective, health and well-being, as well as water resources, and aspects of migration and it considered Goal no. 11 "Sustainable Cities".

It is difficult to speak about global perspectives without mentioning the fact that in many places in the world civil wars are going on and that conflicts over natural resources as well as ethnic and religious conflicts are forcing vast multitudes of people to flee to safer parts of the world. As yet we are spared from serious domestic crises, but we must realise that the situation can change. In our part of the world the security situation has become more turbulent and in politics and the public debate discussions are more and more about how unprepared we will be in the event of a crisis! In 1813 we needed to increase our self-sufficiency so we could feed our own people. Today we import roughly 50 per cent of our food, despite good conditions in a modern and largely climate-smart agricultural sector. It is estimated that global demand for food will have doubled by 2050. Increased domestic production of safe and sustainable food would raise our preparedness and also be sufficient for exports to countries that do not themselves have the right conditions. It is encouraging that the government has announced measures to step up our exports of Swedish food, and it has also set aside a budget for this.

Apart from exports of merchandise exports of knowhow and experience are even more important for those parts of the world where agriculture and forestry need to be modernised and productivity need to be improved, and where extensive system changes have to be pushed through if the goals in Agenda 2030 are to be achieved. When it comes to food production and the use and management of the world's forests Sweden has a long tradition of building up capacity in developing countries. On the basis of its Fellows' competence and involvement KSLA has in various ways been a part of this tradition.

Nowadays higher education and research are indispensable for the ability to handle global challenges and help to achieve the goals presented by Agenda 2030. Despite good examples of Swedish expertise being in demand it must unfortunately be admitted that the Swedish resource base for research in the global agriculture and forestry sectors has not been utilised to the full during the past few decades. Together with other interested parties in government, business and civil society, KSLA will do what is necessary to enable Swedish scientific competence – especially young scientists – to be given opportunities to acquire relevant knowledge and experience on subjects relating to global development. Strengthening this sort of Swedish research competence requires support that provides direction, volume and continuity over time. In this respect our Academy can play an important role by making a contribution to positive developments. KSLA's independence – from industry as well as government – means that we can exert influence on important parties and decision makers on development issues both in Sweden and globally.

The EU is also part of the global perspective and it is important that the Academy, apart from working with Agenda 2030, is involved in and disseminates information about developments in the EU. In this regard the International Board Committee will base its activities on the important work done by earlier committees and working groups within KSLA and integrate with all the activities of an international character that are already in progress or being

planned in the ordinary activities of the sections and committees. Among the many important EU topics we can mention that KSLA has contributed initiatives in the debates about the new CAP, or the Common Agricultural Policy after 2020. Not only CAP but rural issues in the broader sense are an important aspects of the future, both within the EU and globally. The overall goal of the EU's rural development strategy is "Smart and Sustainable Growth for all". We will hear more about how conditions seem for development of our own rural areas in the Principal speech a little bit later.

KSLA is also an active member of UEAA, the Union of European Academies for Science Applied to Agriculture, Food and Nature, in which we co-operate with a number of sister academies in Europe on matters of common interest. Another valuable resource is provided by our foreign Fellows. Many of them are already involved in our activities, but they represent much unutilised potential and one of the International Board Committee's missions will be to find ways of benefiting from the knowhow and experience of these Fellows in a more effective and inclusive way.

In conclusion I can note that the original purpose of our Academy is just as relevant today, 200 years after its foundation, even if the Swedish word "samhället", "society", in the portal paragraph has acquired a broader meaning. The fact that the Academy's activities rest on scientific grounds and proven experience is more relevant today than it ever was in the past. Our Academy has an important role to play and our vision "We strengthen the green sector for a sustainable future" still applies nationally, regionally and globally.

Lisa Sennerby Forsse

Translation: Ian M Beck et al.



Academy Secretary Eva Pettersson

The Commemorative Meeting of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, January 28, 2018

The Academy's 205th year of activity

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Did you know that in the same place where the City Hall stands today there used to be a steam-powered mill called Eldkvarn (*Fire mill*)? Founder of the mill was Abraham Niclas Edelcrantz, who was also the first director of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture. The mill unfortunately burned down in 1878. The memory of Eldkvarn and Edelcrantz is found on a stone tablet in the City Hall's entrance archway.

2017 was the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry's 205th academic year since it started in 1813.

In 2017 we carried out 60 or so activities such as seminars, workshops, book launches and discussions, courses, study trips and hunts. Moreover, KSLA also published nine booklets and three books.

In February the **General Section** carried out a much-appreciated seminar on golf courses, more specifically on the potential of golf courses to become even more multifunctional. Golf courses cover relatively large areas of the countryside and can with the application of some brainpower and goodwill be developed so that they can be used for other open-air activities than playing golf, as well as for cultural purposes and biodiversity.

How can agriculture be adapted to too much water, not enough water, water when you least expect it, new harmful insects and animals, non-appearance of frost in the ground, and so on? In November the **Agriculture Section** arranged a seminar on *Plant cultivation in a changing climate*. The theme was how Sweden can make food production both competitive and adaptive to a changing climate.

A seminar that provided inspiration on how we can create additional added value and new business models through digitalisation in the food industry was held on April 25th.

On February 7th the **Forestry Section** arranged a round-table discussion on national laser scanning for purposes of forestry. It was noted that forest enterprises, as well as the state had a great interest in having Sweden scanned regularly, since although the forest is growing slowly, data age rapidly. The practical outcome of the conclusions of this discussion is that the government has granted funds for regular laser scanning of Sweden to meet forestry demands.

In March, we sent out invitations to a dialogue with the purpose to provide greater understanding of which societal goals have implications for forestry. Synergies and conflicts between forest-owners and society at large were discussed, and also how forests can be managed in the light of various goals.

During the year KSLA's **Library, Archives and Historical Projects unit** extended for the first time ever an invitation to a *Book Discussion in the Library*. The idea is to arrange for speakers to talk informally about topics that are related to issues that fall under the aegis of the Academy.

During the year KSLA published a dissertation by Per Thunström, who works at our office. It is about the coming of the tractor in 1905-1930 and is entitled *Traktorernas intåg (Entrance of the Tractors. Technology, production and marketing in Sweden during the introduction period 1905–1930)*. This book and the others published during the year can be viewed in the Blue Hall's reception area.

KSLA co-operates in different ways with the other Royal Academies, and among other things we had a stand together with the Royal Academy of the Fine Arts at the Book Fair in Göteborg.

KSLA granted funds for two Wallenberg professors during the year, namely Professor Scott Creel from the Department of Ecology at Montana State University, and Professor Tobias Kuemmerle from the Department of Geography at Humboldt University, Berlin. I am delighted that both of you are here today and hope you will enjoy the evening.

On October 26th KSLA and the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Foundation arranged a joint seminar in which His Majesty the King Carl Gustaf participated. The seminar marked the launching of a gift on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence on December 6th. Called *Tandem Forest Values*, the gift is a joint research project involving companies and organisations in the forestry and forest products industries in Finland and Sweden. The Swedish government, via Formas, the Swedish Forest Industries Association, the Kempe Family Foundation, the Marcus and Marianne Wallenberg Foundation and KSLA, decided in 2017 to collectively set aside SEK 24 million to finance 12 post-doctoral appointments.

In 2017 KSLA drafted constitutions for three Board Committees. As the president has already mentioned the International Board Committee I will concentrate on the other two: the Research Board Committee and the Youth Board Committee. The main purpose of the Research Board Committee is to help to create the right conditions to enable decisions relating to the Green Sectors to be made on sound scientific principles. The Youth Board Committee will invite young academics and trainees to work together with Fellows of the Academy on topics of current interest to KSLA. It will also continue to work with KSLA's highly appreciated mentoring program that was carried out for the second year in 2017.

KSLA has two donation estates: Enaforsholm Mountain Estate in Jämtland and the Barksätter Estate in Sörmland. In December 2017 Patrick Fjällstedt was appointed CEO at Enaforsholm. His goal is to quickly transform the property into a well-known visitor destination, and we are confident he will succeed. The annual Enaforsholm course was very appreciated by all the participants. Sunny walks, sore feet, mosquitoes, dips in the lake, a wealth of flora and fauna, and fantastic meals using raw material produced by local farmers, what more could one ask for?

At Barksätter we have a growing problem caused by deer invading the pastures, which is under discussion with different parties to find solutions.

The Academy's activities are financed largely out of the income from our capital and from some of the foundations we manage. For this reason we have a high yield requirement. We manage our capital actively in line with a well thought out investment policy that was adopted by our Collegium (the Academy Board) in 2017. At present some 65 per cent of the capital under KSLA's management is placed in shares, and we can state that in 2017 our asset management turned out well in relation to the benchmark index.

In 2017 KSLA received a gift from Mats Blom, a Fellow of the Academy. This is a much needed contribution to KSLA's activities. It will also be used for improving the technical equipment on the Drottninggatan premises. The aim is to spice up the beautiful premises with some modern conference equipment to improve and simplify all our meetings. Sweden is a long thin country and the world is big, and we would like to involve as many Fellows and other parties in the most effective possible way.

Despite active management and generous gifts, KSLA still needs to work hard to raise external financing, at the same time as we need to prioritise and focus our activities, not least to raise KSLA's profile. Our mission " ...to promote agriculture and forestry and associated activities... in the interest of society" is KSLA's best weapon when it comes to penetrating the dense media noise.

My friends – this is KSLA! *Menyn och tidens tecken – måltiderna vid KSLA:s högtidssammankomster åren 2003–2018 (The menu and the sign of the times – meals at KSLA's Commemorative Meetings 2003-2018)*, written by Honorary Doctor and Honorary Fellow of the Academy Christina Möller. Thank you Christina for your invaluable guided tours through the culinary delights offered each year at KSLA's Commemorative Meetings. And thank you Fellow Carl-Jan Granqvist for letting us dip our tongues into wines from near and far, well-chosen and described in the most graphic way that no-one else could outshine. I am eagerly looking forward to this evening's food and drink, and hope that in future you will continue to be our MC at KSLA's festive meals.

This journal *Menyn och tidens tecken – måltiderna vid KSLA:s högtidssammankomster åren 2003–2018* (KSLAT no. 1-2018) will be sent to all Swedish and Nordic Fellows, and for all other distinguished guests it will be available in the reception area when you leave the City Hall this evening. Copies will also be put out on the tables for you to leaf through if you wish.

In conclusion – thank you to all Fellows of the Academy who put in so much unpaid work and thank you to everyone else who contributes so much fantastic competence to KSLA's activities. And a big thank you to all our co-workers for being here and for your invaluable work! What would we do without you?

Thank you for your attention. Don't forget that KSLA is everyone's Academy. After all, our survival on planet Earth is based on Food, Fuel and Fibre.

Eva Pettersson

Translation: Ian M Beck et al.