

Cecilia ALEXANDRI¹, Lucian LUCA¹, Camelia GAVRILESCU¹

¹ *Institute of Agricultural Economics, Romanian Academy, Bucharest*
cecilia@eadr.ro / luca@eadr.ro / cgavrilescu@eadr.ro

IN MEMORIAM DINU-STELIAN GAVRILESCU
(1939–2024)



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our colleague Dinu-Stelian Gavrilescu, on July 13, 2024.

He had a remarkable career in the field of agriculture and agricultural economics, from agronomist engineer working in state farms to Minister of Agriculture, from economist, researcher in agricultural economics to university professor and director of the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Romanian Academy.

He graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Bucharest (1964), and from the Faculty of Commerce of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (1976). He held a Ph.D. in Economics from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (1996) with the thesis “Scenarios of agro-food integration of Romania”.

He gained extensive experience in agricultural production, working as a head agronomist engineer in state farms (1964–1976). He began his academic career in 1977 at the Institute of Agricultural Economics in Bucharest, going through all the professional steps from engineer-assistant researcher to senior first-degree researcher, deputy director (1990–1996), then director of the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Romanian Academy (1997–2007).

In the early 1990s, Dr. Gavrilescu began to actively participate in the most important international scientific events in the field, to work on international

research projects, and thus he put Romania back on the map of European and international research in agricultural and agri-food economics, paving the way for many young researchers. He actively promoted scientific collaboration relations with the Republic of Moldova, with neighbouring countries and with the EEC countries. He was the founder of the Romanian national organisation of EAAE, then became EAAE liaison officer for Romania. He was a member of the most important international professional associations in the field, the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), the International Association of Agri-Food Economics (IAEA), and also worked as a FAO expert.

He was the founder of ARERA, the Romanian Association of Rural Economy and Agri-Food “Virgil Madgearu”, as well as of the journal “Agricultural Economics and Rural Development” (ISSN 1841-0375), open access, indexed in three international databases.

Professor Gavrilescu was one of the founders of the Romanian school of agri-food economics, with many researchers in the field trained around him. He was the embodiment of the definition of the word “mentor”: a man with vast knowledge, who knows how to gather young people around him and who has the ability to teach and guide them to achieve their professional goals. In the 18 years when he was a deputy director and then director of the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Romanian Academy, the researchers in the institute learned a lot from him. He knew how to bring out the best in people, to put them to work, to guide them, to push them forward, to do more and better. The younger generations that he trained and guided admired his knowledge, his desire to know new things, the energy with which he did everything. He was a free spirit, a non-conformist, with a head full of new and unexpected ideas, and this made him a trailblazer. He had vision, sparkling replies, was generous with irony but also with self-irony.

He left behind a remarkable scientific work, being the coordinator, author or co-author of 30 books and over 140 articles and reports. Two reference works that he was one of the coordinators of are worth mentioning: “Agri-food Economics” (2000), the first book in this field, and “Treaty on Agricultural Economics” (2003), the first treatise of this kind ever written in Romania.

His vast experience in agriculture and in agricultural economics, as well as his international prestige recommended him to be appointed Minister of Agriculture and Food in the Romanian Government (1996–1998). In this capacity, he developed and implemented essential reforms, as part of new agri-food and rural development policies, during a difficult period of transition of the Romanian agri-food sector from the centralised economy model to the market economy model.

In 1997 he was elected corresponding member, and in 2006 full member of the “Gheorghe Ionescu-Șișești” Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences in Bucharest.

We are deeply grateful to him for his remarkable contribution and the special impact he had in the field of agricultural and agri-food economics in Romania. He is greatly missed.