

Can you introduce yourself and share what drives your passion for agriculture?

My name is Popa Cristina-Maria. I'm 34 years old and work alongside my family on a crop farm in southern Romania. I also work at the Romanian Senate, where I'm involved in agricultural legislation. My passion for agriculture stems from practical experience and my commitment to aligning Romanian legislation with European standards. I'm open-minded and enjoy exploring innovative methods that improve results and support sustainable agricultural development.

What challenges have you faced in your career and how did you overcome them?

One of my biggest challenges was modernizing our farm and integrating new technologies. Adapting to rapid agricultural advancements required investment and learning. Implementing farm management software and precision agriculture tools, like sensors and satellite imagery, optimized operations. Though the transition was difficult, perseverance led to increased productivity and efficiency. This experience reinforced my belief in the importance of technology for the future of agriculture and motivated me to promote modern and sustainable solutions that help farmers enhance their performance.



Popa Cristina-Maria
General Farm Manager

What led you to your current role? Was there a defining moment?

I've always aimed for an integrated vision of agriculture, combining practical farming knowledge with economic and legislative insights. I have encountered numerous legislative challenges that hinder farmers' activities, motivating me to seek concrete solutions. Through my dual roles - as a farmer and a member of the Romanian Senate - I strive to align legislation with real-world agricultural needs, guided by constant dialogue with fellow farmers.

What advice would you give to women entering your field today?

For women pursuing a career in agriculture, my advice is to embrace innovation and see technology as an ally. Modern agriculture is about efficiency, sustainability, and smart resource use, with precision farming, automation, drones, and AI creating new opportunities. I encourage determination and strategic use of knowledge and skills.

One of the biggest misconceptions I have encountered in the agricultural sector is the idea that women are not as capable as men when it comes to operating agricultural machinery. The reality is that modern technology has made operating farming equipment less about physical strength and more about skill, attention to detail, and adaptability.

How does your work contribute to the future of agriculture?

On our farm, I manage crop planning, resource allocation, and production optimization. I believe the future of agriculture lies in combining tradition with innovation, which is why I continuously explore new methods to enhance productivity and sustainability.

Through my work on the farm, I aim not only to achieve better results at an individual level but also to contribute to developing an efficient agricultural model that can inspire other farmers.

Can you share a moment when you felt particularly supported or uplifted by other women in your field?

At the Club of Romanian Farmers, I found strong support from women in agriculture. Meeting passionate professionals with shared goals broadened my perspective on innovation. The Club fosters collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and community. This experience reinforced my belief that teamwork drives a more efficient and sustainable future for agriculture.