CEAA seeks to create, promote and implement research projects and/or technology transfer in agriculture, forestry and food areas. It works in multidisciplinary teams at national and regional levels, using conventional and advanced methodologies. It also seeks to become a nucleus of excellence in scientific and technological research in the area of food production.

The CEAA has a team of highly qualified professionals and technicians who conduct research in the lab and in the field. It has production and research infrastructure, including two experimental stations in the three UVG campuses in Guatemala (Central City Campus, Highlands Campus, and South Campus).

To achieve its goals CEAA has made a series of partnerships with public, private and academic institutions, both nationally and international.

OBJECTIVES:

• Cooperate in the search for integrated solutions that are friendly to the environment and to the biodiversity, in areas of agriculture—forestry, food and nutrition.
• To aid the development of the food industry and the overall development of the country, through research, education and outreach, working in multidisciplinary teams.
• As part of UVG the center integrates research, teaching, and services.

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- Strengthening agricultural diversification by discovery and evaluation of new crop varieties (introduced or native germplasm) and other products including agricultural crops for biofuels.

- Predicting population dynamics (pests, diseases and beneficial organisms) and the study of different agronomic factors using precision agricultural tools.

- Generation of practices and techniques for troubleshooting in pest populations and diseases that affect agriculture.

**Food Component**

As part of the infrastructure for the food component, the CEAA has a vivarium for biological assessment and the Laboratory of Food Science and Technology. Its research priorities include:

- Nutritional value of native resources and varieties of economically important crops.

- Optimum processing for conservation of nutrition properties and food acceptability.

- Development of new food products, including fortified foods and biofortification.

- Post harvest handling of grains, fruits and vegetables.

The center provides consulting services for applied research, training, and laboratory tests related to agriculture and food.

**Areas of Research**

**Agricultural and Forest Components**

The agricultural area consists of the Laboratory Applied Entomology (LEA), the Laboratory of Plant Protection (LPV) and the Laboratory of Agronomy and Soils (LAS). The agricultural research priorities include:

- Improving productivity systems of economically important crops, food and energy security along the value chain (from farm to fork).

- Generating sustainable management practices for agricultural and forestry production that is friendly to the environment and human health.

- Characterization and management of natural forests, and commercial plantations.

- Development of appropriate agricultural technology mainly in the area of greenhouses, irrigation and ferti-irrigation for crops with economic relevance.

**LEADING RESEARCHERS**

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