

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, BELGRADE, SERBIA

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IV



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CONTENT:

PLENARY SECTION I

1.	Andrei Jean Vasile, Luminita Chivu, Mile Vasić, Madalina Ionescu- INVESTIGATING SOME POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF ENERGY USE AND PRICES ON AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
2.	Francisco J. Matus - SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION: A NATURE-BASED SOLUTION UNDER OUR FEET - PERSPECTIVE FROM THE CHILEAN VOLCANIC SOILS 2
3.	Georgiana Raluca Ladaru, Ionut Laurentiu Petre-ANALYSIS OF THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN TERMS OF COMMERCIAL TRADE, PARALLEL ROMANIA - SERBIA
4.	Irina Sashkova, Anna Ivolga - ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AS A FACTOR OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT: CASE OF THE STAVROPOL REGION
5.	Karoly Bodnar - DOMESTIC RABBIT PRODUCTION IN HUNGARY
6.	Paun Ion Otiman, Nicoleta Mateoc Sirb, Adrian Gheorghe Banes, Cosmin Salasan, Andrea Feher, Miroslav Raicov, Gabriel Suster - INNOVATIVE CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS IN THE HOUSING SECTOR 6
7.	Steliana Rodino - ADVANCING BIOECONOMY: A CROSS-COUNTRY PERSPECTIVE ON EUROPE'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
8.	Vasilii Erokhin, Gao Tianming - REVEALING COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES IN THE CHINA-SERBIA AGRICULTURAL TRADE
9.	Vesna Gantner, Ranko Gantner, Zvonimir Steiner, Boro Krstić, Vera Popović - DOES CATTLE PRODUCTION AFFECT GLOBAL WARMING?

10.	Vili Dragomir - ECONOMIC OPTIMIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PROCESSES AS A RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES
PLE	ENARY SECTION II
1.	Jelena Nestorov Bizonj - AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN THE FUNCTION OF IMPROVEMENT OF MARKET POSITION OF FARMERS IN VOJVODINA
2.	Marijana Joksimović - THE INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS
3.	Nenad Trkulja - MULTI-RESISTANCE OF CERCOSPORA BETICOLA TO MBC, DMI AND QoI FUNGICIDES AND IMPACT ON MANAGAMENT
4.	Radivoj Prodanović, Dragan Ivanišević - ADDING VALUE IN SHEEP FARMING THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS
5.	Sanjin Ivanović, Saša Todorović - NEW APPROACHES TO INVESTMENT DECISIONS ON AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS
6.	Snežana Cico, Ljiljana Rajnović - SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE STATE BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL LAND RESTITUTION PROCEDURE
7.	Sonja Đuričin - IMPACT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT ON MEDIUM-SIZED AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES' BUSINESS SUCCESS IN SERBIA
8.	Vedran Tomić, Robert Radišić - ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF MILK PRODUCTION AND COTTAGE CHEESE AS A TRADITIONAL DAIRY PRODUCT ON FAMILY FARMS IN SERBIA 20

I SECTION – AGRIBUSINESS

1.	Aleksandar Miljatović, Veljko Vukoje, Veljko Šarac - THE ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
2.	Ana Ursu - TECHNO-ECONOMIC MODELS FOR ANALYSIS AND OPTIMIZATION OF ECONOMIC PROCESSES IN AGRICULTURE
3.	Bianca Florentina Nistoroiu, Stefan Laurentiu Prahoveanu, Sergej Vasić - A SUMMERY ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE FAMILY FARMING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
4.	Blagica Sekovska, Vasilka Poposka Trenevska - NEGATIVE TRENDS IN AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY IN GENERAL WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MACEDONIA
5.	Gheorghe Dan Isbășoiu, Dana Volosevici - NON-STANDARD FORMS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE27
6.	Jovana Dedić, Radovan Pejanović, Jelica Eremić Đođić - TAX ASPECT OF THE ACCOUNTING OF PERENNIAL PLANTINGS
7.	Marko Jeločnik, Lana Nastić, Božo Ilić - INVESTMENT IN CREATING THE VALUE ADDED IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION
8.	Miroslav Nedeljković, Milorad Đokić, Velibor Potrebić - SELECTION OF SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIERS IN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES
9.	Silviu Beciu, Georgiana Armeniţa Arghiroiu, Maria Bobeică Colpoş - STUDY ABOUT EVOLUTION OF THE ROMANIAN OILSEED MARKET AND ROMANIAN PLACE IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE WITH OILSEED
10.	Steliana Mocanu, Ionut Laurentiu Petre, Marilena E. Potârniche Berheci - ANALYSIS OF CEREAL FOREIGN TRADE IN EUROPEAN UNION

11. Simona Cosmina Toader, Ioan Brad, Ciprian Ioan Rujescu, Monica Ocnean, Jakub Skorupa - AGRIBUSINESS IN TERMS OF EDUCATIONAL OFFER AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: STUDY CASE ROMANIA	1
12. Vesna Paraušić, Bojana Bekić Šarić, Jasna Babić - THE GLOBAL G.A.P. CERTIFICATION SCHEME IN SERBIAN AGRICULTURE: CONSULTANTS' ATTITUDES	1
13. Violeta Sima, Ileana Georgiana Gheorghe - AN OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WINE SECTOR DYNAMICS: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS FROM THE ROMANIAN PERSPECTIVE	1
14. Vlado Kovacević - ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN SERBIA	1
15. Zoran Simonović, Biljana Ilić - COMPLEX BUSINESS SYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN AN AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX37	1
I SECTION - BIOTECHNOLOGY	П
1. Angel Sarov, Ekaterina Tzvetanova - ECONOMIC EFFECTIVENESS OF APPLICATION OF BIOSTIMULATORS IN SPRING OATS .41	1
2. Georgi Georgiev - TESTING THE EFFECT OF AN INNOVATIVE PRODUCT OF THE COMPANY HUMATE ROST FOR VEGETATIVE FOLIAR NUTRITION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF OIL SUNFLOWER (HELIANTHUS ANNUUS L.) UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF DOBRUDJA	2
3. Gordana Tamindžić, Sergei Azizbekian, Srđan Zec, Slobodan Vlajić, Dragana Milošević, Dragana Miljaković, Maja Ignjatov - FOLIAR APPLICATION OF NANOFERTILIZER IMPROVES SEED QUALITY PERFORMANCE OF TOMATO (SOLANUM LYCOPERSICUM L.)	3
4. Iliyana Petrova, Svetlana Stoyanova, Ralitza Mincheva - EFFECT OF FOLIAR TREATMENTS WITH BIOSTIMULANTS IN SPRING OILSEED RAPE CULTIVATION	4

5.	Irina Marina, Biljana Grujić Vučkovski, Marijana Jovanović Todorović - IMPACT OF INTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
6.	Maja Ignjatov, Dragana Milošević, Janko Červenski, Slobodan Vlajić, Boris Adamović, Snežana Jakšić, Đorđe Vojnović - HEALTHY SOIL - HEALTHY PLANT: CONTAMINATED SOIL AS A SOURCE OF INOCULUM OF FUSARIUM VERTICILLIOIDES (SACC.) NIRENBERG
7.	Marina Đorović, Radojica Rakić, Jela Ikanović, Vera Popović, Zdravka Petković, Dragana Popović, Ljubiša Kolarić - SPANISH REED IN THE FUNCTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY
8.	Nada Mijajlović, Nataša Papić Blagojević, Đorđe Mihailović - BEEKEEPING AND HONEY PRODUCTION IN SERBIA IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT
9.	Nataša Kljajić, Jonel Subić, Predrag Vuković - NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS AS A BASE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION – THE MUNICIPALITY OF TEMERIN EXAMPLE
10.	Ranko Gantner, Igor DelVechio, Zvonimir Steiner, Bishal K. Sitaula, Krešimir Bošnjak, Vesna Gantner - MAIZE GRAIN YIELD IN ANIMAL-POWERED FARMING AS AFFECTED BY SOIL FERTILIZATION VARIANT: RESULTS FROM THE 2023 SEASON IN NORTH-EAST CROATIA
11.	Slavica Arsić, Ivan Bošnjak, Anton Puškarić - PRODUCTS OBTAINED FROM MILK PROCESSING WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WHEY PRODUCTION IN CHEESE PRODUCTION
12.	Tatjana Dimitrijević, Mihailo Ratknić - VALUES OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES - CARBON STORAGE IN THE FOREST ECOSYSTEMS OF BELGRADE
13.	Tina Lešnik, Andreja Borec - THE INFLUENCE OF THE ORIENTATION AND TYPE OF HEDGEROWS ON SHADING PERCENTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

14.	Vera Popović, Marijana Jovanović Todorović, Vesna Gantner, Vera Rajičić, Vladimir Filipović, Dragan Dokić, Gordana Dozet - STATE OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION IN WORLD AND FOR US56
15.	Vesna Gantner, Vera Popović, Zvonimir Steiner, Ranko Gantner, Klemen Potočnik - THE DIFFERENCES IN SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS PREVALENCE AND EFFECT ON MILK PRODUCTION DUE TO COWS' BREED AND BREEDING REGION
16.	Vladimir Miladinović, Vladan Ugrenović, Mira Milinković - PHYTOREMEDIATION AND ELECTROKINETIC SOIL REMEDIATION
17.	Zoranka Malešević, Đorđe Ilić, Mirjana Jovović - POSSIBILITY OF BI- OLOGICAL RECLAMATION OF DEGRADED SOIL IN THE DUMPS OF THE PLJEVLJA MINE
18.	Zvonimir Steiner, Ivan Babić, Vesna Gantner, Ranko Gantner - EFFECT OF MILK REPLACEMENT ON GROWTH, NUTRITION COEFFICIENT AND OTHER RELEVANT PARAMETERS IN DAIRY CALVES
III S	SECTION – REVITALIZATION OF RURAL AREAS
1.	Aleksandra Vujko, Radmila Bojović, Miroslav Knežević - RURAL TOURISM IN THE FUNCTION OF SERBIAN AND EU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
2.	Aliyu Mansur Sulaiman, Mustapha Umar, Jimoh Abdulrauf Kayode, Rafiu Olalekan Yusuf, Miroslav P. Popović - SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS OF CATTLE RUSTLING ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF INHABITANTS OF SOME SELECTED RURAL COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN NIGERIA 66
3.	Andreea Roxana Firățoiu, Liviu Mărcuță, Elena Soare, Irina Adriana Chiurciu - THE CONTRIBUTION OF TOURISM TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL AREA IN ILFOV COUNTY: CASE STUDY FOR BUFTEA AREA 67
4.	Daniela Nicoleta Voicila, Diana Maria Ilie - BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS: QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREA 68

5.	Gordana Radović, Radovan Pejanović, Zorica Vasiljević - FINANCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM IN SERBIA FROM THE IPARD II PROGRAM 69
6.	Lela Ristić, Petar Veselinović, Danijela Despotović – GLOBAL TRENDS AND OUTLOOKS IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY
7.	Marija Gjosheva Kovachevikj, Jorde Jakjimovski, Lazo Dimitrov, Despina Popovska Stojanov - REGIONAL DISPARITIES RELATED TO SOCIOECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA
8.	Marija Inđin - CHALLENGES OF THE GREEN TRANSITION IN RURAL AREAS
9.	Marija Popović, Sreten Jelić - SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SERBIAN HOUSEHOLDS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
10.	Radmila Jovanović, Claudete Oliveira Moreira, Debajit Datta - OBSERVING CHANGES OF SETTLEMENT SIZE IN VITICULTURAL ZONES OF SERBIA USING VIIRS NIGHTTIME LIGHT DATA
11.	Sara Stanić Jovanović, Dragana Vuković, Nevena Miletović - DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL FORMS OF TOURISM WITH THE AIM TO REVITALIZE THE RURAL AREA OF PLJEVLJA MUNICIPALITY
12.	Snežana Milićević, Nataša Đorđević, Marija Mandarić - RURAL TOURISM: EMPOWERING RURAL DEVELOPMENT 76
13.	Suzana Lazović, Drago Cvijanović - REVITALIZATION OF RURAL AREAS THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF THE "SMART VILLAGE" CONCEPT
IV S	ECTION – DIGITALIZATION IN AGRICULTURE
1.	Branko Mihailović, Vesna Popović, Katica Radosavljević - INDOOR SMART GARDEN AS A FACTOR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE

2.	Cosmin Salasan, Carmen Simona Dumitrescu, Iasmina Iosim, Cosmina Toader - DIGITAL LITERACY AND USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES BY SMALL FARMERS IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE
3.	Ferhat Ćejvanović, Adnan Kamerić - THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF DIGITIZATION IN AGRIBUSINESS 83
4.	Katarina Stojanović, Radovan Pejanović - URBAN AGRICULTURE, IMPLEMENTATION POSSIBILITIES IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND SMART CITY 84
5.	Mirjana Dejanović, Sanja Popović Pantić, Ana Kovačević - THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 85
6.	Nedeljko Prdić, Boris Kuzman, Sara Kostić - DIGITALIZATION OF THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AS A CHALLENGE TO THE CRISIS
7.	Olgica Zečević Stanojević, Dragan Nedeljković, Leposava Zečević, Boris Stanojević - SIGNIFICANCE OF INNOVATIONS AND APPLICATION OF INFORMATION - COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF SERBIA
8.	Sladan Stanković, Vedran Tomić, Cosmin Salasan - PERSPECTIVES OF DIGITAL TOOLS IN THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORK
9.	Tina Bobić, Maja Gregić, Pero Mijić, Vesna Gantner - INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGYS IN CATTLE LAMENESS DETECTION 89
10.	Vladimir Pejanović, Boris Stanojević, Gordana Radović - NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURE AND SMART VILLAGES

PREFACE

The Book of Abstracts is prepared as the result of the scientific research supported by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovations of the Republic of Serbia.

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In the Book of Abstracts are included abstracts from Serbia, along with the invited and other abstracts from abroad, prepared by foreign authors, which are IAE, Belgrade associates, and whose institutions have close scientific, professional and technical cooperation with the IAE, Belgrade.

The Book of Abstracts addresses the wider audience by being scientifically and practically focused on all segments of sustainable agriculture and rural development, but also biotechnology and digitalization in agriculture.

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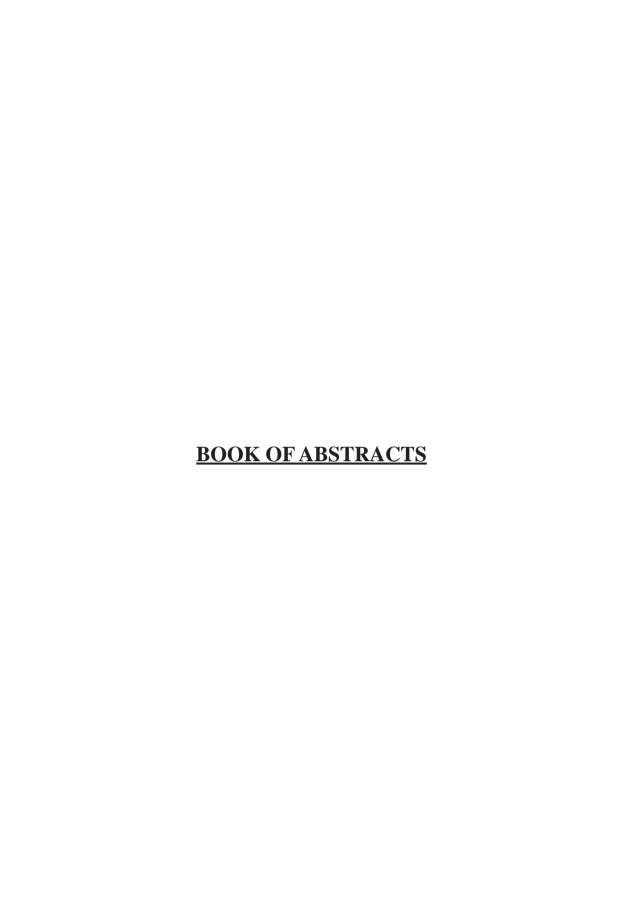
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PLENARY SECTION I (14th December 2023)

INVESTIGATING SOME POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF ENERGY USE AND PRICES ON AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Andrei Jean Vasile¹, Luminita Chivu², Mile Vasić³, Madalina Ionescu⁴

Abstract

The impact of energy use and prices on the development of a sustainable agricultural sector has been highlighted by recent developments and changes in the modern agricultural sector. Energy has a dual importance for agriculture, being not only an economic efficiency issue but also an environmental issue. The massive mechanization of farming practices and production has led to a corresponding increase in energy consumption in the sector, which is a critical factor in shaping future competitive advantages. The paper examines some of the possible impacts of energy consumption and prices on the development of the agricultural sector from different perspectives. It identifies realities, trends and paradigms. The results provide relevant insights for both practitioners and policy makers.

Key words: agriculture, energy consumption, intensity; price, paradigm, volatility, fuels.

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SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION: A NATURE-BASED SOLUTION UNDER OUR FEET - PERSPECTIVE FROM THE CHILEAN VOLCANIC SOILS

Francisco L Matus¹

Abstract

Soil carbon sequestration (SCS) is a method of reducing atmospheric carbon to mitigate global warming by managing agricultural and forestry practices. Although there is a consensus that SCS is possible, the implementation of initiatives to promote it is often hindered by political and economic barriers. *The most popular SCS techniques, such as land use change and afforestation,* do not guarantee that all desired carbon will be sequestered in the soil. In this presentation, we will discuss the mechanisms of SCS that depend on soil type and its use for agriculture in Chile. It is believed that the maximum level of SCS that can be achieved depends on the input of carbon and the soil's sequestration capacity. In the first case, the level is reached by an equilibrium that responds to the carbon input, whereas in the second case, the maximum depends on the soil carbon saturation that does not allow more accumulation. and the soil becomes a source of carbon to the atmosphere. To establish the capacity of SCS at a global scale, we built a database from the main factors that affect the maximum levels of carbon storage. Out of a total of 2240 articles reviewed between 1960 and 2021, 32 studies were selected that strictly met eligibility criteria for volcanic and non-volcanic soils. In non-volcanic soils (temperate, subtropical, and tropical), the soil carbon is related to the carbon content in the silt and clay. However, volcanic soils (recent volcanic ash), it is related to the carbon of the organo-mineral complexes and allophanic clays. This presentation demonstrates that two possible mechanisms determine the maximum carbon accumulation in Chilean soils.

Key word: allophanic soils, carbon stabilization, carbon saturation.

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ANALYSIS OF THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN TERMS OF COMMERCIAL TRADE, PARALLEL ROMANIA - SERBIA

Georgiana Raluca Ladaru¹, Ionut Laurentiu Petre²

Abstract

The aim of this research is to analyze the competitiveness of the agricultural sector in Romania and Serbia according to the external trade activity of each country. For this purpose, data provided by international databases, namely the International Trade Centre, will be used, which will refer to the value of imports and exports of agricultural products and to the total level, these data being processed quantitatively and analyzed from the perspective of the trade balance. Then, in order to determine the competitiveness of the sector in each country, certain indicators will be calculated which can measure competitiveness, both at collective level (of the agricultural sector) and at individual level according to the main groups of agri-food products.

Key words: agri-food competitiveness, Serbia, Romania, foreign trade.

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ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AS A FACTOR OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT: CASE OF THE STAVROPOL REGION

Irina Sashkova¹, Anna Ivolga²

Abstract

Diversification of the rural economy is necessary to reduce the burden on agriculture in the face of growing demographic pressure, to obtain economies of scale resulting from complementary enterprises or growth links between enterprises, to expand employment opportunities for the rural masses, and so on. A review of the literature on this topic opens up many opportunities for a critical and retrospective analysis of existing works. Consequently, due to the apparent lack of scientific research and inadequate empirical data on diversification and other aspects of the rural economy, the topic of the study seems relevant. To conduct a study of rural diversification, a region with a pronounced agricultural specialization, having an average level of economic diversification, was selected – the Stavropol Territory. The research is aim at forming models of diversified rural development and determining the most effective structure of the rural economy by clustering territories according to selected criteria. The study includes the collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data. The quantitative phase represents by statistical indicators, the qualitative phase represents by the results of a survey of representatives of the region and the analysis of information in open web.

Key words: sustainable rural development, rural economy, economic diversification, rural population, clusters.

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DOMESTIC RABBIT PRODUCTION IN HUNGARY

Karoly Bodnar¹

Abstract

The study presents the current situation of rabbit production in Hungary. The work affects issues of breeding, feeding, animal health, slaughter and processing, and consumption. In addition to the subsidies available to producers, the author also deals with measures to stimulate consumption and conditions that make the work of the sector difficult.

Key words: domestic rabbit, rabbit production, rabbit meat, support of producers, marketing.

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INNOVATIVE CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS IN THE HOUSING SECTOR

Paun Ion Otiman¹, Nicoleta Mateoc Sirb^{1,2}, Adrian Gheorghe Banes¹, Cosmin Salasan^{1,2}, Andrea Feher^{1,2}, Miroslav Raicov¹, Gabriel Suster^{1,2}

Abstract

The housing sector is a major contributor to the current global problems of resource depletion and climate change. It represents one of the most important consumer sectors at EU level: 50% of all extracted materials, 40% of final energy consumption, 33% of water consumption and 33% of all waste produced. The blockage of today's linear business models causes many environmental problems and is one of the major barriers in the transition to a circular economy. The article proposes an innovative paradigm shift towards a circular economy for the housing sector, demonstrating the feasibility of using wool in housing insulation. The aim is to encourage the housing value chain to redesign traditional business models towards circular ones.

Key word: *circular economy, housing sector, wool, innovation.*

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ADVANCING BIOECONOMY: A CROSS-COUNTRY PERSPECTIVE ON EUROPE'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE¹

Steliana Rodino^{2,3}

Abstract

The concept of a bioeconomy is rapidly gaining importance across European countries as a pathway towards a more sustainable and resilient future. This approach encourages a transition from a fossil fuel-dependent economy to one based on renewable and environmentally friendly resources. The concepts of bioeconomy and agri-environmental schemes are closely linked in Europe as both aim to promote sustainability and environmentally friendly practices in the agricultural sector. This article provides an overview of the progress and strategies of several European countries in the pursuit of a bioeconomy, with a specific touch on European Union's Common Agricultural Policy. The comparative approach will be used to assess the differences and commonalities in the implementation of agri-environmental schemes across European nations, with a focus on their impact on the bioeconomy. By analyzing these case studies, we can draw conclusions about the extent to which these schemes contribute to the development of a circular and sustainable agricultural system that aligns with bioeconomic principles.

Key words: bioeconomy, environmental conservation, agriculture, sustainable practices.

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REVEALING COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES IN THE CHINA-SERBIA AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Vasilii Erokhin¹, Gao Tianming²

Abstract

Against the background of the growth of trade and economic ties between Serbia and China in recent decades, the contribution of the agricultural sector to the trade turnover may seem modest. The Serbia-China agricultural trade faces a number of imbalances that do not allow farmers to leverage their competitive advantages. There is a need to identify those commodity categories that might increasing trade turnover. The paper analyzes the parameters of the Serbia-China trade in major agricultural products in 2000-2022 to identify, compare, and match comparative advantages of the two countries. The study employs the sequential calculation of the index of concentration of foreign trade, the index of diversification of foreign trade, the index of market concentration of foreign trade, and the index of structural changes. The obtained index values are then compared with the values of the revealed comparative advantages index. A number of sectors are identified in which the comparative disadvantages of one country can be compensated by the comparative advantages of another in order to increase the Serbia-China agricultural trade.

Keywords: Agriculture, comparative advantage, competitive advantage, trade.

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DOES CATTLE PRODUCTION AFFECT GLOBAL WARMING?

Vesna Gantner¹, Ranko Gantner², Zvonimir Steiner³, Boro Krstić⁴, Vera Popović⁵

Abstract

A strong livestock and cattle production sector is a necessary prerequisite for ensuring a reliable supply of quality food in all developed countries. Recent publications indicate that the global livestock industry is responsible for 14.5% of anthropogenic emissions, with the cattle sector accounting for 65%. Despite contributing to total emissions, the livestock sector has the potential to mitigate climate change by 14% to 41%. It is noteworthy that the livestock production sector is vital to food production, which is fundamental to human existence. However, the accuracy of these estimates is often called into question. There is currently a highly aggressive campaign against the livestock and cattle production sector, and it is essential to ascertain the interest groups behind this campaign and their motivations.

The question must be raised: would there be a push for artificial or vegan "meat" if there were no aggressive campaign against livestock production as the perceived cause of climate change?

Key words: Cattle production, GHG emission, artificial meat, vegan.

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ECONOMIC OPTIMIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PROCESSES AS A RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES¹

Vili Dragomir²

Abstract

Agriculture sector is a vital component of the global economy, providing the necessary food for a growing population. However, agriculture faces a dual challenge: on one hand, it must continue to ensure food security for a growing population, and on the other hand, it must address environmental challenges such as climate change, soil degradation, and pollution. The economic optimization of agricultural production processes is a key element to strike a balance between these two requirements. In this article, we will explore methods and strategies that can help agriculture become more economically efficient and environmentally friendly. Moreover, an overview of statistical indicators related to environment practices in Romania will be presented.

Key words: economic efficiency; agriculture; optimization, development scenarios.

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PLENARY SECTION II (15th December 2023)

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN THE FUNCTION OF IMPROVEMENT OF MARKET POSITION OF FARMERS IN VOJVODINA

Jelena Nestorov Bizonj¹

Abstract

Cooperative movement in Vojvodina has a long and rich history. Agricultural cooperatives have been, since their beginnings to today, the predominant type of cooperatives. Considering the long tradition of agricultural production in Vojvodina, as well as the fact that the largest part of the cultivated land is owned by family agricultural holdings which are small, organizing farmers into cooperatives has been the imperative way of improving their market position.

Organizing farmers into cooperatives and merging their offer and demand through joint market appearance, improves their market position, in comparison to an independent market appearance. Equipping cooperatives with property and other capacities directly affects the scope of services a cooperative can offer to its cooperative members, for the purpose of improving their market position to the greatest extent.

Key words: agricultural cooperatives, farmers, market position.

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THE INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS

Marijana Joksimović¹

Abstract

The current financial situation in the world as a result of Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine has a great impact on foreign direct investments (FDI) and thus on the improvement of agribusiness in the European Union and the Republic of Serbia. The dimensions of the national economy, such as the packages for attracting FDI, the competitiveness of the economy of the observed countries in relation to the countries in the region, have a great influence on their attraction.

In the paper, the author investigates the impact of FDI on the improvement of agribusiness. In order to draw adequate conclusions, the data used in the paper are official data of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOUN) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The time series used in the paper includes data relating to the period from 2017 to 2021. All data used from 2017 to 2021 in the paper are annual.

Key words: Foreign direct investment, Agribusiness, European Union, Republic of Serbia and Economy.

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MULTI-RESISTANCE OF CERCOSPORA BETICOLA TO MBC, DMI AND QoI FUNGICIDES AND IMPACT ON MANAGAMENT¹

Nenad Trkulja²

Abstract

Cercospora leaf spot (CLS) caused by Cercospora beticola in Serbia occurs annually causing severe yield losses of sugar beet, which requires intensive use of fungicides. Over the last four years we have observed unsatisfactory control of CLS at the main sugar beet groving regions. Sugar beet production in Serbia was faced with dramatic decrease in efficacy of fungicides intended for Cercospora beticola control. CLS management over the years included intensive use of three groups of fungicides with different modes of action i.e. benzimidazole (MBC), triazole (DMI) and strobilurin (OoI), consequently imposing C. beticola resistance selection pressure. Multi-resistant populations to QoI, DMI and MBC were detected. The genetic basis underlying the resistance was tested by characterizing the cyt b, CYP51 and \(\beta\)-tubulin genes, associated with resistance to QoI, DMI and MBC fungicides, respectively. Isolates that were resistant to OoI fungicides had the G143A mutation within the cvt b gene. Characterization of CYP51 gene revealed seven diverse haplotypes; however, no correlation with sensitivity or resistance to DMI fungicides could be identified. Resistance to MBC fungicides was associated with presence of the E198A mutation in the β-tubulin gene of all resistant isolates. Depending on the resistance development three multi-resistant phenotypes were identified: MR1 - resistant to OoI and DMI fungicides, sensitive to MBC fungicides; MR2 - DMI and MBC resistant, sensitive to QoI; and MR3, resistant to all three groups (OoI, DMI and MBC) of fungicides. This finding provides a new insight on development of multi-resistance of C. beticola to MBC, *QoI* and *DMI* fungicides which had a strong impact on CLS managament.

Key word: Cerospora leaf spot (CLS), fungicides, Serbia.

¹ Project: Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Republic of Serbia, Grant no. 200010 (Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Belgrade) (RS-200010)

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ADDING VALUE IN SHEEP FARMING THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS

Radivoj Prodanović¹, Dragan Ivanišević²

Abstract

The goal of the research was to identify opportunities and strategies for improving sheep farming through the development of alternative products, with a special focus on creating additional value.

The research was based on a qualitative method, using interviews. Interviews were conducted with farmers involved in sheep farming, who were also engaged in the development of alternative products.

The results indicate that selling sheep is not the most profitable option, and it would be good to find alternative ways to generate income from sheep farming. Opportunities to create additional value include: processing sheep meat, selling breeding animals, and using sheep in rural tourism. The interviewees mentioned that, in addition to meat, milk, cheese, leather, wool, and wool products, profit can also be made from meat processing and involving sheep in tourism. Other recommendations included focusing on specific high-value products, such as dried sheep meat and other processed products, or even using sheep for therapeutic purposes.

There are numerous additional benefits for consumers from the development of alternative sheep farming products. People would bring their children to the countryside and have higher-quality food, as sheep meat, or lamb, is a culinary specialty.

Diversifying production and adding value in sheep farming can contribute to sustainable economic development in rural communities and strengthen competitiveness in the agro-industrial sector.

Key words: sheep farming, added value, alternative product.

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NEW APPROACHES TO INVESTMENT DECISIONS ON AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

Sanjin Ivanović¹, Saša Todorović²

Abstract

Managers of agricultural holdings often have to make decisions related to investments in fixed assets. The most common approach to evaluate investment effectiveness is application of discounting methods, such as Net Present Value (NPV) and Internal Rate of Return (IRR). Nevertheless, it is known that these methods face certain issues, primarily when it comes to evaluation of mutually exclusive projects. At the same time, one of the most important concerns is related to reinvestment rate which is applied for NPV and IRR calculation. Therefore, this research deals with possibilities and problems of using some innovative investment evaluation approaches, primarily Modified Internal Rate of Return (MIRR). Authors discussed an example of investment in fixed assets specific for agricultural production to analyze reinvestment rate assumptions and its influence on investment decisions. At the same time, authors recognized a need to question basic assumption related to MIRR approach, and discussed possible solutions to the problem.

Key words: capital budgeting, managerial decisions, NPV, IRR, MIRR, reinvestment rate.

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SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE STATE BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL LAND RESTITUTION PROCEDURE

Snežana Cico¹, Ljiljana Rajnović²

Abstract

In this paper, the authors analyze the conditions and procedure for returning confiscated agricultural land to the previous owners, that is, their heirs, and the state's attitude towards the said procedure. The obligation to return the land represents a kind of correction of the injustice that was done to the previous owners, and in this connection a just compensation of the owner of the restitution. However, based on the analysis of cases and publicly available information, the authors determined that it cannot be said that the state is consistent in respecting the principle of justice, when considering the amount of state land in local self-government units that are eligible for return in the restitution procedure and quantity intended for return. Considering the obligation of socially responsible behavior in all, including in this procedure, all business entities, and especially the state, which should be an example of respecting the rules of social responsibility and morality, the authors came to the conclusion that the state must show much more conscientiousness and fairness in return procedures confiscated property.

Key words: socially responsible business, the state's attitude towards restitution, restitution, agricultural land, property.

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IMPACT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT ON MEDIUM-SIZED AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES' BUSINESS SUCCESS IN SERBIA

Sonja Đuričin¹

Abstract

Research and development (R&D) investment marks a company's initial foray into fostering innovation. Through R&D, companies have the chance to enhance existing processes and create novel business processes, products, and services. Innovative processes, products, and services bestow a competitive edge, result in time, and resource savings, and promote diversified operations, rendering businesses less vulnerable to market fluctuations. The research objective is to assess how R&D investments affect the success of mediumsized agricultural businesses in the Republic of Serbia between 2020 and 2021. The subject of the research is the key financial performance of mediumsized agricultural enterprises in 2020-2021. The performance value was determined by applying financial analysis. The data were collected from the official financial reports of all medium-sized agricultural enterprises that are registered in the Republic of Serbia. The research is grounded in the hypothesis that medium-sized agricultural enterprises, which allocate resources to research and development, achieve superior financial performance compared to the average performance observed among all medium-sized enterprises. The research findings have practical implications for policy development in this area and are of great importance to business leaders in developing operational and strategic business goals.

Key words: research and development, medium-sized agricultural enterprises, financial performance, business success.

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ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF MILK PRODUCTION AND COTTAGE CHEESE AS A TRADITIONAL DAIRY PRODUCT ON FAMILY FARMS IN SERBIA

Vedran Tomić¹, Robert Radišić²

Abstract

Serbia's advantageous natural conditions support livestock production, particularly cow's milk production, with an annual average of 1.5 billion liters, primarily from small farms. However, only 35.1% of the total milk production undergoes processing. Research focuses on the economic aspects of milk production and its transformation into cottage cheese on family farms.

A model for traditional milk product production on family farms was developed and analyzed using analytical calculations based on variable costs. The results revealed a $\in 0.24$ difference in production cost per liter between raw and processed milk, and a $\in 0.68$ difference in selling price. The study suggests that farms with up to 15 dairy heads should consider milk processing and product finalization. This research sheds light on the potential benefits of processing milk on family farms, offering valuable insights for the dairy industry in Serbia.

Key words: economic aspects, dairy farms, milk production and processing, competitiveness, production costs.

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I SECTION - AGRIBUSINESS

THE ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA¹

Aleksandar Miljatović², Veljko Vukoje³, Veljko Šarac⁴

Abstract

The aim of the research is to analyse and evaluate trend of basic production and economic indicators of agricultural holdings in the Republic of Serbia. The focus is on the comparative analysis of agricultural holdings according to type of farming. The study is based on the Serbian FADN data for the period from 2017 to 2021. The research results have shown that farm net value added per annual work unit and family farm income per family unit both had strong growth tendency. Namely, these indicators increased in comparison to the last year for even 63.9% and 78.6% respectively, while the increase was even higher compared to 2017, 198.5% and 226.6% respectively. The highest values of analysed indicators were recorded in the field crop faming system, followed by poultry and pig production. On the other side, holdings specialising in grazing livestock had the worst results, because of the extensive production they were involved into and the fact that is mostly about holdings in mountain and areas with natural constraints.

Key words: comparative analysis, agricultural holdings, farm net value added, family farm income.

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TECHNO-ECONOMIC MODELS FOR ANALYSIS AND OPTIMIZATION OF ECONOMIC PROCESSES IN AGRICULTURE

Ana Ursu¹

Abstract

In the economic processes in agriculture, methods and techniques of analysis are used which contribute to the understanding of the mechanisms of elaboration and rationale of the different activities related to the technology of plant cultivation and/or animal husbandry, of physical and value quantification of the measurable units entering the production process, as well as of their optimization in order to maximize economic efficiency. The aim of the paper is to present the mechanisms that make up the logical and relational steps that define production systems in agriculture and to simulate techno-economic models of analysis and optimization useful in the knowledge and management of agricultural production systems. The conclusions of the paper define the information resulting from the processing of the data and the decisions that the economic agent must adopt in relation to the objectives pursued.

Key words: agriculture, methods and techniques, simulation, optimization, decision

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A SUMMERY ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE FAMILY FARMING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Bianca Florentina Nistoroiu¹, Stefan Laurentiu Prahoveanu², Sergej Vasić³

Abstract

This study examines aspects of sustainable family farming in the context of the European Union (EU). Considering the significant global challenges of food security, biodiversity erosion, and climate change, this project aims to investigate the contribution of family farms in the EU agricultural landscape to sustainability, resilience, and socioeconomic development. The study will also examine the impact of EU support programs and policies on the adoption of sustainable farming practices by family farms. In addition, the study will analyze the potential overlaps or conflicts between sustainable agriculture and broader EU policy objectives, including the European Green Deal and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The main conclusions are anticipated to add to the body of knowledge on sustainable agriculture by shedding light on the particular difficulties encountered by family-owned farms in the EU and making suggestions for changes to legislation and other actions. In the end, the study aims to deepen its understanding of the complex interplay between sustainability and family farming, offering a basis for well-informed policy development and decision-making in the drive for a more resilient and environmentally sound agricultural sector in the European Union.

Key words: farming, sustainability, environment, policy, objectives.

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NEGATIVE TRENDS IN AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY IN GENERAL WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MACEDONIA

Blagica Sekovska¹, Vasilka Poposka Trenevska²

Abstract

In last several decades one phenomenon regarding land policy occurred. In the past decade, more than 81 million acres of land worldwide—an area the size of Portugal—has been sold off to foreign investors. Some of these deals are what's known as land grabs: The term "land grabs" was defined in the Tirana Declaration (2011) by the International Land Coalition, consisting of 116 organizations from community groups to the World Bank. Land grabbing is the large-scale acquisition of land through buying or leasing of large pieces of land by domestic and transnational companies, governments, and individuals. Land grabbing occurs mostly in countries with dysfunctional and corrupt governments. Without arable land, small farmers cannot produce any food, and fair compensation, jobs, and appropriate wages for hard work on the new plantations turn out to be empty promises.

Balkan countries are not exception of this trend. The case in Romania is especially significant regard land grabbing. Macedonia is also facing the appetites of domestic and foreign companies interested in purchasing agricultural land. The law on agricultural land has been subject to change several times, until now.

Key words: land grabbing, agricultural land policy, food security.

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NON-STANDARD FORMS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE

Gheorghe Dan Isbășoiu¹, Dana Volosevici²

Abstract

In traditional agricultural countries such as Romania, employment in agriculture is still high. This article examines the ways in which employment relationships in the field of agriculture are translated into contractual forms, particularly because the specificity of agricultural activities necessitates the use of non-standard forms of employment, to ensure flexibility and to respect the seasonal nature of work. However, excessive flexibility may have negative effects on the security of employment relationships and the career management of workers. Additionally, non-standard forms of employment are associated with lower-skilled occupations and are used to a significant extent for vulnerable groups, such as young people and women. For these reasons, a scrutiny of the types of contracts and the number of employees involved in this type of employment relationship is necessary and could contribute to improving the legislative framework, aiming to enhance the legal situation of employees involved in agricultural activities.

Key words: *employment*, *flexibility*, *agriculture*.

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TAX ASPECT OF THE ACCOUNTING OF PERENNIAL PLANTINGS

Jovana Dedić¹, Radovan Pejanović², Jelica Eremić Đođić³

Abstract

Taxable profit is determined by applying the provisions of the Law on Profit Tax. It primarily depends on the amount of accounting profit before taxation. In the Republic of Serbia, obligees of the implementation of the Law on Accounting apply three different accounting regulations (IFRS, IFRS for SMEs and Rulebook for micro and other legal entities) which treat fruit-bearing plants (which include most perennial plantings) in different ways.

This difference affects the earlier or later recognition of gains or losses related to fruit-bearing plants, and thus affects the periodic allocation of income tax liability and consequently affects cash flows.

The aim of this paper is to express that by choosing the appropriate accounting regulations, tax expenses and liabilities can be managed, and consequently the related cash flows, which can contribute to a more successful business of the entity. In our work, we use basic scientific methods: the method of analysis and synthesis, the inductive and deductive method, the method of description and the method of comparison.

Key words: perennial plantings, fruit-bearing plants, profit tax, accounting regulation, IFRS.

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INVESTMENT IN CREATING THE VALUE ADDED IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION¹

Marko Jeločnik², Lana Nastić³, Božo Ilić⁴

Abstract

Livestock production is one of the most important sectors that generally increases overall profitability gained in agriculture. It could be a good alternative to farms that have available large areas under the crop production. Special segment of livestock growing is milk production and further gaining of value added through the milk processing. Locally, within the dairy production traditionally appears full-fat cow cheese. In performed research was tested the economic justification of initial investment in cow milk production and later milk processing into the full-fat cheese that will enable the sustainability and increase in gained profits at observed farm located in northern part of Montenegro. Investment analysis involves appliance of usual set of indicators, mainly NPV, IRR and DPBP. Gained results have been showed that the investment decision could be considered as fully justified for the farmer.

Key words: investment, livestock production, value added, full-fat cow cheese production.

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SELECTION OF SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIERS IN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES¹

Miroslav Nedeljković², Milorad Đokić³, Velibor Potrebić⁴

Abstract

The aim of the work was to select sustainable suppliers for the agricultural enterprise according to predetermined criteria. The subject of choice was mineral fertilizer, given that the company is registered for the production and sale of grain wholesale and retail. For the purpose of selection, we used multi-criteria decision-making, that is, the MABAC method of multi-criteria decision-making. The decision makers were employed engineers in the company in question. The work focused on five suppliers and ten criteria, and the criteria "pollution control" and "quality" received the highest value when evaluating the criteria. The results showed that the fifth selected supplier best met the set criteria. Future research should be based on the development of new decision-making methods in order to make rational decisions that are particularly important for this sector of the economy.

Key words: suppliers, multi-criteria decision-making, MABAC method, agricultural enterprise, sustainability.

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STUDY ABOUT EVOLUTION OF THE ROMANIAN OILSEED MARKET AND ROMANIAN PLACE IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE WITH OILSEED

Silviu Beciu, Georgiana Armenița Arghiroiu, Maria Bobeică Colpoș¹

Abstract

This paper is focused on the analyse of the Romanian oilseed market evolution during recent years and its contribution in the international trade with oilseed. The research method is related with the quantitative methods, based on official available time data series about oilseed production and trade. The results indicated that Romania became a top producer and exporter on EU oilseed market, and many Romanian farmers focused in the last years on oilseed production, due the high imports demand on worlds markets and attractive national production and trade context.

Key words: trade, oilseed market, Romania.

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ANALYSIS OF CEREAL FOREIGN TRADE IN EUROPEAN UNION

Steliana Mocanu¹, Ionut Laurentiu Petre², Marilena E. Potârniche Berheci³

Abstract

Given the fact that worldwide, cereal grains are considered a major component of the diet (Awika, 2011), and in 2022 the harvested production of cereals for the production of grain (including seed) was 270.942 thousand tones, this market deserve to be investigated. In brief, this paper will provide a snapshot of the current situation on cereal market, the more so as the economic context (the war between Ukraine and Russia) changed the dynamics of this market in the last years. The research involves also a bibliographic analysis on the subject of "foreign trade" which was made using VOSviewer software, based on Web of Science database query that revealed 12.297 scientific documents that contains the term "fish market". In this detailed context, we consider that the paper brings an important status about the situation of fish foreign trade in European Union.

Key words: foreign trade, bibliometric analysis, cereals, European Union.

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AGRIBUSINESS IN TERMS OF EDUCATIONAL OFFER AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - STUDY CASE ROMANIA

Simona Cosmina Toader¹, Ioan Brad², Ciprian Ioan Rujescu³, Monica Ocnean⁴, Jakub Skorupa⁵

Abstract

Agribusiness as part of the study program combines principles of economics, agriculture, processing, trade and management, indispensable for increasing the opportunities for graduates to enter the labor market. Starting from the educational offer and the availability of jobs in the field of agribusiness, the article includes an analysis at the level of the 4 macro-regions in Romania of the employment opportunities in the field under study. The study involves the collection, processing and analysis of information found in national statistics, such as the number of available jobs, the number of companies active in the agribusiness field and the share occupied by the agricultural area. The purpose of the article is to determine the correlation between the number of study programs, the number of jobs and the agricultural potential at the level of the 4 macro-regions of Romania.

Key words: Agribusiness, study programe, jobs, Romania.

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THE GLOBALG.A.P. CERTIFICATION SCHEME IN SERBIAN AGRICULTURE: CONSULTANTS' ATTITUDES ¹

Vesna Paraušić², Bojana Bekić Šarić³, Jasna Babić⁴

Abstract

The authors examine the progress of Serbia in the implementation of the GLOBALG.A.P IFA standard, as well as the quality of the business environment for its implementation. Data on the number of certified producers were obtained from the GLOBALG.A.P. organisation which is the standard's owner. The business environment was assessed based on the results of the interviews with six representatives of domestic consulting companies which provide support to farmers in certification processes. The results show that although Serbia is making progress in this field (considering the number of GLOBALG.A.P. certified producers according to indicators), the percentage share of certified farmers in the total number of farmers is extremely low and can be expressed by parts per thousand. The authors identified numerous systemic problems in the process of the standard implementation, as well as the limitations related to high implementation and certification costs.

Key words: Sustainable agriculture, farm certification scheme, Serbia, business environment.

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AN OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WINE SECTOR DYNAMICS: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS FROM THE ROMANIAN PERSPECTIVE

Violeta Sima¹, Ileana Georgiana Gheorghe²

Abstract

The European Union is the world's largest producer and exporter of wine, the wine sector being the export leader among the EU's agri-food sectors. Climate challenges, along with the increase in the price of electricity and the decrease in purchasing power, have challenged the world of wine. This paper aims to evaluate the general aspects of the European Union wine sector dynamics from the Romanian perspective. For the analysis, we used the following indicators: the area cultivated with grapes, wine production, in total and by region, wine export and consumption, the number of vineyards, the average surface area of the vineyard, the age of the vineyard and the ratio between area dedicated to superior quality wine and that which belongs to table wine. The main results of the analysis could serve as input for decision-makers in developing agricultural guidelines in terms of functionality and application in understanding developments in the wine sector.

Key words: *Wine sector, wine production, vineyard surface area, wine consumption.*

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ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN SERBIA¹

Vlado Kovačević²

Abstract

The aim of the paper is to analyze the measures of agricultural policy and provide recommendations for its improvement. The Republic of Serbia implements agricultural policy measures at the national level, at the level of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, local self-governments and within the framework of the IPARD program. In addition to the above, the arrector also has other measures of support from various donors. In the work, the research method of literature review of legal regulations, the scope and measure of subsidies and the effects of the mentioned measures was supported. The most significant results that have been evidenced are the dominance of directly coupled subsidies, while the share of rural development measures has decreased. Furthermore, the legal framework was analyzed and the existence of numerous systemic limitations are evidenced, negatively affect the Serbian agriculture competitiveness, protection of the environment and human health. The need to improve the legal framework is particularly significant in the sector of farmers' interest associations, regulation of GMO, control of pesticide traffic, etc.

Key words: Agricultural support, IPARD, Rural development.

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COMPLEX BUSINESS SYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN AN AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX¹

Zoran Simonović², Biljana Ilić³

Abstract

Management of business functions in the business system also includes management in agricultural production. It indicates that the production process, other company operations (procurement, sales, and finance), and the work, means of production, products of production, and technology are all harmonized. Production management's primary objective is to maximize the economic benefits; all other secondary goals (technological, social, and production) must serve this primary objective. When achieving goals, it should also take care of ecology. The management model of a complex business system connected to the agro-industrial complex, which will comprise independent variables and constraint matrices, will be the main topic of the study.

Key words: Agricultural management, business system, economic objective, independent variables, constraint matrices.

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II SECTION - BIOTECHNOLOGY

ECONOMIC EFFECTIVENESS OF APPLICATION OF BIOSTIMULATORS IN SPRING OATS¹

Angel Sarov², Ekaterina Tzvetanova³

Abstract

The use of biostimulants in agriculture is a key approach to organic production in the context of fulfilling the EU Green Deal objectives. The aim of the present study is to determine the economic effect of applying foliar organic fertilizers to spring oats. Biostimulants are developed based on chitosan, vermicompost extract, and a naturally identical growth regulator. An economic-mathematical analysis model is applied, for which a system of inequalities and constraints is used. The analyzes of the scientific team are based on the hypothesis that it is possible to apply biostimulants to significantly increase the yield of spring oats per unit area, but not to increase the profit of the agricultural holding as a whole. The research team accepts that those biostimulants that increase the economic efficiency of the farm are considered beneficial. It was derived conclusions.

Key words: Economic effectiveness, biostimulants, spring oats.

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TESTING THE EFFECT OF AN INNOVATIVE PRODUCT OF THE COMPANY HUMATE ROST FOR VEGETATIVE FOLIAR NUTRITION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF OIL SUNFLOWER (HELIANTHUS ANNUUS L.) UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF DOBRUDJA

Georgi Georgiev¹

Abstract

The experiments were carried out at the experimental plot of Dobrudja Agricultural Institute, Dobrudja. General Toshevo. The soil type is Haplic Chernozems. The ancestor is wheat. The sowing was carried out in the optimal time - 20. 05. 2023. The sowing was done manually at a row spacing of 0.70cm. The trial was seeded with a plot size of 30m2 The trials were laid out using the block method in 2 replicates randomized. The observations were carried out according to the accepted UPOV methodologies. The metrics were taken from all the options with the aim of analysing the yield structure. The following phenological parameters were recorded during the vegetation of sunflower: sowing, emergence, 2-3 leaf stage, budding, beginning of flowering, flowering, end of flowering, flowering period, technical maturity and growing period number of days. The following structural characters were also studied: plant height (cm), cake diameter (cm), mass per 1000 seeds (g.), number of full seeds, number of empty seeds, number of seeds per plant, yield kg/ha, % oil, % oil in absolute dry matter, % moisture, % oleic acid.

The boron content of the preparation has the effect of increasing pollen viability, which in turn results in more full seeds and fewer empty seeds in the comb. The organic fertilizer HumateGrowth increases the resistance of plants to adverse conditions-drought, etc. the plants have very good architecture, larger leaves, greater height compared to the untreated control. No pest or disease infestation was found during testing of the hybrids. This shows the very good efficiency of this organic fertilizer.

Key words: Vegetation, sunflower, sowing, yeld, plant height, head diameter.

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FOLIAR APPLICATION OF NANOFERTILIZER IMPROVES SEED QUALITY PERFORMANCE OF TOMATO (SOLANUM LYCOPERSICUM L.)¹

Gordana Tamindžić¹, Sergei Azizbekian², Srđan Zec¹, Slobodan Vlajić¹, Dragana Milošević¹, Dragana Miljaković¹, Maja Ignjatov¹

Abstract

Many reports emphasized the role of calcium fertilizers in tomato production as a key nutrient for enhancing productivity and its positive relationship with quality attributes. The application of nanotechnology in modern agriculture has gained significant attention recently due to the recent discovery of nanochemicals as potentially effective pesticides, fertilizers, and promising agents for plant growth. Recent scientific data indicated the positive effects of calcium nanoparticles (NPs) on plant growth and development, and subsequent yield and yield quality of many crops. However, there is a lack of information on their effect on tomato seed quality and initial plant growth.

The purpose of this study was to assess how tomato seed quality and initial plant growth were affected by the foliar application with two fertilizers containing different forms of calcium, i.e. the conventional fertilizer YaraLiva – Calcinit (Yara Suomi OI, Finland) containing 15,5 % of the total N and 26,3 % calcium (CaO) and nanofertilizer Nanoplant Ca-Si (JSC "ECO – Vlit", Lithuania), which contains nanoparticles of calcium and silicium. The experimental materials included seeds of seven tomato lines which differed genetically (S49, S50, N4, N7, N9, N14, N16). Tomato plants were treated during the growing season with the aforementioned products in the manufacturer's recommended doses. Following harvest, tomato seeds were collected for analysis. Untreated tomato seeds were used as control. The evaluation of the seed quality and initial plant growth was done using the germination test.

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In comparison to the control and treatment with conventional fertilizer, the foliar application of calcium and silicium NPs significantly improves seed quality parameters, such as germination energy and final germination. Calcium and silicium in nano size act more quickly and efficiently on tomato seed characteristics, as evidenced by the significant increases in seedling length, fresh and dry biomass accumulation, and seedling vigour index. These findings suggest that applying nanofertilizers could be advantageous over conventional fertilizers in seed production.

Key words: Solanum lycopersicum L., foliar application, Calcium, nanofertilizer, conventional fertilizer, seed quality, initial plant growth.

EFFECT OF FOLIAR TREATMENTS WITH BIOSTIMULANTS IN SPRING OILSEED RAPE CULTIVATION

Iliyana Petrova¹, Svetlana Stoyanova², Ralitza Mincheva³

Abstract

In modern crop production, the importance of biostimulant application technologies is progressively increasing, due to the established versatile positive effects of their impact. Regarding the evaluation of their efficacy under field conditions, the results are mixed. This determines the need for testing in specific agro-ecological regions. The increased demands of consumers oriented towards organic produce and foods with added biological value has focused interest in testing the effectiveness of stimulants developed based on natural sources.

The conducted research presents results on the influence of foliar treatment with biostimulants developed on the basis of vermicompost extracts, chitosan and a naturally-identical auxin-type growth regulator and production parameters in spring oilseed rape cultivation. The effect was tested under organic rape cultivation on leached black soil in a region of Northern Bulgaria. For 2 harvest years, field experiments have been done, according to the randomly assessed block design, with plot size of 10 m² and 4 replications per variant. The results found varying degrees of positive effect on biometric indicators and yield depending on dose, type of stimulant and harvest year.

Key words: Spring oilseed rape, biostimulants, foliar treatment, biometrics, yield.

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IMPACT OF INTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT¹

Irina Marina², Biljana Grujić Vučkovski³, Marijana Jovanović Todorović⁴

Abstract

Today, intensive agricultural production is presented as a key production system for maintaining global food security, but at the same time it brings with it numerous challenges that affect the environment. This paper will analyze the impact of intensive agriculture on the environment, investigating how these processes can have different effects on ecosystems. The positive and negative impacts of technological progress will be analyzed. In which aspects of water and air pollution, loss of biodiversity and climate change will be included. Also, aspects of enabling increased productivity and food security for the world's population, more efficient use of resources, as well as the possibility of producing higher yields on smaller areas. This paper will also present a set of measures that directly affect the reduction of the negative impact of intensive agriculture, enabling the sustainability of agricultural production.

Key words: Intensive agriculture, environment, climate change.

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HEALTHY SOIL - HEALTHY PLANT: CONTAMINATED SOIL AS A SOURCE OF INOCULUM OF FUSARIUM VERTICILLIOIDES (SACC.) NIRENBERG

Maja Ignjatov¹, Dragana Milošević¹, Janko Červenski¹, Slobodan Vlajić¹, Boris Adamović², Snežana Jakšić¹, Đorđe Vojnović²

Abstract

A wide occurrence of wilt and rot caused by Fusarium species has been observed in the last few years in many vegetable-growing areas in the Republic of Serbia. Symptoms of rot and wilt of celery, garlic, and onion were noticed and after determination, Fusarium spp. was identified as the main causal agent of the disease. Most of the Fusarium species that cause disease on vegetable crops (garlic, onion, celery) overwinter in soil debris and soil. This study was conducted to isolate and identify Fusarium from soil samples by conventional and molecular methods. Soil samples were taken under the diseased plant, and 25 samples were collected in order to perform isolation of Fusarium species that cause rot and wilt during production. Each soil sample (10 g) was transferred to a glass bottle with 100 ml of sterile distilled water and put in a shaker for 30 min. An extract (0.2 ml) from each sample was placed on the bottom of the Petri dish and then a liquid medium of potato dextrose agar – PDA, was added and incubated at 28°C. After seven days all isolates were examined morphologically and re-isolated completing Koch's postulates. Colony morphology was recorded from cultures grown on PDA and CLA. Nine isolates, when grown on PDA, develop fast-growing, abundant, vinaceous aerial mycelium-producing dark violet pigments. Only microconidia are attached to each other in long chains. Macroconidia and chlamydospores were absent. Based on the morphological characteristics, compared with positive control and literature description isolates were identified as Fusarium verticillioides (Sacc.) Nirenberg. To perform molecular confirmation, total genomic DNA was extracted from the mycelium with a DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). Following DNA extraction, the translation elongation factor TEF1-alpha region was amplified by PCR with the primer pair EF1 and EF2. A positive control isolates previously

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identified as F. verticillioides (NCBI code MH496027) was used. The sequences were compared with those in GenBank. The TEF1-alpha gene sequences of the Serbian isolates showed the highest identity of 100% with a Argentinian isolate (OR529768) and South African F. verticillioides isolates Accession No.: OR498563, OR498540 and OR498543-44. These species can infect vegetable plants through, contaminated seeds, or through spores carried over by wind, water, and insects. F. verticillioides is a well-known soil- and seed-borne facultative endophyte and can enter systemically through the root system from the soil. Hence, this species is known to produce mycotoxins severe for human health and monitoring in Serbia will be continued.

Key words: Fusarium verticillioides, soil, TEF1-alpha gene, sequencing.

SPANISH REED IN THE FUNCTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Marina Đorović¹, Radojica Rakić², Jela Ikanović³, Vera Popović⁴, Zdravka Petković⁵, Dragana Popović⁶, Ljubiša Kolarić⁷

Abstract

In order to ensure security in the supply of necessary energy sources, most countries in the world direct their research in the direction of finding the most rational way of using renewable energy sources and the circular economy. The paper analyzed the Spanish reed as a significant source of all forms of energy, from biogas, to solid biofuels and vegetable coal, and as an alternative source of plant fibers. The separated cellulose is most often used for paper production, but also in the textile industry, as a substitute for cotton, flax and kenaf fibers. The fact that Spanish cane can be cultivated and in marginal agro-ecological conditions provides us with opportunities to establish perennial grass areas on unused and degraded areas.

Thanks to the development of new technologies for the processing of biological waste into energy through the circular economy, the rate of increase in the use of alternative fuels is growing significantly, and Spanish cane, thanks to its modest requirements for water and heat, can be classified as a desirable energy crop. Spanish reed is one of the best crops for soil protection against all types of erosion, then for phytoremediation, absorption of harmful gases from the atmosphere, and it is valued in the construction industry and as an ornamental plant.

Key words: Renewable energy sources, circular economy, Spanish cane as energy crop, biofuel and biogas, phytoremediation.

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BEEKEEPING AND HONEY PRODUCTION IN SERBIA IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT¹

Nada Mijajlovic², Nataša Papić Blagojević³, Đorđe Mihailović⁴

Abstract

Beekeeping is an economic branch of the Republic of Serbia with significant export potential. This paper aims to indicate the current state of beekeeping and honey production in Serbia in the context of sustainable rural development. The production of honey in the previous ten years and all important parameters such as the number of hives, the amount of honey produced and marketed in different markets will be discussed. Regarding the diversification of agricultural production in the context of sustainable rural development in Serbia, more and more farms opt for this type of additional activity that can bring significant profit. At the republican level, appropriate legislation is being established that is in line with world standards in honey production. Beekeeping organizations in Serbia are important factors that contribute to the improvement of honey production and better marketing of honey and honey products on the domestic and world markets. In Serbia, there are natural prerequisites for beekeeping and the production of certain high-quality types of honey (acacia, meadowsweet, sunflower).

Key words: Beekeeping, honey, sustainable rural development.

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NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS AS A BASE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION – THE MUNICIPALITY OF TEMERIN EXAMPLE¹

Nataša Kljajić², Jonel Subić³, Predrag Vuković⁴

Abstract

The climate, pedological and hydrological characteristics as a base for planning agricultural production in the region of Vojvodina (the Municipality of Temerin area, the South-Backa administrative district) were represented in this paperwork. This research goal was to show the summarized data on the climate parameters, the representation of soil types, hydrological resources, number of agricultural husbandries and the utilised agricultural land in this research area. The data were collected from the relevant strategic and statistical documents, as well as the scientific paper works in which a similar topic has been studied. According to the results obtained from the research and discussions has concluded that this area of the South-Backa administrative district has been very favourable for the diverse agricultural production. These results are also significantly important for further planning of agricultural production and its intensification by the farmers in the Temerin Municipality.

Key words: climate indicators, pedological characteristics, hydrological characteristics, the utilised agricultural area.

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MAIZE GRAIN YIELD IN ANIMAL-POWERED FARMING AS AFFECTED BY SOIL FERTILIZATION VARIANT: RESULTS FROM THE 2023 SEASON IN NORTH-EAST CROATIA

Ranko Gantner¹, Igor DelVechio², Zvonimir Steiner³, Bishal K. Sitaula⁴, Krešimir Bošnjak⁵, Vesna Gantner⁶

Abstract

The objective of this study was to investigate maize grain productivity in a low-input farming system as affected by the variant of soil fertilization. All the agrotechnical operations in this field research were powered solely by draft horses and by the use of traditional horse-drawn implements (plow, tine-harrow, seeding machine and inter-row cultivator), except the modern horse-drawn roller-cutter made for green-manures and cover crops management prior to establishment of cash crops, and a small reconstructed (halved) disc-harrow (initally made for a small tractor). Tested soil fertilization variants were: Zero fertilization, horse farmyard manure application (FYM), green manuring with crimson clover (Trifolium incarnatum L.) (GMC), FYM + GMC, and full dose mineral NPK fertilization. Maize grain yields in this research were lower than in previous field trials in the north-east Croatia, most likely because of later seeding term, but not due to source of powering. The highest yielding was NPK variant (7.60 t/ha) which was significantly higher than the lowest Zero variant (2.01 t/ha). FYM (6.67 t/ha), FYM+GMC (6.24 t/ha) and GMC (4.60 t/ha) were intermedium but not significantly different from the NPK.

Key words: Maize, yield, soil fertilization, animal power, sustainability.

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PRODUCTS OBTAINED FROM MILK PROCESSING WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WHEY PRODUCTION IN CHEESE PRODUCTION¹

Slavica Arsić², Ivan Bošnjak³, Anton Puškarić⁴

Abstract

For the economy of every country, milk represents one of the strategic products, therefore the aspiration is to ensure sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the population with the development of primary milk production. Analyzes have established that of the total milk produced in Serbia, about 1.5 billion liters of milk per year, almost half (50%) is purchased by the processing industry, which is focused on the production of products that do not require a lot of time and for which the technological processes are not complex and long-lasting. These products are the most used in the market, even though they have a short shelf life.

The paper will show that in the process of cheese production, whey is created as a side product, which is one of the insufficiently used side products of the dairy industry. Also, the production of cow's milk as well as the products obtained in dairies for realization on the market for the period from 2015 to 2021 will be processed, with special reference to the use of whey in the food industry, where it is most often used as concentrated or whey powder.

Key words: *Milk, cheese, whey and its use in production.*

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VALUES OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES - CARBON STORAGE IN THE FOREST ECOSYSTEMS OF BELGRADE

Tatjana Dimitrijević¹, Mihailo Ratknić²

Abstract

Forest and agricultural ecosystems play a significant role in the global carbon cycle. The concentration of methane increased more than 2.5 times (1908 ppb), and the concentration of nitrogen compounds by 25% (334.5 ppb). According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, the Republic of Serbia is obliged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 9.8% by 2030. The Paris Agreement implies a periodic update of the National Contribution. For climate mitigation, forests (in addition to agriculture) play a key role. Fixed carbon in forest ecosystems represents an important economic parameter in the concept of ecosystem services. In the development plan of the European Union until 2030, forestry (and agriculture) is given greater importance in the fight against climate change, as a consequence of the worrying trend of reduction of bound carbon in European forests. The following amount of bound carbon was determined in the urban forests of Belgrade: in above-ground biomass 1143686 t/ha, in underground biomass 185094 t/ha, in dead wood biomass 57184 t/ha, in forest floor 391816 t/ha, in soil 2537519 t/ha, i.e. a total of 4315299 t/ha (Ratknić T et al., 2022). Measurements must be performed on the basis of satellite images due to possible automation and monitoring of changes on a daily basis. Wood has different prints depending on the product, i.e. whether it is used to make paper, building material, furniture, fuel or biomass (pellet). It is necessary to develop a certification concept that would be based on the principles of the circular economy. It is predicted that by 2050 the net emissions of greenhouse gases will be equal to zero. Given the large percentage of forests in private ownership, a method of incentives should be established for their inclusion in the carbon sequestration process (by storage or afforestation).

Key words: *Ecosystem services, carbon storage, urban forests, City of Belgrade.*

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THE INFLUENCE OF THE ORIENTATION AND TYPE OF HEDGE-ROWS ON SHADING PERCENTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

Tina Lešnik, Andreja Borec¹

Abstract

Hedgerows are recognised as linear strucutures of woody and shrubby vegetation occurring in different agricultural ecosystems. The general public primarily identifies the conservation and environmental values, which have been extensively researched with numerous studies available. When farmers manage hedgerows within their cultivated areas, they often face challenges as hedgerows can obstruct their farming activities. Farmers emphasize that shading crops primarily reduces the cultivated area, increases competition for soil moisture and nutrients between agricultural crops and hedgerow. For calculating the percentage of shading, we use ArborShadow R4 software for two different types of hedgerows: a tree hedgerow with a height of 20 meters and a shrub hedgerow with a height of 5 meters. The input data were latitude and longitude, hedgerow orientation, tree composition, time and date. The results indicate a strong correlation between shading percentage of agricultural land, type and orientation of the hedgerows.

Key words: Hedgerow, shading, agricultural land, agriculture.

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STATE OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION IN WORLD AND FOR US1

Vera Popović², Marijana Jovanović Todorović³, Vesna Gantner⁴, Vera Rajičić⁵, Vladimir Filipović⁶, Dragan Dokić⁷, Gordana Dozet⁸

Abstract

Sustainable resource management ensures stability and quality of agricultural production on the global food market. Organic production ensures are health-safe products, economic benefit, preserving the environment and health. In study is analyzed organic production in the World, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia and North Macedonia. The organic agricultural area records a growth trend in 2021, of 1.7%. This is indicated by data from 191 countries and more than 76 million hectares of agricultural land, which is 1.6 percent of the total agricultural land. The regions with the largest organic agricultural land areas are Oceania (36 mill. ha or 47%) and Europe (17.8 mill. ha, 23%) followed by Latin America (9.9 mill. ha, 13%), Asia (6.5 mill. ha, 8.5 percent), Northern America (3.5 mill. ha, 4.6%) and Africa (2.7 mill. ha, 3.5%). The ten countries with the largest organic agricultural areas have a combined total of 59.6 million hectares and constitute almost 80 percent of the world's organic agricultural land: Australia, 35.69 mill.ha, Argentina, 4.07 mill. ha, France, 2.78 mill. ha, China, 2.75 mill. ha, Uruguay, 2.74 mill. ha, India, 2.66 mill. ha, Spain, 2.64 mill. ha, USA, 2.33 mill. ha, Italy, 2.19 mill.ha, Germany, 1.8 mill. ha. Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, B&H and North Macedonia recorded a trend of area growth in 2021 compared to 2020. Macedonia recorded the largest increase in area (7794 ha), of 109.1%, followed by B&H (2495 ha, 47.5%), Serbia (23527 ha, 21.8%), Croatia (121924 ha, 12.3%). In Slovenia, the stagnation of surface area (52078 ha) was

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recorded, while Montenegro recorded a decrease in surface area in 2021 (4404 ha) compared to 2020 (4823 ha), by 418.8 ha ie. for 8.7%. Thanks to our excellent geographical position and good quality land, we have excellent conditions for the growth of organic production, which would be our great export opportunity.

Key words: *Organic production, trend growth, health-safe products.*

THE DIFFERENCES IN SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS PREVALENCE AND EFFECT ON MILK PRODUCTION DUE TO COWS' BREED AND BREEDING REGION

Vesna Gantner¹, Vera Popović², Zvonimir Steiner³, Ranko Gantner⁴, Klemen Potočnik⁵

Abstract

The objective of this study was to investigate how breed (Holstein or Simmental) and breeding region (Central, Eastern, and Mediterranean) affect the prevalence of subclinical mastitis and its impact on milk production. To achieve this, the study analysed a total of 4,922,751 test-day records of Simmental cows and 3,953,637 test-day records of Holstein cows. As indicator of subclinical mastitis, the daily lactose content was used.

The results of the study indicated that there were significant differences in subclinical mastitis rates based on both breeding region and breed. Holstein cows from the Eastern region had the lowest prevalence. Furthermore, the lowest daily milk yield was observed on the test-day when subclinical mastitis was detected in both breeds and all regions. However, subsequent milk recordings showed an increase in milk yield that varied based on the breed and breeding region. The highest total increase in milk production was observed in Holstein cows from the Eastern region.

These findings suggest that recovery potential varies significantly based on breed and breeding region. Holstein cows from farms in the Eastern region had the lowest incidence of mastitis-related issues and the highest chance of recovery and restoration of production to their genetic potential. Therefore, this study suggests

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that dairy cows recover more effectively when bred at large, specialized dairy farms that are prevalent in the Eastern region.

Key words: *Dairy cows, subclinical mastitis, prevalence, daily milk production.*

PHYTOREMEDIATION AND ELECTROKINETIC SOIL REMEDIATION

Vladimir Miladinović¹, Vladan Ugrenović², Mira Milinković³

Abstract

An efficient and sustainable way of removing organic and inorganic pollutants from soil using plants is possible through the biotechnological process of phytoremediation. Depending on the type of pollutant, degree of pollution and environmental conditions, there are several mechanisms of phytoremediation, such as: phytodegradation, phytoaccumulation, phytostabilization, rhizodegradation and rhizofiltration.

The application of phytoremediation is not expensive, it can be applied on large areas and does not lead to soil damage. The disadvantage of this aplication is the potential shelf life of the process, as the development of the plants is monitored in one or more years. Also, the removal of pollutants from the soil is carried out in the depth zone of the plant's root system, which is directly affected by the physical and chemical properties of the soil and the pollutant itself.

The method of improvement is the application of the phytoremediation process in combination with electrokinetics. The application of electrokinetics is the use of low-intensity electric current using electrodes (anode and cathode), in the immediate vicinity of plant roots and the creation of an electric field. The result is greater mobility and bioavailability of pollutants, which is a consequence of the processes of electroosmosis and electromigration. As the bioavailability of pollutants in the soil increases, the efficiency of the phytoremediation process also increases. AC or DC currents and different voltage levels can be used.

Key words: *Phytoremediation, electrokinetic remediation, soil pollutants.*

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POSSIBILITY OF BIOLOGICAL RECLAMATION OF DEGRADED SOIL IN THE DUMPS OF THE PLIEVLIA MINE¹

Zoranka Malešević², Đorđe Ilić³, Mirjana Jovović⁴

Abstract

The aim of this work is to carry out biological remediation on the reclaimed land of The Plievlja Coal Mine, primarily focusing on the process in which soil suitable for the development and cultivation of medicinal plants is applied to the rocky material. Lavender, sage, and balm were planted in the experimental fields. During the two-year study, the mechanical and chemical properties of degraded soil, soil with the addition of shale and humus, as well as the chemical properties of the control soil, were monitored. An analvsis of the content of microelements and heavy metals in the soil, shale, and humus was conducted, as well as an analysis of the content of microelements and heavy metals in the dry plant mass. The soil undergoing reclamation had a alkaline reaction. The analysis of shale, soil, and humus samples revealed an increased content of nickel (Ni) as the only heavy metal. The results of the analysis of medicinal plants from the experimental fields did not show an increased quantity of heavy metals. Bacteriological analysis detected the presence of common saprophytic microflora (fungi from the genus Mucor). Reclamation with plant crops is possible on deposited materials from surface mines.

Key words: Reclamation, biological remediation, heavy metal.

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EFFECT OF MILK REPLACEMENT ON GROWTH, NUTRITION COEFFICIENT AND OTHER RELEVANT PARAMETERS IN DAIRY CALVES

Zvonimir Steiner¹, Ivan Babić², Vesna Gantner³, Ranko Gantner⁴

Abstract

The aim of this research was to determine the influence of different milk substitutes on the production performance of Holstein calves. The research was conducted on 239 calves, of which 119 were fed with the milk substitute enriched with yeast microorganisms (Saccharomyces cerevisiae) (experimental group) for 49 days, and 120 during the first 21 days with the regular milk. Growth in the first period was higher in the control group (21.3:20.7 kg). In the second period, the calves of the experimental group had a higher growth (33.1:31.9 kg of body weight). At the end of the experiment, looking at the total gain, the calves of the experimental group had a higher gain compared to the calves of the control group (54.13:53.23), although there was no statistically significant difference. There is a significantly higher increase from the 30th to the 59th day in the calves in the experimental group (Student's t-test, p<0.001), as well as the total amount of milk substitute consumed in the experimental group, which is 33.3 kg. The cost price per kilogram of gain calculated on the basis of consumption of milk substitute is higher in the experimental group (1.09 eur/kg) than in the control group (0.972 eur/kg). Also, the price of the feeding day in the experimental group (1.0 eur/FD) is higher than the control group (0.877 eur/FD). The cost price per calf calculated on the basis of the consumption of milk substitute is higher in the experimental group (59.05 eur) compared to the control group (51.81 eur).

Key words: Calves, milk substitute, gain, weight, cost price.

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III SECTION – REVITALIZATION OF RURAL AREAS

RURAL TOURISM IN THE FUNCTION OF SERBIAN AND EU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Aleksandra Vujko¹, Radmila Bojović², Miroslav Knežević³

Abstract

Tourism, as one of the world's largest socio-economic phenomena, is one of the leading factors in the rapid transformation and growth of rural destinations. Billions of tourists around the world spend thousands of billions of dollars each year on domestic and international rural tourism. In recent years, there has been an increasing number of recognizable rural tourist destinations, and the reason for this growth is in marketing activities, cultural heritage, the work of various development agencies supported by countries, the formation of EU structural funds, and increased awareness of new trends among tourists. The emergence of new forms of tourism in rural areas. The paper presents an analysis of the state of rural tourism in Serbia and EU countries, in accordance with the basic indicators. The culture of work, the culture of housing, the culture of food, the culture of clothing and forms of folk art (naive painting and sculpture, folklore, music) are among those values of the rural community that especially attract tourists. Realizing that these values are important for the development of tourism, decision makers will seek through marketing to preserve these traditional values, and thus contribute.

Key words: Rural tourism, rural development, Serbia, EU.

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SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS OF CATTLE RUSTLING ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF INHABITANTS OF SOME SELECTED RURAL COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

Aliyu Mansur Sulaiman¹, Mustapha Umar², Jimoh Abdulrauf Kayode³, Rafiu Olalekan Yusuf⁴, Miroslav P. Popovic⁵

Abstract

A reconnaissance survey on socioeconomic effects of cattle rustling on livelihood of inhabitants of selected communities in Northern Nigeria was conducted. Total of 390 questionnaires were administered. The data obtained was statistically analyzed. The structure of the respondents had the following prevalence: males over females, younger over mid-aged/older, married over unmarried/widowed, and most of them being farmers, with little or no formal education. There is a high level of starvation, loss of investment, deceased income, mental distress, injury and death at Relative Importance Index 66.3% to 84.9%. Least negative impact of rustling affects trading 4.4%, with high negative impact to farming 56.4%. Cattle rustling showed various negative consequences to the inhabitants by devastating their livelihood. The concerned security outfit of the state should be strengthened to curtail the menace in the affected areas.

Key words: Cattle, Rustling, Livelihood, Rural, Northern Nigeria.

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THE CONTRIBUTION OF TOURISM TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL AREA IN ILFOV COUNTY: CASE STUDY FOR BUFTEA AREA

Andreea Roxana Firățoiu, Liviu Mărcuță, Elena Soare, Irina Adriana Chiurciu¹

Abstract

The paper highlights the evolution of accommodation units in the period 2015-2021 in Ilfov County, which is a part of the Bucharest Ilfov Development Region. Ilfov County stretches around Bucharest and is the smallest County in Romania. In the town of Buftea, located in the northern part of the county, there are some tourist attractions with national importance, which are points of attraction for tourists from the country and abroad. In order to achieve the goal pursued, the paper analyzes a series of indicators such as: the number of tourists and reception structures at the level of the analyzed development region and for Ilfov County, by categories of comfort and tourist destinations; accommodation capacity and the utilization index of tourist accommodation capacity by comfort category. The used and processed data in the paper were taken from the website of the National Institute of Statistics.

Key words: Accommodation units, Buftea area, Ilfov County, tourism.

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BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS: QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREA

Daniela Nicoleta Voicila¹, Diana Maria Ilie²

Abstract

The study of quality of life focuses on elucidating and investigating various aspects of population existence, individuals' satisfaction with their living standards, evaluating different facets of quality of life, and policy initiatives aimed at improving these aspects. The present research aims to primarily investigate the current state of studies conducted on the quality of life in rural environments at the European and global levels. Within this work, a bibliometric analysis of research papers registered in the Web of Science database was conducted, starting from the aforementioned topic. For the analysis, the VOS-viewer software was utilized, enabling the creation of a descriptive part of the data, providing an overview of the research theme through the visualization of the connections established. The conclusion of this study indicates that this theme has been thoroughly addressed in various fields in recent years.

Key words: Quality of life, rural area, bibliometric analysis.

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FINANCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM IN SERBIA FROM THE IPARD II PROGRAM¹

Gordana Radović², Radovan Pejanović³, Zorica Vasiljević⁴

Abstract

The financing of the development of rural tourism in Serbia is realized with the support of the IPARD II program from 2020. For the purpose of implementing Measure 7 of the IPARD II program, two calls were published, through which investments that contribute to the development of rural tourism are supported, as an activity that most effectively encourages the diversification of rural economies. The aim of the paper is to present the contribution of Measure 7 of the IPARD II program to the development of rural tourism in Serbia. The paper uses the method of analysis, synthesis, historical, desk research, as well as the descriptive method. The authors conclude that in order to make a more significant contribution of the EU pre-accession fund to the development of rural tourism in Serbia, greater available financial resources are needed, as well as better education of the inhabitants of rural areas for writing projects.

Key words: Rural tourism, financing, development, Measure 7 of the IPARD II program, Serbia.

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GLOBAL TRENDS AND OUTLOOKS IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

Lela Ristić¹, Petar Veselinović², Danijela Despotović³

Abstract

The development of agricultural sector and therefore food security in the world, today take place under very changed and quite difficult circumstances. Accordingly, the subject of research in this paper are contemporary global trends in the development of agriculture and expectations in this sector. Thereby, the impact of global environment on food security in the world is also researched, along with assessments of future trends and perspectives in this field. The aim of the research is to indicate the state and the most important tendencies in development of agriculture and food security in the modern global society. The selected issues are researched by using the methods of analysis, synthesis, description and comparison, primarily on the basis of FAO and OECD data. The results of the research show that global factors today greatly influence the development of agriculture and food security around the world, while also determine outlooks in this fields.

Key words: Agriculture, food, world market, contemporary global challenges, sustainable development.

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REGIONAL DISPARITIES RELATED TO SOCIOECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

Marija Gjosheva Kovachevikj¹, Jorde Jakjimovski², Lazo Dimitrov³, Despina Popovska Stojanov⁴

Abstract

In North Macedonia, planning regions exhibit significant variations in socioeconomic structure, leading to unequal conditions for agriculture and rural development. To address this disparity the study aims to assess the determinants of agriculture and rural development in the statistical planning region, focusing on ten key socio-economic indicators, including Gross value added in agriculture, Agricultural land, Unemployment rate in rural areas, Rural net migration, Investments and Wages in agriculture, Aging index, Young population, Road infrastructure and Social benefit recipients. Utilizing the Hull Score Method based on normalized indicators, the study provides valuable insights into the relative performance of each region. The results reveal Skopje and Pelagonia Region with the highest Hull Score consequently, indicating superior overall performance, while Northeast and Southwest Region obtain the lowest score, indicating scope for improvement. Policymakers can leverage these findings to identify strengths and prioritize targeted interventions for enhancing agricultural and rural development across regions.

Key words: Socioeconomic disparity, normalized indicators, hull score method, regional performance, statistical planning regions.

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CHALLENGES OF THE GREEN TRANSITION IN RURAL AREAS

Marija Inđin¹

Abstract

Investing in the development of rural areas is important for every country, in order to encourage balanced economic growth in all regions of the country. By investing in the development of rural areas, conditions are created for the return and revival of underdeveloped parts of the country and the prevention of population migration to larger cities, so that the local population could live decently from their work. We have witnessed that on a global level it is desirable, almost necessary, for new technologies to include the so-called green approach in solving technological processes. As a rule, such investments in the application of green technologies require larger or significantly larger investments. Due to this fact, investments in the revitalization of rural areas further complicate the significant activity of the state, because it is necessary to ensure an additional increase in funds for the implementation of such projects.

Key words: *Green technology, rural area, employment, investments.*

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SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SERBIAN HOUSEHOLDS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The main goal of the work is the analysis of the socio-demographic features of Serbian households according to the 2022 census, and then the changes that have occurred since the beginning of this century (census 2002, 2011) until today and sustainable development. Data analysis showed that the number of households increased in the inter-census period in urban settlements, and decreased in other settlements. There are more and more households with 1 and 2 members, and the number of households with 4 or more members is decreasing from the total number of households. The structure of households was analyzed according to the type of settlement, gender, schooling in Serbia and by region. Sustainable development has become one of the most important factors today in the face of significant climate change, growing population pressures and limited natural resources. Our country is affected by climate change and limited natural resources where households play an important role in sustainable development.

Key words: Households, characteristics, Serbia, regions, sustainable development.

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OBSERVING CHANGES OF SETTLEMENT SIZE IN VITICULTURAL ZONES OF SERBIA USING VIIRS NIGHTTIME LIGHT DATA

Radmila Jovanović¹, Claudete Oliveira Moreira², Debajit Datta³

Abstract

Nighttime lights (NTL) data provides a comprehensive view of the spatial distribution of global human activities, especially in terms of population concentration, level of urbanization, estimation of economic growth, population mobility, determination of depopulation areas, etc. This article aims to map the spatio-temporal distribution of night lights of settlements in the wine-growing areas of Serbia using VIIRS NTL datasets from 2012 to 2015, explore the emerging spatial patterns, and compare these patterns with the database of census years 2011 and 2022. Results reveal that the wine-growing areas in Serbia illustrate population redistribution and settlement size change, as it includes larger cities as per the last wine-growing rezoning, reflecting the spatial redistribution of populations. Moreover, urbanization pattern and settlement size variations occur in cities or at their vicinities, with a prominent decrease in settlement size as people move away from cities, indicating a clear depopulation and delimitation of city areas.

Key words: Geospatial analysis, Settlement size, Spatial analysis, VIIRS data, Viticulture zone.

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DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL FORMS OF TOURISM WITH THE AIM TO REVITALIZE THE RURAL AREA OF PLJEVLJA MUNICIPALITY

Sara Stanić Jovanović¹, Dragana Vuković², Nevena Miletović³

Abstract

The municipality of Plievlja is the third largest municipality in the northern part of Montenegro. The administrative center of the municipality is the town of Pljevlja, which is one of the highest settlements in Montenegro. The southwestern part of the municipality of Pljevlja is partially located on the territory of the Durmitor National Park. The proximity of the route E-763 (Belgrade-South Adriatic) stands out as a special advantage of the municipality's location, in the form of opportunities for transit tourists on the way to the Montenegrian coast, and especially for those who want to avoid the dangerous section of the road through the Morača Canyon and use an alternative sea direction Pljevlja-Žabljak-Nikšić-Boka Kotorska. From the image aspect, and based on natural resources and anthropogenic values, the municipality of Plievlia can be positioned in the minds of consumers as a peaceful and small tourist destination with preserved authentic, autochthonous, unique and traditional attributes, which are based on specific tourist products. The development of some of the special forms of tourism (agro, event, hunting, fishing, apitourism, tourism of special interests, etc.), along with numerous economic benefits, will contribute to the revitalization of the rural area of the municipality of Pljevlja.

Key words: Revitalization, tourism, village, development, possibilities, Pljevlja.

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RURAL TOURISM: EMPOWERING RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Snežana Milićević¹, Nataša Đorđević², Marija Mandarić³

Abstract

Rural tourism is an activity that directly and indirectly contributes to the development of rural areas. It encompasses various activities and services provided by rural residents on their properties to generate additional income. Rural tourism significantly stimulates entrepreneurship, fosters the establishment of small family businesses, and contributes to employment and improved living standards for rural populations. It promotes local culture and the traditional hospitality of rural communities. Developing rural tourism requires good communal and transportation infrastructure, enhancing the overall quality of life in local communities. This study aims to analyze the role of rural tourism in the development of rural areas. Best practices in Europe are presented to showcase the contribution of rural tourism to rural development.

Key words: Rural tourism, development, rural areas.

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REVITALIZATION OF RURAL AREAS THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF THE "SMART VILLAGE" CONCEPT

Suzana Lazović¹, Drago Cvijanović²

Abstract

The revitalization of rural areas represents a very important segment of the overall development at the national level and should be based on knowledge and new technologies. The paper aims to analyze the significance of the application of the "smart village" concept in rural areas, which would contribute to the formation of new use values and the solution of current problems related to economic and cultural backwardness, depopulation, migration to urban areas, departure of young people abroad, abandonment of engaged in agricultural production, lack of application of modern technological solutions and insufficiently educated staff in providing services in rural areas.

Key words: "Smart village", rural areas, revitalization.

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IV SECTION – DIGITALIZATION IN AGRICULTURE

INDOOR SMART GARDEN AS A FACTOR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE¹

Branko Mihailović², Vesna Popović³, Katica Radosavljević⁴

Abstract

The rapid growth of the global population and increasing environmental concerns have heightened the need for sustainable agricultural practices. The emergence of indoor smart gardens, integrating advanced technologies in controlled environments, offers promising solutions for sustainable development in agriculture. This paper aims to explore the role of indoor smart gardens as a factor of sustainable agricultural development. By employing a systematic literature review approach, we analyze the benefits and challenges associated with these systems. Indoor smart gardens provide optimized growing conditions, overcoming limitations imposed by external factors. The integration of smart technologies, such as IoT devices, sensors, automation, and data analytics, enables precise control over environmental parameters, resulting in enhanced resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact. This study contributes to the ongoing discourse on sustainable agriculture by highlighting the potential of indoor smart gardens in achieving sustainable development goals and fostering resource-efficient agricultural practices.

Key words: *Indoor smart garden, sustainable development, agriculture, controlled environment, resource efficiency, smart technologies.*

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DIGITAL LITERACY AND USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES BY SMALL FARMERS IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

Cosmin Salasan¹, Carmen Simona Dumitrescu², Iasmina Iosim³, Cosmina Toader⁴

Abstract

The digital gap as identified between rural and urban and between primary and the other sectors has been shifting considerably over the past two decades. If accessibility used to be the primary driver for the use of digitally powered platforms and applications, the knowledge and habits are replacing its position. Accessibility, in terms of infrastructure are no longer a topic when Agriculture 4.0 benefits from 5G services and uses server farms to store large data harvested daily from different plots. Yet the picture is slightly different when approaching the small and medium size farms and the agricultural households. Here again, the age differences could create an a priori placing the largest share of farmers into the "no use" category. The results of the survey during the implementation of a project demonstrate that expectations are far away from the current reality. Farmers are making use of different digital tools during their day-to-day activities, sometimes even involving specialized applications to ease the specific tasks in farming activities. Results are depicting the shares and types of applications used by the category not even near agriculture 4.0 still making use of small digital things, sometimes not even related to agriculture, to improve the time allocation and the efficiency of their activities.

Key words: Digital agriculture, applications, small and medium size farms.

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THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF DIGITIZATION IN AGRIBUSINESS

Ferhat Ćejvanović¹, Adnan Kamerić²

Abstract

Precision agriculture is a concept of integrating new technologies, supported by information systems and agricultural industries. Accordingly, it represents an integrated management system that is supposed to harmonise production materials with the optimum needs of agricultural crops. A special contribution of precision agriculture lies in combining information and technology for the purpose of identifying a proper management system of the cultivation of agricultural crops, optimising profits, and it particularly affects the protection of natural resources and land. It is particularly important that new information technologies are helpful in making better decisions on various aspects of agricultural production. The paper uses data collected through its own research, published scientific and professional articles dealing with this issue. Based on the collected data, scientific methods were used: desk research, descriptive methods, analysis and synthesis methods, induction and deduction methods, as well as comparative analysis methods. Objectives of the work are to look at the economic impact precision agriculture is to optimise the management and distribution of inputs, but taking into account the specifics of each locality with the increase in production efficiency. The fact is that farmers who effectively use the information provided by precision agriculture achieve higher yields and effects than those who do not use the advantages and possibilities of precision agriculture.

The results of the research reflect, viewed from an economic point of view, that precise and smart agriculture provides the possibility of receiving information for making optimal decisions about the management of agricultural production and complete agribusiness, starting from production, processing to distribution of agricultural products and food.

Key words: New technologies, precision and smart agriculture, integrated management system.

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URBAN AGRICULTURE, IMPLEMENTATION POSSIBILITIES IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND SMART CITY

Katarina Stojanović¹, Radovan Pejanović²

Abstract

Urban agriculture is the cultivation of crops, horticulture and raising animals in special cases in cities, which as a green infrastructure is a very revolutionary agenda and emerging paradigm. Since it is new, there is a need to define the framework and model of its spatio-temporal implementation, as well as to overcome the many obstacles it faces. The aim of the paper is to research examples of urban planning that includes urban agriculture, on the basis of which typologies for changing the environment would be defined. Through the analysis of case studies and comparison, models of food landscapes for communities would be established, which could be an example for Serbia in overcoming the increasing problems of lack of greenery in big cities, as well as problems in the agricultural sector. The implementation, cohesion and interpolation of these disciplines would solve some of the problems that are currently in different areas, sustainability, climate change, overpopulation, lack of food, disappearing agricultural land, etc. The concept of smart agriculture within the framework of smart cities, connecting new technologies and a traditional branch of the economy such as agriculture, enables the functioning and easier overcoming of some integration obstacles.

Key words: Built environment, smart agriculture, urban planning, urban agriculture, green infrastructure.

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mirjana Dejanović¹, Sanja Popović Pantić², Ana Kovačević³

Abstract

This paper examines the pivotal role of digital transformation in the agricultural sector for global sustainability and progress. Focusing on the integration of advanced technologies such as precision farming, data analytics, and artificial intelligence, the study explores their impact on optimizing processes and increasing productivity. The paper emphasizes how digital transformation empowers farmers with real-time data, facilitating informed decision-making on crop management, resource utilization, and environmental conservation. It also discusses the socio-economic benefits, including improved market access for smallholder farmers and rural development. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the paper highlights the significance of digital technology in communication, knowledge-sharing, and virtual platforms for trade. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of application of digital technologies in agricultural education, particularly for remote rural areas. The article also addresses the challenges within the agricultural supply chain and investigates the current state of blockchain technology, focusing on its potential to transform agriculture.

Key words: Digital transformation, Agriculture, Sustainable development, Artificial intelligence (AI), Education, Blockchain technology.

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DIGITALIZATION OF THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL PROD-UCTS AS A CHALLENGE TO THE CRISIS¹

Nedeljko Prdić², Boris Kuzman³, Sara Kostić⁴

Abstract

The paper presents a study of the crises impact on the sale of agricultural products. The purpose of the performed research is to analyse adjustment of local agricultural producers to the sale of products in crisis. The analysis was conducted after the Covid-19 Pandemic as a basis for studying sales in the period of crisis. The aim of this work paper is based on the focus of digitization of the sale of agricultural products of small local producers. The conducted research is based on special knowledge methods application and marketing research methods. The theoretical research is based on the historical method. The method of survey was used for analysing experiences and attitudes of local agricultural producers and sellers at the Kvantaška market in Novi Sad. The research conclusion implies to changes in urban areas buyers' habits when it comes to crisis situations, and also the tendency to digitize purchase. The limitation of the research is connected to the disorganized digital sale of agricultural products and therefore the impossibility of overall effects measurement.

Key words: Agriculture products, digital sales, agriculture producers, urban environments, challenges of the crisis.

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SIGNIFICANCE OF INNOVATIONS AND APPLICATION OF INFORMATION - COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF SERBIA¹

Olgica Zečević Stanojević², Dragan Nedeljković³, Leposava Zečević⁴, Boris Stanojević⁵

Abstract

Innovations and the application of information and communication technologies have a driving role in the efficient development of smart agriculture. The application of new information and communication technologies and the digitalization of the agricultural sector represent a great potential for improving rural development through increasing profitability, productivity, sustainability and competitiveness. Modern communication approaches and technologies, from artificial intelligence and robotics to the Internet of Things (IoT), enable significant support and assistance to agricultural holdings and businesses. The results of the research in the paper indicate the possibilities of encouraging rural development based on the use of information and communication technologies through reducing the digital divide, solving existing challenges in terms of creating reliable access to modern communication technologies, strengthening resources for the application of technologies, encouraging awareness, developing skills and training human resources in rural areas.

Key words: *Innovation, rural development, smart agriculture, information and communication technologies, IoT-Internet of Things.*

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PERSPECTIVES OF DIGITAL TOOLS IN THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORK

Slađan Stanković¹, Vedran Tomić², Cosmin Salasan³

Abstract

Agricultural advisory services aim to enhance farmers' productivity, profitability, and sustainable use of natural resources, with both public and private sectors providing support. However, reaching remote farming households has proven challenging, limiting the impact of these services. Digital tools, such as mobile phones and the internet, have emerged as effective solutions, significantly improving the efficiency, relevance, and reach of advisory services.

Analysis of successful digital agricultural advisory services in four regions revealed several key points for improving their reach and sustainability. Successful services address user needs, incorporate bundled services, form multiple partnerships, and have robust business models. However, challenges exist in user involvement during the design phase, particularly for individuals with low ICT literacy. Policy frameworks for promoting digital advisory services vary across regions, with public-led services facing operational challenges and private sector-driven initiatives encountering funding issues. Sequential public-private partnerships may offer a way forward to enhance the impact of digital agricultural advisory services.

Key words: Digital tools, advisory service, sustainability, information and communication technology.

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INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGYS IN CATTLE LAMENESS DETECTION

Tina Bobić¹, Maja Gregić², Pero Mijić³, Vesna Gantner⁴

Abstract

Since the problem of lameness is very common on dairy farms, it is necessary to apply technologies that can contribute to reducing the frequency of lameness. The application of information and communication technologies (ICT) technology in the detection and prevention of lameness in dairy cows is possible and has a future. With automated lameness detection methods, a large amount of data can be collected in short period of time, which can improve lameness prediction accuracy. Various ICT technologies are present on the market, and can be useful in detection and prevention of cow's lameness. Those technologies can improve dairy production, lower costs and improve animal welfare. It is necessary to include more factors and various experts from different fields to ensure the success of the application of such advanced and expensive technology.

Key words: *ICT, cattle, lameness detection, dairy farms.*

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NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURE AND SMART VILLAGES¹

Vladimir Pejanović², Boris Stanojević³, Gordana Radović⁴

Abstract

By new technologies, we mean, above all, precision agriculture and digitization. Precision agriculture and digitization of agriculture lead to the realization of the concept of smart villages. If the digitization of the villages succeeds, through Internet possibilities such as remote work, e-learning, better health care or shopping via e-commerce, rural areas can gain the attraction that big cities have, and which they have partially lost, which would stop depopulation and deagrarianization of villages. Multiple services can be implemented in a smart village in order to improve the quality of life, living standards of the local population, implement and improve the model of sustainable development and establish effective resource management. The sensors are related to the collection of various data related to weather conditions, soil moisture, soil electrical conductivity, soil pH and crop monitoring. Technical solutions will depend on factors such as the size of the village, available resources and the desired level of data analysis and storage capabilities. All this is important, as well as digitization, for the realization of the concept of smart villages.

Key words: *New technologies in agriculture, smart villages, precision agriculture, digitization, technical solutions and sensors.*

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