



Dear Colleagues,

The European Research Centre of Small Agricultural Holdings at the University of Agriculture in Krakow, in collaboration with the Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów, Krakow Branch Office, is organising its next, sixth scientific conference. The subject of this year's conference is "The Socio-Economic Activation of Women in Rural Areas." The conference will take place on 1-2 July 2016 at the University of Agriculture in Krakow's Conference Centre, al. 29 Listopada 46.

The leading subject of the conference is the issue of the multi-aspect activities and activation of women in various European countries, particularly in the European Union's rural areas. Rural areas, even in highly developed European countries, undergo various transformations and differ from highly urbanised areas. The specific nature of such areas implies, to a large share of women, the mixing of their family life and household management with work in agriculture. Some of the rural women are professionally inactive - out of choice or out of necessity, resulting from the lack of work. Women from rural areas realise their life goals and face various dilemmas and challenges in their households, family lives, relations with neighbours and local communities. Frequently, they have to face excessive burdens of work and household responsibilities. Many of them are forced to confront poverty and diverse social pathologies, or to struggle in order to provide their families with adequate living.

The scope of problems which we intend to address during the conference is very wide. We would like to emphasis two main areas, i.e. sociology of rural areas and economics of agriculture, including, in particular, economics of households.

Within the area of sociology we suggest the following selection of issues:

- the economic and social activity of women in rural areas;
- the social and professional role of women in the context of the changing social relations;
- the self-employment and entrepreneurship of women in the field of agriculture and

- non-agricultural careers;
- women facing the challenges of their communities and today's world, such as emancipation, gender, alcoholism, drug-addiction, poverty, exclusion, or family problems;
- women as the makers of economic, social and cultural changes in rural areas – in small businesses and agriculture;
- educational and healthcare problems of women in rural areas;
- elderly people in rural areas – problems of women and families.

Within the area of economics we suggest such issues, as:

- household economics in different socio-professional groups in rural areas;
- searching for innovative forms of professional and economic activation of women in rural areas;
- the old and the new functions and forms of women's economic activity in agricultural holdings;
- rural women as businesswomen;
- a rural woman as the object of the state's interest;
- supporting and solving economic and social issues of rural families;
- women in the search of alternative and innovative forms of professional and economic self-fulfilment.

These are just suggestions, which may serve as an inspiration for getting interested in the conference's subject matter and participation in it. Undoubtedly, there will be more subjects worthy of being addressed in lectures and discussions. We suggest that lectures or shorter scientific reports have a diagnostic, review, or projective nature, or constitute a monothematic or multithreaded analysis or transformation projections. Let us emphasize the fact that the list of issues is open and we are counting on your creativity.

We invite you to participate actively in the conference, i.e. to present lectures or scientific reports and to send us articles to be published in our bilingual (Polish-English) quarterly (electronic, [www.pdgr.ur.krakow.pl](http://www.pdgr.ur.krakow.pl).)

The quarterly has been on the Ministry of Science and Higher Education's "B" list since 2015, and has been awarded 7 points. The publication of lectures is free of charge for the conference's participants (having met editorial requirements – see attachment.)

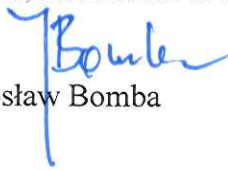
We encourage anyone interested in the participation in our conference to:

- 1) send us the conference participation application form by 31 March 2016
- 2) send us the lecture's title and abstract (max. 1 page) by 31 March 2016
- 3) send us the full text of a paper prepared according to the instructions to authors by 31 May 2016
- 4) by 10 June 2016 - information to the authors about acceptance of papers for publishing.

In the case of those who choose to prepare a lecture and submit a full text of an article for publication, the organisers will cover the costs of their participation in the conference, meals and accommodation, conference materials, their lecture's publication and the study tour on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The organisers will not cover the cost of their travel to Krakow. For further information, please refer to our next announcement or write to the Conference Secretary: [ewa.tyran@ur.krakow.pl](mailto:ewa.tyran@ur.krakow.pl)

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