



1st announcement

Dear Sir or Madam,

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, and the Małopolska Agricultural Advisory Association is organising its next, seventh scientific conference. The subject of this year's conference is **“The innovativeness of rural areas in urbanised territories”**.

The conference will take place on **29–30 June 2017**.

The main topic of the conference is agriculture in urbanised areas, i.e. in cities and suburbs, which cover up to 20% of member states' territories and between 40% and 60% of them are agricultural land. Nevertheless, the perspective of changes in land use and the decline of “urban” agricultural land resources is alarming. Forecasts indicate that within the next 30 years, European urban areas will increase by 0.5 to 0.7% a year and the areas functionally linked to towns (suburban areas) will increase twofold. These trends show that the subject of changes in urban and suburban areas agriculture will gain more and more importance. The status and development of different forms of agriculture and agricultural holdings in urban and suburban areas are a big challenge, as supporting agriculture in those areas will depend on its adaptation to new economic conditions. Therefore, undertaking wider and multifaceted economic and social research on the subject seems necessary.

Agriculture and agricultural holdings play important social and economic as well as increasing ecological and cultural roles in cities and their surroundings. Agricultural land is a frequent object of desire of investors willing to transform it for construction purposes, as well

as for the municipal economy of cities and estates. Let us not forget that this is also an important source of food production, in particular for local markets.

Do Poland, Europe, poorer and richer countries, big cities and small towns all have the same model of urban and suburban agriculture with similar functions? This and other questions will be answered at the conference.

We propose the following thematic areas:

- production localisation theory and its evolution in the aspect of the position of agriculture in relation to cities;
- agricultural land management and protection;
- agricultural holdings in cities and around them;
- functions and place of agriculture in developing and developed countries;
- innovative urban agriculture concepts (socially engaged, educational, demonstration holdings, etc.);
- urban gardening, including allotment gardens, cultivation on balconies, etc.;
- agriculture as a hobby or a form of recreation;
- agricultural markets, short distribution channels, niche production;
- agricultural land market;
- urban spatial planning and the interests of agriculture;
- alternative use of agricultural land in urban and suburban holdings;
- problems of setting aside and temporary resting;
- dilemmas of intensive production in urban and suburban areas;
- social and cultural problems of agricultural and rural population;
- agricultural policy towards agriculture in urbanised areas.

These are just suggestions, which may serve as an inspiration for becoming 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 scenarios. Let us emphasise the fact that the list of issues is open and we are counting on your creativity.

We invite you to actively participate 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

“Problems of Small Agricultural Holdings” (please send your papers to: **lukasz.satola@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 the editorial requirements).

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

- 1) send us the conference participation application form together with lecture’s title and abstract (max. 1 page **by 31 March 2017**. The abstract will be published in the conference materials.
- 2) send us the text of the lecture meeting the editorial requirements **by 30 May**.
- 3) **On 10 June**, the authors will be informed about the acceptance for publication.

Those who wish to participate in the conference will receive further information from the organisers.

On behalf of the Organisers,

Director of Agricultural Advisory Centre  
in Brwinów, Krakow Branch Office

Jarosław Bomba, MSc

Director of European Research Centre  
of Small Agricultural Holdings

Professor Janusz Żmija, PhD