

WORD OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers!

Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus (ACS) was established 117 years ago – in 1887, as a periodical of the professors of the Royal College of Agriculture and Forestry-Križevci, under the name *Viestnik za gospodarstvo i šumarstvo (Agriculture and Forestry Gazette)*. It was published in the period 1887-1890, had a professional-informative character, and featured the first indications of science by publishing the “achievements of the authors’ own research”. This was followed in 1909 by the establishment of the first Croatian scientific journal within the same College – *Gospodarska smotra (Agricultural Review)*, the glorious traditions of which were then pursued by the Faculty of Agriculture University of Zagreb.

Today the journal is published under the name *Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus (ACS)*, as the journal of the research and teaching staff of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb.

In your hands you have the first issue of the 69th volume of *ACS*, and the first prepared by the new Editorial Board, in the year when the publisher – Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, is celebrating 85 years of its continuing activity.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the former Editorial Board and to outline our new editorial policy. The former Editorial Board, headed by Professor Nikola Stipić, a scientist and professor of high standing and rich experience, edited *ACS* in the period from 1996-2003. Eight volumes with 28 issues were published during that time, featuring 259 scientific papers. Although that was a very difficult period for Croatia (destroyed country, ruined economy, transition changes), *ACS* made appreciable progress, retained its readership, papers published in it were included into eminent scientific databases, evidencing the viability of research work in Croatian agriculture. The journal was radically redesigned in 1998; it was given its current name and appearance, and since 1999 it is also available on-line on the Web, thus being accessible to a wide circle of users in this country and abroad.

The Editorial Board is fully aware of the responsibilities arising from the 117 years of tradition. Several changes we are preparing in editorial policy. As always in 117-years history we are opened for scientific contributions of all branches of agriculture, but in future also of related sciences. The goal of the new editorial policy is to create a good, internationally recognized scientific journal in the field of agricultural and related sciences, which will be cited in the referral databases of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) and thereby stimulate researchers, especially the young ones. Several changes point towards this goal. Starting with this issue, *ACS* publishes papers written exclusively in English, opens its pages to Croatian and international authors of related sciences (Food science and technology, Natural resource management, Land development, Biotechnology, Landscape architecture, Fisheries and aquaculture, Civil and rural engineering, Veterinary sciences,

Plant and animal genetics, Microbiology, Forestry, Water management). As of the next issue the Editorial Board will be joined by eminent international scientists from universities and research institutions. Scientific editors, Prof. Zlatko Šatović, PhD (crop growing) and Ino Čurik, PhD, assistant professor (animal breeding) are here to further the author – referee – editorial board communication, and thus additionally contribute to the quality of journal.

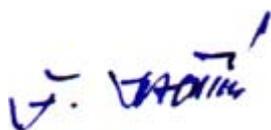
Recognizing the changes in global and Croatian science in agriculture of this time, as well as the necessity to make adjustments to the EU standards as a candidate-country, our intention is to pay special attention on more holistic and ecosystem-based management research themes affirmative for the MFCAL approach (Multi Functional Character of Agriculture and Land), that explore the linkages between plant (crops), livestock and soil. Nowadays, we are respecting the growing attention given to the non-food goods, services and functions - the multifunctional character of agriculture and land within the framework of sustainable agriculture and rural development. This development requires the recognition of holistic dimension of research and affirmation the productive as well as non-productive (environmental, social–employment, cultural, shape the environment - landscape) functions of the multifunctional agriculture, following the concept of CARPE (Common Agricultural and Rural Policy for Europe). Taking in account that a field is greater or smaller piece of landscape, there is no doubt that agriculture contributes to the beauty and harmony of landscape, our preoccupation will be affirmation and support to this aspect of non-productive function of agriculture in our region – neighbouring countries and Europe. ACS is also opened for publication of results of scientific research of all aspects of transgenic organisms - plants in world agriculture. For us is a strange idea that genetically modified organisms mean at the same time the opened door for “*a world a la Frankenstein*”. For developing countries of South there is a real hope that is possible to create crops adaptable to drought, high acidity and/or salinity, or in developed countries plants - crops for bioremediation of soils contaminated by heavy metals and other pollutants of agricultural and/or non-agricultural origin.

The success of ACS primarily depends on the quality of contributions, that is, the authors.

The Editorial Board is open and ready to consider all remarks, critical suggestions and comments from the authors, scientific institutions, but also from the wider scientific and professional public, aimed at improving the quality of the journal. All comments will be most welcome.

Looking forward to a fruitful collaboration and good days for your and our ACS, I am extending my best regards to all of you.

Zagreb, end of July 2004th



Prof. Ferdo Bašić, PhD
Editor-in-Chief