

## Editorial

*“Same as the large part of the past still exists in presence, the large part of the presence will exist in the future, including many things that are still to become obvious.”*

*John Kenneth Galbraith*

Dear reader,

The agricultural production has for centuries dominated overall economic life of the global population. Until recently, namely until the sixties of the last century, the majority of the Croatian population was involved in agriculture, mainly on family farms. The very notion of farming encompasses agriculture, plant cultivation and animal breeding, and its social and economic valuation. In other words, the technological aspect of agricultural production has never been separated from the economic, social and farming aspects. On the contrary, they have been closely cross-linked and inseparable.

Since the first institutionalized forms of agricultural economists activities at the Križevci Farming and Forestry School (1860), whose founding is attributed to the Croatian-Slavonian Farming Society (1841), and later at the Farming and Forestry College, Economic College of the University of Zagreb and numerous other Croatian institutions from the cities of Osijek, Split, Poreč and Križevci, the agricultural economics and economists have been making a considerable contribution to the development of the Croatian agriculture through the scientific and professional results of this discipline and its experts.

The Croatian agricultural economics was significantly contributed by numerous renown agricultural economists in the past. Today, there is a considerable number of those who are involved in this scientific discipline in different sectors, from educational and scientific institutions, to administrative and extension services, entrepreneurship and family farming. The agricultural economics has always been associated with the agricultural sociology as a related discipline.

Since the early sixties of the last century, when the department for agricultural economics studies was established at the Agricultural College of the University of Zagreb, about 800 students, nearly 70 masters and some 50 doctors of sciences graduated from this college. As reflection of such development and ever increasing demand for public involvement and collaboration of the agricultural economists and sociologists through their scientific, educational and professional work, the Croatian Society of Agricultural Economists (*Hrvatsko Agroekonomsko Društvo*, HAED) was established early in 1996 as a professional association.

However, the history of the Croatian agricultural economics shows no evidence that a long-term desire to establish a professional journal had been fulfilled in the past, although interestingly the first such (recorded) initiative coming from the City of Split falls back in early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The initiative was encouraged by Ivan Katalinić, an agricultural economics author, but the journal that was to be titled *Giornale - Economico Agrario* had never seen the light.

During the First Convention of Agricultural Economists and Sociologists, which was held on September 20, 1996, the need for launching of the HAED's professional journal was reiterated. It was presented as a possible stage for the scientific and professional communication of the HAED members and prospective focal point from which the professional community could influence the economic and administrative sector, and initiate and maintain international relations and promotion of the Croatian science.

As both history and the present situation teach us, the success or failure of agriculture is crucial for status and development of an overall economy. Croatia is no exemption from this rule, and the current agricultural issues, particularly considering their economic aspect, are presently in the focus of general attention. The Croatian agriculture is a complex tissue, woven of different technological, economic, sociological and other threads, thus it asks for careful and permanent professional supervision. The agricultural economists and sociologists can contribute to better pinpointing and resolving of the present and future problems. They should express their opinions, discuss the problems and write about them. This is the key motivation behind establishment and starting up of this journal, which is presented to the professional and general public.

Pursuant to the HAED Statutes, on November 16, 1999 its Managing Board decided to start up a journal titled *Agroeconomia Croatica*. The interim editorial board convened on January 13, 2000 to decide on the contents, format, and other issues related to publishing of a journal.

This first issue of *Agroeconomia Croatica* publishes most of the papers presented at the scientific forum Challenges to the Croatian Agriculture at the Verge of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century organized by HAED and held in Poreč, Croatia on November 8-11, 2000. The papers presented by foreign and Croatian authors deal with the topical issues in a number of agricultural economics and sociology fields.

The *Agroeconomia Croatica* journal for research in agricultural economics and agricultural sociology will publish scientific and professional papers on agricultural economics, and agricultural and rural sociology. The journal will publish theoretical works and those in the field of developmental empirical research. It will also publish discussions, overviews, critical reviews of earlier published articles, historical material, bibliographies and scientific works of prominent agricultural economists and sociologists. The journal will include reviews of books, publications, news bulletins from national and international scientific and professional forums, quality specialized papers, overviews on activities of professional associations and societies, and the like.

According to the standard classification, and based on the opinion obtained from independent reviewers, the papers are classified as original scientific papers, scientific reviews, preliminary communications, technical papers and bibliographies. Some space will be reserved for the HAED activities and international professional and specialized events in the field of agricultural economics. Support and promotion of new scientific and empirical research, and encouragement of scientific and professional communication will take prominent part in the editorial policy of our and your journal.

It is an ultimate desire and undertaking of this Editorial Board for the *Agroeconomia Croatica* journal, which is presently predominantly confined to the Croatian territory, to develop into an international journal with prominent contributors, influential editorial policy and reviews, and thus get pro-actively involved in current processes of scientific and professional globalization and become part of the global scientific community.

Wish us good luck!

To rephrase the motto of this Editorial written by famous (agricultural) economist J.K. Galbraith: *to be aware of the present and the chips that will fall into future, we need to record them for the future generations*. We are convinced that this journal will make its contribution to that end.

With my deep respect and wish for fruitful cooperation, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Tito Žimbek, Editor-in-Chief

Dragi čitatelju,

Obradovan izlaskom prvoga broja časopisa *“Agroeconomia Croatica”*, želim Vam se obratiti s nekoliko riječi.

Smatram da će časopis biti snažan poticaj daljnjem razvitku znanstvene misli u okviru agroekonomske struke, te na korist stručnoj javnosti i dijelu državne uprave, koja je na bilo koji način povezana s poljoprivredom i selom. Isto tako, vjerujem da će časopis preboljeti “dječje bolesti”, koje prate svaki takav pothvat, te postati redovita i priznata publikacija.

Poznajući glavnog urednika časopisa i članove Uredništva, siguran sam da će časopis od broja do broja biti kvalitetniji i da će vrlo brzo biti uvršten u priznate svjetske baze, koje citiraju znanstvene publikacije. Naravno, to će ovisiti i o množini i kvaliteti radova koji će pristizati do Uredništva.

Priprema prvoga broja svake ozbiljne publikacije, kakva je i časopis *“Agroeconomia Croatica”*, zahtijeva iznimno mnogo rada. Stoga se i ovom prigodom zahvaljujem prof.dr.sc. Titu Žimbrenku, glavnom uredniku, mr.sc. Josipu Juračaku, tehničkom uredniku i svim ostalim članovima Uredništva na uložnim naporima, kako bi prvi put u povijesti hrvatska agroekonomska struka dobila svoje glasilo. Isto tako, zahvaljujem se svim autorima i recenzentima koji su bez naknade i s voljom obavili svoj dio posla.

Velika hvala i svim sponzorima i dobročiniteljima bez čijih se priloga ovaj časopis ne bi mogao objaviti. Pozivamo ih da i dalje, u granicama svojih mogućnosti, podupru objavljivanje ove publikacije. Pozivamo i sve ostale, koji mogu novčano ili na neki drugi način pripomoći da časopis redovito izlazi.

Konačno, pozivam sve članove HAED, te sve ostale zainteresirane, da postanu čitatelji, ali i suradnici svoga časopisa.

Još jednom se zahvaljujem svima koji su omogućili izlazak prvog broja znanstveno-stručnog časopisa *“Agroeconomia Croatica”* s nadom i željom da će ovo glasilo agrarnih ekonomista opravdati njihovo povjerenje.

Čitatelju želim ugodno čitanje, a budućim suradnicima dobrodošlicu.

S poštovanjem

Damir Kovačić, Predsjednik HAED-a

Wellcome dear reader,

Delighted by the news of the first issue of the journal *Agroeconomia Croatica* being published, I feel the need share some thoughts with you.

I am convinced the journal will be powerful impetus for the future development of scientific thought in agricultural economics, to the benefit of the professional community and state administration covering agriculture and rural areas. Also, I believe the journal will overcome its growing pains which accompany any such endeavor, and become a regularly issued and respected publication.

Knowing who the Editor-in-Chief and the members of the Editorial Board are, I am certain that the journal will grow in quality from one issue to another, and that it will soon be entered into the world bases of quoted scientific publications. This will certainly depend on quantity and quality of works received by the Editorial Board.

Preparation of the first issue of any serious publication, such as *Agroeconomia Croatica* intends to be, demands enormous amount of hard work. I would like to extend my gratitude to Professor Dr Tito Žimbrek, Editor-in-Chief, to Josip Juračak, M.Sc, the Technical Editor and all other members of the Editorial Board for the effort invested in publication of the first Croatian agricultural economics journal. Also, I would like to thank all the authors and reviewers who have contributed to the journal free of charge.

We would also like to underscore our appreciation for all the sponsors and donors without whose contributions this journal would not be published. We are kindly inviting them to continue their support to their best financial capacities. We would also like to invite others who can render either financial or other support to help regular publication of the journal.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude to all those who enabled publishing of the first issue of *Agroeconomia Croatica* journal and express my deep belief that it will justify their trust. And finally, I would invite all the HAED members and other stakeholders to become readers and collaborators of the journal.

I hope the readers will enjoy the contents, and warmly welcome the future authors.

With respect,

Damir Kovačić, President, HAED