

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN SMALL OPEN ECONOMIES

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Editors

Olja Munitlak Ivanović
Isidora Ljumović
Aleksandra Bradić-Martinović



**International Scientific Conference:
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN SMALL OPEN ECONOMIES**

*26th October, 2017
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PREFACE

Dear readers,

With great pleasure, we are presenting this year's *Book of Abstracts* as a result of our Annual International Scientific Conference. Having in mind the importance of the sustainability concept in modern society, the topic of this Conference is *Sustainable growth in small open Economies*. This publication gathers 75 papers, including authors from 11 countries.

Our goal was to bring academia, business representatives and policy makers together and encourage discussion on three topics which constitute the basis for sustainable growth:

1. Green Growth and the Environment: Ecological Pillar
2. Green Economy and Vulnerability of Economic Growth: Economic Pillar
3. Social Challenges of Unequal Growth: Social Pillar

Ensuring sustainable growth is one of the basic principles embedded in a large number of regulations and public policies, but also in everyday life. In today's accelerated technological revolution this is a process that is highly demanding and expensive. The needs for "greening" of the economy are becoming more frequent. There is no sustainable growth without development of three aforementioned pillars.

We are grateful to all the authors who contributed to this *Book of Abstracts* in fulfilment of our joint goal.

EDITORS

1.17. SOIL QUALITY AS A FACTOR OF ORGANIC FARMING – A CHANCE FOR THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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OBJECTIVES

The objective of this paper is to show how significant the quality of soil is as a factor of organic farming, and also to point out to the effects of organic agriculture on the local economic development. After processing available data on the size and distribution of arable and non-arable agricultural land per each region in the Republic of Serbia, the cost-effective methods of organic farming will be proposed with the activities that should be carried out in order to use the non-cultivated land for organic agriculture.

METHODOLOGY

The results obtained in the previous studies of the soil suitable for organic farming and the evaluation results for the soil pollution at some localities have been used. Preparatory activities included on-site visits and recording of potential locations to be observed. Available satellite images and GPS technology have been used for geospatial identification of the sampled soil and vegetation material. Field works included sampling of soil and vegetation material found at observed sites. Collected samples have been analyzed using laboratory methods from the available scientific literature. For data processing the basic descriptive statistics have been used, together with the correlation method. Cartographic data

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Part I.

processing has been carried out by using GIS Arc View 8.3 software. Case studies have also been applied, as well as comparison methods, statistical data by relevant institutions, and absolute and relative numbers. The obtained results are presented in tabular and graphical forms.

RESULTS

The Republic of Serbia has significant areas of cultivated and non-cultivated agricultural land suitable for organic farming. On this land it is necessary to develop a methodology for the preparation of the soil for organic farming. At certain sites a different level of limitations has been observed so the measures have been proposed to monitor these areas with the objective to include them in future organic farming. These activities represented the basis for identifying the economic development opportunities for the local communities.

IMPLICATIONS

Proper soil management, which implies regular soil fertility control and adherence to the basic principles of fertilizers application and agro-technical practices, may maintain the productive capacity of the soil with minimal environmental impacts. Local economic development offices should raise the farmers' level of consciousness on the economic and ecological significance of organic farming and support their activities in order to achieve higher overall economic and social development of the local communities.

ORIGINALITY VALUE

The originality value of this paper lies in its pointing out that agricultural producers and their local communities in the Republic of Serbia may with adequate farming practices applied to the soil being a factor of organic farming successfully achieve multiple goals – in productivity and ecology: development of organic crop growing and cattle breeding in such a way to preserve and improve the environment; as well as social and economic goals: to boost employment and improve the living standard of the local people.

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KEY WORDS

Organic farming, local development, soil pollution

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