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Faculty of Agriculture**



**ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FOR AGROBIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION
3rd International Conference Agrobiodiversity
Novi Sad, Serbia, 1st – 3rd June 2017**

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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Tel.: +381(0)21 4853-500; Fax: +381 (0)21 454-442

e-mail: dean@polj.uns.ac.rs

**SPELT WHEAT YIELD AND MORPHOLOGICAL PROPERTIES ACROSS DIFFERENT AGRO-
ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS OF NORTHERN SERBIA**

Bojan Vojnov¹, Maja Manojlović¹, Dragana Latković¹, Dragiša Milošev¹, Željko Dolijanović², Milena Simić³, Vladan Ugrenović⁴, Srđan Šeremešić¹

¹University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture, Sq. Dositeja Obradovića 8,
21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

² Faculty of Agriculture, Nemanjina 6, 11080, Belgrade-Zemun

³Maize research Institute "Zemun Polje", Slobodana Bajića 1, 11185 Belgrade-Zemun

⁴Institute Tamiš, Novoseljski put 33, 26000 Pančevo

Email: bojanvojnov@gmail.com

Spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta* L.) is regarded as crop with high nutritional properties that recently gain interest of organic growers and consumers. Although it is considered as a crop that is relatively easy for growing, aggravated sowing, special nutrient requirement and response to climatic conditions requires the adjustment of cropping technology. In order to assess different agro-ecological conditions effects on the organic spelt production research was carried out to determine yield and yield components, as well as the quality of the spelt. In this study cultivar Nirvana was tested at nine different locations in Northern Serbia. The highest dehulled grain yield was obtained in Nadalj organic farm (3980 kg ha⁻¹) on a carbonated chernozem, and the highest protein content in whole wheat flour was found in organic spelt from Pančevo (12.20 %). Regression analysis showed a significant statistical dependence of yield and spike length, spike weight, number of grains per spike, 1000-grain weight, and harvest index and mutual influence between plant height, spike length, weight spike, and grain weight per spike. Spelt wheat is relatively modest in demands towards the soil fertility and tolerates a deficient cropping management. In this study, spelt responded well to the fertilization, extended effects of manure application which could lead to the yield up to 4 t ha⁻¹. The biggest influence on the yield had sowing time, distribution of rainfall, as well as plant supply with necessary nutrients. Also potentially unfavorable environmental conditions could be compensated by proper soil management. Our study indicate that spelt growing in Northern Serbia could result with higher yield compared to higher altitude areas, but protein content depend on the amount of nutrient added in fertilization.

Key words: *spelt wheat, organic agriculture, components of yield, yield, protein content*