

FROM THE SCIENTIFIC SPHERE

Utilisation of agricultural land, with regard to the accession of Slovakia to the EU

On 7th–11th October 2002, the Research Institute of Agriculture and Food Economics in Bratislava held the seminar of science experts with international participation, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The aim of the seminar was to exchange the expertise among top experts from Slovakia and other countries on the position of agriculture in various countries, and on the current and expected trends in the use of agricultural land and land market.

The seminar discussions took place in 4 sections:

- State agrarian policy with regard to agricultural land
- Land Information System
- Land market
- Improvements in the effective use of land fund

The conference papers in the first section focused on the position of Slovak agriculture in the process of integration into the EU; land ownership and lease as the topical question of agrarian policy in Hungary; land policy and its consequences for farmers in France; designation of less favourable areas eligible for provision of compensation payments from the EAGGF EU, and support to farming in less favourable areas in the Czech Republic.

The lecturers in the second section focused on building up land information systems in Slovakia, especially

the geographic information system built by RIAFE and the integrated Administrative and Control System (ACS). Detailed features of the information files stored with the land evaluation data bank (EDB) were discussed, as well as the long-term changes in the use of land fund.

The key subject of the third section was the land market in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Austria, and agricultural land market in selected regions of Slovakia.

The lecturers in the fourth section focused on the improved use of land fund with regard to the use of land fund in the Czech Republic for other than food purposes, and changes in the structure of land fund use in Latvia. In addition, the lectures focused on the theory and practice of sustainable systems for using the land fund in Slovakia, calculation of pecuniary loss in the land fund, analysis of the economy of growing wheat in the regions of the Slovak Republic; and information on the contents of inorganic nitrogen in the soil that may increase the potential of effective utilisation.

The speeches were followed by intense discussion of the experts from Slovakia, the EU member countries and other states, who exchanged their opinions and experience.

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