

International symposium
April 28 – 30, 2005, Kaunas, Lithuania

WORKSHOPS SESSION

REPORT

April 28, 17.15 – 18.00 and April 29, 9.00 – 12.30

Workshop I

Joint MSc program block *"Agroecology in a Modern Society"*

Moderator: Anželika Raškauskienė

Group members: Vida Rutkoviėnė, Petras Lazauskas, Wendy Waalen (partly)

Workshop II

Joint MSc program block *"Farming Systems"*

Moderator: Vaclovas Bogužas

Group members: Dzidra Kreismanė, Darja Jodaugienė, Rita Pupalienė, Geir Lieblein (partly), Christophe David (partly)

Workshop III

Joint MSc program block *"Food Systems and food safety"*

Moderator: Nomeda Sabienė

Group members: Gerda Abraitytė, Adelė Astromskienė, Daiva Šileikienė, Reima Kauhanen (partly), Mindaugas Malakauskas (partly)

Workshop IV

Joint MSc program block *"Rural Environment Management"*

Moderators: Gedinimas Brazaitis and Vitas Marozas

Group members : Laima Česonienė, Anatoly Bolgov, Irina Sidorova

• **Where are we now?**

- The special course "Agroecology" (St. Petersburg State Agrarian University)
- MSc studies in Integrated and Organic Agriculture since 1994 (LZUU)
- Elective course "Organic Agriculture" on bachelor level, 20 CP with practical training (LUA)
- National MSc program (Dept. of Ecology, LZUU)

• **What have done we so far?**

- Participation in short BOVA course in 2004 / 2005 a.y.
- Arranged tree module courses:
 - Introduction to Agroecology
 - Agroenvironmental measures in sustainable development

- Marketing of organic products

- **What are our :**

- **Strengths**

- Agroecological centre of Lithuanian University of Agriculture
- Experience in international projects and networking (research, studies)
- Good collaboration with NOVA University network
- Scientific research in the area of Agroecology
- Experienced teachers and researchers in the field of agroecology
- Market demand for specialists in the field of agroecology
- Positive changes in agricultural policy
- Quite well developed structures of organic agriculture in country
- Already created and functioning network

- **Weaknesses**

- Insufficient funding of the Universities
- Lack of systematic approach in Agroecology
- Insufficient research in Organic agriculture
- Problems in Sciences classification
- Unclear recognition of international programs and courses
- Lack of communication skills in English (teachers and students both)
- Lack of teachers and students motivation
- Unclear financial situation of the network
- Problematical MSc studies situation in Latvia University of Agriculture
- Overloaded teaching staff
- Weak support and encouragement for participation in the international projects

- **Expectations**

- International recognition of Joint MSc program "Agroecology"
- Running Joint MSc program in the Baltic States
- International recognised courses at network members universities
- New knowledge and experience from other countries (the fast grow of organic farming; the growing concern and responsibility regarding the nature /environment)
 - Priority in a competition among other specialities
 - Improvement of English
 - Improvement of international co-operation and relations

- **Hinders from your group perspective**

- Hinders for student mobility
 - Financial problems
 - Lack of interest and motivation (Central and East Europe countries are not attractive for teachers and students)
- Hinders for teacher mobility
 - Language
 - Financing
 - motivation
- Credit recognition
 - There is no system of credit transfer among universities

- **Current status: functions, time allocation, commitment and communication with BOVA secretariat, BOVA coordinators and members of the network:**

- What have been the strong and the weak sides of the work of BOVA secretariat, BOVA coordinators and network members during 2003-2004? What input we would like to have from BOVA CC?*
- Unclear current status of BOVA
- Lack of time for BOVA activities. Necessary to increase motivation to work in BOVA programs
- Bigger support for network coordinators and teachers at the universities:
 - Additional payment for teaching and networking
 - Reduction of workload
 - Free course of English (in home country and abroad)
- closer communication among network members and students

- **Joint MSc program Curricula:**

Workshop I

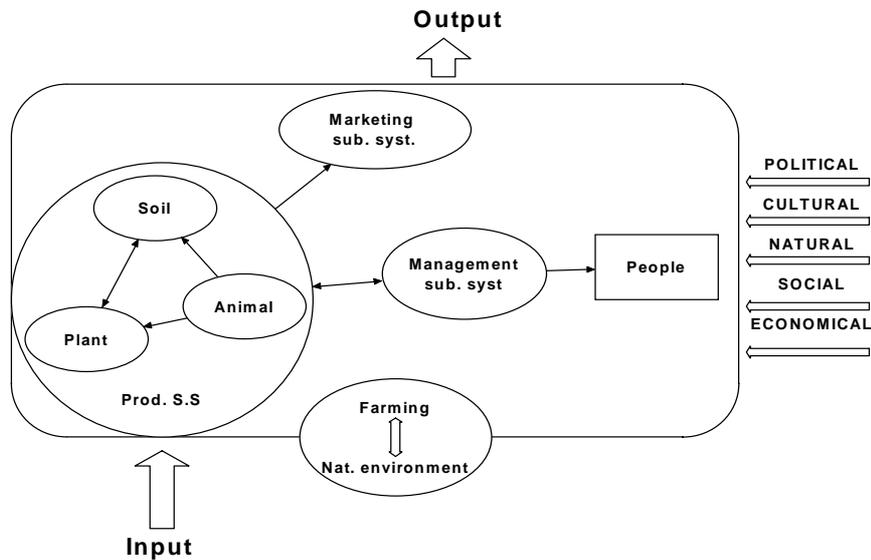
Joint MSc program block ***“AGROECOLOGY IN A MODERN SOCIETY”***

- Modules in the block
 - Introduction to Agroecology
 - Ecosystems Analysis (social, economic, environmental aspects)
 - Agroecosystems design (overview of chain producer – consumer + example of good practice)
- Teachers team / personal responsibility (for each block and module)
 - Leading team from home university + invited speakers from network member countries
- Structure of the module “Introduction to Agroecology”:
 - theoretical content –topics and time share inside the module:
 - The role of Agroecology in modern society
 - Agriculture in Baltic States: challenges and the prospects
 - Biodiversity conservation – the key issue of sustainability
 - Agriculture and water pollution
 - Nutrients cycling in agroecosystems
 - Rational use of soil and land resources
 - Systems approach in agroecology
 - laboratory and practical training
 - Will be included into theoretical content (case studies)
- How are we going to rotate students?
 - Mobile students and local teachers
 - Mobile students and mobile teachers

* BOVA Coordination Committee (Vice rectors of studies / Academic affairs)

Workshop II

Joint MSc program block "FARMING SYSTEMS"



- Division of credit points inside the block (15 credit points per block) and responsible university /department
 - Three modules with 5 CP each
- Modules in the block
 - Production systems
 - Farming and Environment
 - Farming systems management

Production systems

- Structure of the module:
 - theoretical content –topics and time share inside the module
 - soil
 - plant
 - animal
 - interaction
 - recycling
 - crop rotation

Farming and Environment

- Structure of the module:
 - theoretical content –topics and time share inside the module
 - nutrient recycling
 - sustainability
 - biodiversity
 - sustainability analysis
 - plant improvement

Farming System Management

- Structure of the module:
 - theoretical content –topics and time share inside the module

- factors: political, cultural, natural, social, economical
- innovations
- case studies

Workshop III

Joint MSc program block "*FOOD SYSTEMS AND FOOD SAFETY*"

- Modules in the block
 - Quality management for food products
 - Technology of food processing
 - Marketing of organic products

Quality management for food products

- Structure of the module:
 - theoretical content –topics and time share inside the module
 - Quality assurance;
 - Safety management of food products;
 - Methods of quality assessment.

Technology of food processing

- Structure of the module:
 - theoretical content –topics and time share inside the module
 - Management of food processing towards its safety and quality.

Marketing of organic products

- Structure of the module:
 - theoretical content –topics and time share inside the module
 - Marketing in the food products chain;
 - Consumers motivation and behaviour.
- Appropriate pedagogical tools in the block:
 - Lectures;
 - Study tours;
 - Group/team tasks (projects);
 - Laboratory training;
 - Seminars.

Workshop IV

Joint MSc program block "*RURAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT*"

- Modules in the block
 - Rural landscape management
 - Agriculture and Pollution
 - Environmental management and monitoring

- **Other comments, suggestions:**

-worth arranging teachers meeting before launching the course.