

# BOOK REVIEW

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## REGULAČNÉ TECHNOLOGIE V PRODUKČNOM PROCESE POLNOHOSPODÁRSKYCH PLODÍN

### REGULATORY TECHNOLOGY OF CROP PRODUCTION PROCESS

**M. Demo, P. Bielek and other contributors**

*Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Research Institute of Soil Analysis and Soil Preservation in Bratislava, 2000. 648 pp., 94 diagrams, 175 figures.*

Nowadays, Professor Milan Demo is probably the most prolific author in the field of agricultural sciences in Slovakia. Less than a year after the publication of his book "Sustainable Development", a comprehensive publication compiled by him with the help of other eminent specialists is available.

In this field there has been no such a comprehensive and clearly organized book since the publication of "Agricultural Systems" written by academician Kudrna. It will serve primarily as a university textbook but at the same time it would be much appreciated by agrarian specialists. Despite its highly scientific level, the book is easy to understand, clearly organized and links together common knowledge with new scientific information. It forces the reader to think and offers alternative solutions for practical problems. In the main chapters general information gradually turns into important details and vice versa.

The book itself is divided into 5 basic parts and 8 chapters. The introductory chapter of the first part deals with the landscape as the subject of production process and on the other hand, the next chapter describes production process in the landscape. Special attention is paid to soil which is dealt with as the main object of production process and to water understood as a general medium of substance and energy transformations.

The second part of the book is concerned with the regulation of energy processes in agricultural systems.

The book as a whole and its parts in particular are systematically organized which is essential for the specialists in farming.

The main emphasis is placed on the systems of production process regulation in farming landscape especially on biological and mechanical regulatory technologies. As for the biological regulatory technologies, the attention has been drawn to crop selection, seed and seedlings, crop rotations and biological methods for controlling harmful factors.

As far as mechanical regulatory technologies are concerned, soil cultivation problems come first, (accompanied by numerous diagrams, photographs of tools and machines used for soil cultivation), then amelioration, and finally, mechanical regulation of harmful factors.

Chemical regulatory technologies are divided into biogenic and abiogenic ones and are dealt with in quite a simplified way. Those interested in chemical regulation of harmful factors, plant nutrition and regulatory substances application will have to go to other sources for further information. One chapter is devoted to weed regulation.

It can be said in general that biological and ecological aspects of production processes dominate in the book. The most positive features of the book are a preference for methods supporting a sustainable development, a holistic and systematic concept, a rational approach and for alternative solutions.

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