

REVIVAL WELCOME TO A SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL
Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica

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A large number of important changes have taken place in the Czechoslovakia since 17th November 1989 - many new things have originated, many have gone with the wind. The only foreign-language agriculture-oriented scientific periodical ceased to exist following reorganisation of agricultural research and related agricultural literature. It was one of the few periodicals that was able to represent Czech and Slovak agricultural science abroad.

Scientific policy of the Czech Government has recently focussed on emphasizing science and research in universities which in fact returns science to the position it occupied more than 40 years ago.

At the beginning of the 1950's, according to the Soviet model, a number of scientific and research institutes were established within the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences as well as the Academy of Agricultural Sciences where necessary funds were concentrated to enhanced scientific research and technology development. Universities were thus limited to mostly teaching activities and their research was minimized which negatively affected the growth and development of Czech and Slovak institutions of higher learning. Nevertheless, in spite of such unfavourable development, science has never disappeared from the universities. Many professors and senior lecturers were active in research and development and graduate studies never ceased to exist although offering the non-traditional degree of a CSc. (Candidatus Scientiarum) which was compared with the level of the PhD degree. Many outstanding research works are known, beyond any doubt, as having originated at Czechoslovak schools of higher learning.

University research works were mostly published in collections of scientific works of separate faculties and universities. Those used to be special publications supplied mostly free of charge and they never reached the do-



Prof. ing. Jiří Petr, DrSc., Chairman of the Editorial Board, Rector of the University of Agriculture in 1990-1994

mestic, let alone international, book market. Most of these collections were never included in international documentation, reference publications or summaries.

International response to these publications was minimal and thus their contribution to the development of science and knowledge was negligible. Such situation existed even at the University of Agriculture in Prague, but following its evaluation by the experts of the Agricultural University in Wageningen and using their recommendation we have decided to take over this periodical then available and to transform it into the official scientific publication of our University. This periodical is open for publication to all other universities and scientific institutions in the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic as well as to foreign institutions. High scientific quality of articles submitted in English is requested. The Periodical has the support of the Association of Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinarian Universities of the Czech Republic as well as of the newly established Prague Scientific and Paedagogical Society, and this is the basis for future cooperation of the Prague Agricultural University with research institutes in all fields of agriculture, forestry, food industry and agricultural economics. It is an important step towards the interconnection of research work in institutions and at the university, towards making full use of the intellectual potential of top researchers in the teaching work, in consulting the Ph-D course students and in the development of joint advisory services for the whole region of Czech Agriculture.

The periodical has indeed a rich base for its work which, however, still has to cope with the problem of recession and transformation in agricultural research and education, but the editors are determined to keep from the very beginning a high standard of scientific communication comparable with similar foreign publications. We are convinced that we shall be assisted significantly in this effort even by foreign members of the Editorial Board who are mostly visiting professors at our University.

*Prof. ing. Jiří Petr, DrSc.
Chairman of the Editorial Board*