

**REVIEWS**  
**ON INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL CONFERENCES**  
**AND SEMINARS**

-----TRANSFORMATIONS IN -----  
**BUSINESS & ECONOMICS**

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International Scientific Conference ‘Rural Development’ – for the progress in agriculture and rural development

*Reviewer:* | *Prof. dr. Astrida Miceikiene*  
*JEL classification:* | Q01, Q2, Q3

*Title of the International Conference:* **RURAL DEVELOPMENT 2017: BIOECONOMY CHALLENGES**  
*Organiser(s):* ▪ Aleksandras Stulginskis University  
*Date:* 23-24<sup>th</sup> November, 2017  
*Venue:* Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Studentų st. 11, Akademija, Kaunas distr. LT-53361, Lithuania  
*Language:* English  
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*Conference website:* <http://www.ruraldevelopment.lt>  
*Conference material:* Conference papers were published in the Conference Proceedings (e-edition) and Scientifics journals

International scientific conference ‘Rural Development’ is organised by Aleksandras Stulginskis University and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania. The biennial conference has been held since 2003. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference ‘Rural development 2017: Bioeconomy challenges’.

Previous conferences gathered researchers, politicians, entrepreneurs from a number of countries: 363 in 2009, 370 in 2011, over 400 participants in 2013 and 2015. They were attended in great numbers by specialists at the European Commission and the authorities of the Republic of Lithuania engaged in formation of agricultural and rural development, environmental policies, representatives of agricultural production and food industries, and students. Participation of researchers conducting interdisciplinary research, representatives of business and authorities at the conference has notably been increasing with each year. This assures dissemination of scientific ideas and latest research results presented at the conference among producers and authorities and helps develop relations between the academia, business, and the authorities.

The conference is intended to present the latest achievements in R&D, ideas and insights on rural, agricultural and forestry as well as related sector development in the context of global changes, and to develop the scientific interdisciplinary discussion.

The mission of University reveals the core aspiration: to develop and disseminate scientific knowledge and sincerely strive for safe and healthy food and full-fledged living environment for all citizens of Lithuania.

Subject of the conference is linked to the research works conducted at Aleksandras Stulginskis University:

Biosystems engineering and bioeconomy

- Biological potential of flora and fauna and agricultural biotechnologies
- Quality food security, bio-raw materials for the industry
- Sustainable forestry and logging systems
- Biomass engineering and renewable energy resources
- Sustainable water resource and aquaculture systems
- Green tribology and nanotechnologies
- Innovative agricultural and transport technologies

Sustainability of the agricultural, forest and water ecosystems, the effect of climate change

- Sustainability of biological natural resources
- Mitigation of the effect of climate change on ecosystems and adaptation
- Pollution management in agriculture
- Use of environmentally friendly agricultural, forestry and aquaculture technology, sustainable use of resources

Quality of living environment and rural development

- Common agricultural policy
- Sustainable agricultural and rural development
- Agricultural and rural business, resource, and innovation management
- Formation of full-fledged living environment, healthy lifestyle

Global objective of conference ‘Rural development 2017: Bioeconomy challenges’ is detailed by topics in social, biomedical and biotechnology sciences:

- Biosystems Engineering and Environmental Integrity
- Agricultural Innovations and Food Technologies
- Multifunctional Approach towards Sustainable Use of Natural Bio-Resources
- Social Innovations for Rural Development

The key words for conference ‘Rural development 2017’ are ‘Bioeconomy challenges’. Bioeconomy is one of the priority research areas at Aleksandras Stulginskis University. This is related to the increasing role of bioeconomy not only in Lithuania or across the European Union, but globally as well.

Increasing population is accompanied by increasing demand for food and, consequently, increasingly greater use of natural resources, higher pollution, and soil impoverishment. This strengthens the negative environmental impact and the related climate change issues. It is therefore necessary to shift to a new method of economic growth, which would be compatible with environmental protection and sustainable use of limited natural resources, at the same time ensuring considerably higher standard of living and reducing poverty. Development of innovative biotechnology methods and processes and their application to agriculture and food production, energy sectors have recently been acknowledged as one of the solutions towards acceleration of sustainable growth and development. Greater focus on scientific research and innovations would generate new products from biomass and new services necessary for development of bioeconomy contributing to mitigation of climate change, waste reduction and creation of new jobs (Lithuanian Bioeconomy Development Feasibility Study, 2017).

Bioeconomy development processes are closely linked to progress of the rural development processes. Rural development policy formation should consider more the diversity of rural areas and different needs and opportunities. The 'territory-based' approach has the potential to strengthen the importance of existing circumstances in identification of the priorities by rural development programs.

Moreover, greater attention to the territorial aspect is necessary in order to address region-specific issues, for example, abandoning of land, increasing exclusion, and high risk of poverty in rural regions. Besides the territorial aspects, their benefit to all residents of rural regions and effect on the entire society should be analysed. This shift in relation to recipients of the support should assure the respective effect on the local economy and society and bring considerable improvements into the quality of life of residents in rural regions.

Processes of bioeconomy will also cover the social aspect of rural development. Quite a large number of 'social' measures have already been included into existing rural development programmes of the EU countries. For more effective implementation of the measures, they must be prioritized, their effect on regions must be analysed, and the measures need to be developed further for measured and meaningful effect on rural regions of different types.

The long-term objective set by the European Commission to develop a more competitive, less energy-consuming low-carbon economy by 2050. Bioeconomy will play an important role in the low-carbon economy. The European Commission has emphasized that Europe needs to drastically redefine its approach towards production, consumption, processing, conservation, recycling, and disposal of biological resources, pay considerably more attention towards production of renewable biological resources and their reprocessing into vitally important high-added value products and bioenergy. This is the essential prerequisite in the aspiration towards more environmentally friendly growth and sustainable development.

Major global countries have already developed their national Bioeconomy Strategies, while others are still in the process of development. It is therefore now highly important that researchers, policy makers and business representatives discuss on the possible ways of reformation of national economies and transition from the conventional business development to development and expansion of bioeconomy.

The aim behind choice of the topics addressed at the conference is contribution to development of the EU rural development policy and implementation of the objectives of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) of individual countries, raising visibility of the RDPs by promotion of more active participation in the rural development processes. The conference will host discussions on more successful involvement of new rural development participants into agricultural, forestry and rural development processes and RDP implementation, concentrate cooperation between rural development participants, and encourage all the stakeholders to become engaged in the information and knowledge dissemination processes as well as contribute to implementation of policy area 'Bioeconomy' of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). Research results discussed at the conference will enable more efficient cooperation between researchers and authorities of countries of the Baltic Sea Region for more efficient implementation of the EUSBSR through national rural development programmes and progress towards consistency of the activities.

Political forum 'Experience of the rural development program 2007-2013 and prospects for the period 2014-2020' was a great success among the researchers, policy makers and business representatives during conference 'Rural development 2015: Towards the Transfer of Knowledge, Innovations and Social Progress'. Political forum 'Bioeconomy for Development of Rural Areas' of similar format will therefore be held within the framework of conference 'Rural Development 2017: Bioeconomy Challenges'.

Political forum consists of two panel sessions:

1. Transition from a fossil-based to a bio-based economy
2. European innovation partnership as a driving force for the development of bio-economy strategies in EU regions.

Panel session I will host discussions on the following issues:

1. Do we have political ambitions for development of bioeconomy in rural areas?
2. Is it possible to strengthen vitality of rural areas by development of bioeconomy?
3. What are the main challenges related to bio-products market development?
4. What can rural areas offer for development of bioeconomy?

Panel session II will host discussions on the following issues:

1. What policy measures can strengthen the links between agriculture food production, forestry and research and innovations?
2. How EIP-AGRI model could be used for the development of bio-based economy in rural areas?
3. What kind of innovation support services, new cooperation mechanisms are needed to foster bio-based economy?

Meeting of the Bioeconomy and Rural Development Network of representatives of the managing authorities of countries of the Baltic Sea Region will take place during the conference and will host discussions on the scenarios for development of bioeconomy in the Baltic countries.

The conference is expected to gather about 500 researchers from more than 40 countries from all over the globe, representatives of agricultural business, actors representing rural development organisations, representatives of the Lithuanian and EU authorities as well as the European Commission. The conference will be attended by researchers from Japan, Tanzania, People's Republic of China, India, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Russia, Chile, Pakistan, Nigeria, all Baltic countries, researchers of a number of other countries, representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture of all Baltic countries, policy makers, business representatives, and students.

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## SANTRAUKA

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<i>JEL klasifikacija:</i>	Q01, Q2, Q3
<i>Tarptautinės konferencijos pavadinimas:</i>	<b>Kaimo plėtra: iššūkiai bioekonomikai</b>
<i>Organizatorius (-iai):</i>	Aleksandro Stulginskio universitetas
<i>Data:</i>	2017 m. lapkričio 23–24 d.
<i>Vieta:</i>	Studentų g. 11, Akademija, Kauno raj.
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<i>Konferencijos tinklapis:</i>	<a href="http://www.ruraldevelopment.lt">http://www.ruraldevelopment.lt</a>
<i>Konferencijos medžiaga:</i>	Konferencijos straipsniai bus publikuojami konferencijos straipsnių rinkinyje ir mokslo žurnaluose

Tarptautinę mokslinę konferenciją „Kaimo plėtra“ organizuoja Aleksandro Stulginskio universitetas ir LR Žemės ūkio ministerija. Ši konferencija organizuojama kas antri metai nuo 2003-ųjų. Tarptautinė mokslinė konferencija „Rural development 2017: Bioeconomy challenges“ yra aštuntoji. Konferencija skirta pristatyti naujausius mokslinius tyrimus ir eksperimentinės plėtros rezultatus, idėjas ir įžvalgas apie kaimo, žemės ir miškų ūkio bei su tuo susijusių veiklos sričių vystymąsi vykstant globaliems pokyčiams, taip pat išplėtoti mokslinę tarpdalykinę diskusiją.

Konferencijos „Rural development 2017: Bioeconomy challenges“ bendrasis tikslas detalizuojamas pagal socialinių, biomedicinos ir technologijos mokslo sričių temines kryptis. Konferencijos raktas– *Iššūkiai bioekonomikai*. Bioekonomika yra viena iš prioritetinių Aleksandro Stulginskio universiteto tyrimo krypčių. Tai susiję su bioekonomikos reikšmės didėjimu Lietuvoje, Europos Sąjungoje ir visame pasaulyje.

Konferencijos temomis siekiama prisidėti prie Europos Sąjungos kaimo plėtros politikos plėtojimo bei atskirų šalių Kaimo plėtros programų (KPP) tikslų įgyvendinimo, KPP žinomumo didinimo, skatinti aktyvesnį dalyvavimą kaimo plėtros procesuose. Konferencijoje planuojamos diskusijos apie tai, kaip sėkmingiau įtraukti naujus kaimo plėtros dalyvius į žemės ūkio, miškų ūkio ir kaimo plėtros procesus bei KPP įgyvendinimą, kaip sutelkti kaimo plėtros dalyvių bendradarbiavimą bei paskatinti visas suinteresuotas šalis įsitraukti į informacijos ir žinių sklaidos procesus, taip pat prisidėti prie ES Baltijos jūros regiono strategijos (BJRS) politinės sritys „Bioekonomika“ įgyvendinimo. Konferencijoje aptarti mokslinių tyrimų rezultatai paskatins efektyvesnį Baltijos jūros regiono šalių mokslininkų ir valdymo institucijų bendradarbiavimą siekiant dveiksmingesnio ES BJRS realizavimo pasitelkus nacionalines kaimo plėtros programas, siekti veiklų suderinamumo.

Konferencijos metu planuojamas politinis forumas „Bioekonomikos reikšmė kaimo plėtrai“. Taip pat vyks Baltijos jūros regiono šalių valdančiųjų institucijų atstovų Bioekonomikos ir kaimo plėtros tinklo susitikimas, kuriame bus aptarti Bioekonomikos plėtros scenarijai Baltijos šalyse.

Konferencijoje planuoja dalyvauti apie 500 mokslininkų iš daugiau nei 40 pasaulio šalių, žemės ūkio verslo atstovų, kaimo plėtros organizacijų veikėjų, Lietuvos ir Europos šalių valdžios bei Europos Komisijos atstovų. Į konferenciją atvyks mokslininkai iš Japonijos, Tanzanijos, Kinijos, Indijos, Vokietijos, Austrijos, Čekijos, Didžiosios Britanijos, Italijos, Lenkijos, Rusijos, Čilės, Pakistano, Nigerijos, visų Baltijos valstybių, kitų šalių mokslininkai, Europos komisijos atstovai, visų Baltijos šalių žemės ūkio ministerijų atstovai, politikai, verslininkai, studentai.

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