

THE GLOBAL CHANGES AT ALEKSANDRAS STULGINSKIS UNIVERSITY IN LITHUANIA

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ABSTRACT

The period from restoring of independence of Lithuania was most intensive for global changes at Aleksandras Stulginskis university. The Academy of Agriculture renamed to Lithuanian University of Agriculture in 1996. Title changed to Aleksandras Stulginskis University at 2011.

The main purpose – to evaluate the global changes at Aleksandras Stulginskis university in Kaunas, Lithuania. Main attention was paid to historical, structural changes. Research fields, participation in BOVA University Network, membership in international organizations were investigated, too. Main conclusions about Aleksandras Stulginskis university today: changing, innovative, strong in practical approach, cooperative with business, high employability of graduates, open and international, green and healthy.

Keywords: Aleksandras Stulginskis university, global changes.

INTRODUCTION

Lithuanian agriculture. Agriculture and forestry plays an important role in the primary sector. Rural areas constitute 97 % of the total area. Rural population constitutes 25 % of the total population. Agricultural employment constitutes around 12 % of total employment (it has tendency to decrease). About 44 % of the land is arable. 30 % of the total area of the country is covered with forest. Cereals, wheat and triticale are the most popular production of farms.

Table 1. Share of agriculture in GDP

	Share of agriculture and food industry in GDP (%)	Share of agriculture (%)
1998	14.5	9.4
2000	12	6.9
2002	11	6.2
2004	11	6.1
2008	12	6.0

Farms' structure is shown in Table.2. Family farms consist 99.4 % of farms' number. Legal entities (enterprises) – only 0.6 %. Organic farms consists 1.6 % of total farms' number. Crops under glass farms – 9.4 %.

Table 2. Percentage of farms' number according to the agricultural area (2008)

Farms' size according agricultural area, ha	< 5	5 ... 20	20 ... 50	> 50
Percentage of farms number	22.6	54.5	14.8	8.1

The object of investigation: Aleksandras Stulginskis university in Kaunas, Lithuania. Changes investigated for period 1996 – 2013.

Aleksandras Stulginskis University (here in after– ASU). Where we are (Figure1):



Figure 1. Location of ASU in Kaunas

Source: WWW.MAPS.LT (2013)

The main purpose– to evaluate the global changes at Aleksandras Stulginskis university in Kaunas, Lithuania.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The global changes at Aleksandras Stulginskis university were investigated. Main attention was paid to historical, structural changes. Research fields, participation in BOVA University Network, membership in international organizations was investigated also.

RESULTS

FROM HISTORY TO NEW CHALLENGES

The main historical dates

1819 *Department of Agriculture* at Vilnius University

1924 *Academy of Agriculture* founded in Dotnuva, Kedainiai district (Faculties of Agronomy and Forestry) *Figure 2.*



Figure 2. Dotnuva 1924

Source: [HTTP://LT.WIKIPEDIA.ORG](http://lt.wikipedia.org) (2013)

1945 *Academy* moved to Kaunas city (+ Faculties of Agricultural Mechanization and Water and Land Exploitation)

1964 *Academy* moved to campus outside Kaunas (+ Faculty of Economics)

1996 *Academy* renamed to *Lithuanian University of Agriculture*

2011 Title changed to *Aleksandras Stulginskis University* Figure 3.



Figure 3. Kaunas 2013

Source: [HTTP://WWW.ASU.LT](http://www.asu.lt) (2013)

Changes structure of ASU from departments to institutes at 2012:

- Faculty of Agricultural Engineering (3 institutes)
- Faculty of Agronomy (3 institutes)
- Faculty of Economics and Management (2 institutes)
- Faculty of Forestry and Ecology (3 institutes)
- Faculty of Water and Land Management (3 institutes)
- Centre of Cultural Communication and Educology (2 departments)
- Centre of Mathematics, Physics and Information Technologies (3 units)

- Academic infrastructure units (15 centres and units), among them:
 - Centre of Physical Training and Sports
 - Joint Research Centre
 - Park of Agricultural Science and Technologies
 - Career Centre
 - Library
 - Experimental and Practical Training Centre a.o.

Human resources at Aleksandras Stulginskis University (December 2012):

Total number of students: 4 900

4 110 BSc students, 700 Master students, 90 PhD students.

Pedagogical staff: 415

45 professors, 150 associated professors, 100 lecturers, 70 assistants, 50 researchers.

Research fields at Aleksandras Stulginskis University:

FACULTY OF AGRONOMY:

agrobiotechnologies, development of plant varieties, plant genetic potential assessment and its increase in the harmony with the environment;

development of competitive agrotechnologies for sustainable environment and resource efficiency;

development of raw materials for safe food and innovative industrial products;

increase of agroecosystems sustainability and ecological intensification;

optimization of soil fertility;

rational use of local resources in fodder supply.

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT:

integrated rural development;

rural businesses, and management of their infrastructure organizations;

public administration systems of agricultural and rural development;

research of accounting and financial systems;

assessment of competitiveness and sustainability of the development of food and fiber chain.

FACULTY OF FORESTRY AND ECOLOGY:

formation of future forests, exploiting and adopting genetic polymorphism of forest trees, adaptability and resistance to climate change conditions;

forest productivity, growth modeling, logging technology and wood quality;

studies of wild animal populations;

environmental quality and health;

biodiversity of natural and anthropogenic ecosystems, sustainability in changing climate conditions and under human impact;

modern remote sensing, spatial analysis and modeling methods in applied natural sciences.

FACULTY OF WATER AND LAND MANAGEMENT:

optimization of water management measures under changing climate and hydrological conditions in the context of new agricultural and forestry technologies development;

environmental impact assessment, pollution forecasting and optimization of preventive measures.

hydro-engineering constructions (hydraulic structures) and maintenance;

geo-filtration (seepage) research;
renovation of lakes;
development of the system for technical condition estimation, maintenance and construction works of melioration (land reclamation);
economical estimation of land use in the conditions of land reform.

Participation in BOVA University Network. Members:

Aleksandras Stulginskis University, ASU;
Lithuanian University of Health Sciences – Veterinary Academy, LSMU–VA;
Estonian University of Life Sciences, EMU;
Latvia University of Agriculture, LLU.

International study programmes

Applied Ecology (at Faculty of Forestry and Ecology);
Hydraulic Engineering (at Faculty of Water and Land Management);
Mechanical Engineering (at Faculty of Agricultural engineering);
Administration of Rural Development (at Faculty of Economics and Management).

Membership in international organizations

Magna Charta Universitatum;
European University Association;
The Baltic Forestry, Veterinary and Agricultural University Network;
Association for European Life Sciences Universities;
Baltic Sea Regional University Network;
Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture;
International Federation of Organic.

CONCLUSIONS

What is Aleksandras Stulginskis university today:

- Changing;
- Innovative but romantic;
- Strong in practical approach;
- Cooperative with business;
- High employability of graduates;
- Open and international;
- Green and healthy.

REFERENCES

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