

## MANAGEMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN COLLAGE OF KECSKEMÉT

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**ABSTRACT:** Taking all these challenges into consideration, training of farmers is a strategic task regarding the future of the country's future, to which College of Kecskemét is also willing to contribute actively. Beyond the basic training our goal is to provide further professional training for the farmers in order to make them acquire economic, management, regional and knowledge, and use it as a skill. The goal is to make them be able to accomplish management of production processes, organization, professional administration and consultancy tasks. With their advanced knowledge they need to be able to interpret the EU rural development policy, to plan and carry out programs.

**KEYWORDS:** rural development, basic training, goals, programs

### INTRODUCTION

As Hungary is a member of the EU, it is important to meet the EU requirements and legislation. During the accession negotiations, one of the most critical areas was the environmental protection and specialized agricultural administration which proved to be a significant gap to be overcome. To do so the existence of a significant number of well-trained professionals, who are capable to take appropriate actions, carry out a high level achievements according to the European Union directives and requirements, is outstandingly important and highly necessary.

The most significant challenges of the sand ridge to which the College of Kecskemét Horticultural Faculty has to find an educational strategy are drying and water scarcity. The most urgent tasks are summarized below:

- the county's agricultural and rural development concept should be based on a strategy which has been elaborated to deal with drying-up
- on the ridge area further production extension, agro-environmental program expansion in a broader range, an appropriate adjustment of land utilisation to the conditions (stop the forestation, prefer the cultivated farms).
- utilize the dry-agriculture in its maximum potential, disperse drought-resistant species and varieties, and support related (applied) research and development functions,
- the priority development of animal husbandry,
- retention and development of large-scale cultivation,
- dissemination of the concept and means of precision agriculture

from the side of wider economy, it is recommended to develop three sectors: environmental industry, food processing, rural tourism.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS. Agricultural training in Horticulture Faculty

The College of Kecskemét Horticultural Faculty does extended research nationally and internationally,

especially in applied research fields which are in close relationship with our educational profile.

The research of Faculty fields are ornamental plant-, vegetable-, fruit- and vine-growing, processing, machinery, economics, marketing, informatics and environmental protection. Three inventions and several innovations mark our research results. From among the inventions developed at the Faculty the frameless foil early growing method developed by the Vegetable Growing Institute is worth mentioning. It is used in more than 3000 hectare nationally.

The present projects of Faculty are on organic control products, developing environmentally friendly growing technologies, modelling sustainable development on the sand table-land between the Rivers Danube and Tisza, bio-ethanol-based utilisation of agricultural products. We intend to publish our results widely in national and international literature, at scientific conferences and discussions.

The Faculty organizes several professional conferences and exhibitions. The students of faculty also take part in the research projects of the institutions. Local and national student researchers' conferences provide a great opportunity for discussing and presenting their research results.

For post-graduates in college education we offer different specialist engineering further educational courses such as Specialised Engineer of Integrated Fruit Growing, Specialised Engineer of Agro-Environment, Vini- and Viticulture Specialised Engineer, Rural Development Manager, Specialised Engineer of Greenery Farming, Specialised Engineer of Vegetable Forcing and Mushroom Growing.

The Faculty has regular further education courses for people with basic, secondary and higher education qualifications in Flower arrangement, Park keeping, Pruning, Plant protection, soil protection, fruit and vegetable storing, vine-growing, wine-making and other fields. Silver spike farmer, Gold spike farmer, Agricultural entrepreneur training courses (which are on the national vocational training list) are also popular. Besides the training courses, our faculty is an

examination centre of the Hungarian vocational training.

**INCLUDING RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

The value of the region) is increasing, its unique (environmentally friendly, bio-) agriculture is getting a new chance, and it becomes possible to renew the farmsteads areas. Accordingly, the tasks are:

- to improve professional organization of the rural area development,
- there is a need for integrated rural development professionals with comprehensive knowledge, (education),
- It requires common, multi-disciplinary researches (applications)
- individual farm-specific modelling is needed

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. The multifunctional agriculture and sustainable agriculture**

The concept of multifunctional agriculture and sustainable agriculture must be applied in everyday practice. Primary concern is the environmental, economic and social sustainability. These correlations are summarized in Fig 1.

Nature					
GLOBAL					
	Climate Changing	EU	Economy	Society	
	Drought, drying water scarcity Extreme Weather	System of agricultural subsidies	The decline of local farms	Urbanization, alienation, homogenization	
ECO-NOMY		The challenges and conflicts of agriculture in Bács-Kiskun County			SOCIETY (institutional system)
System Change Effects	The crisis of the agriculture	Migration, aging, poverty	Unstable land use, soil erosion,	Lack of economic planning, rural unemployment	Food safety, affordable food, lack of vision
	NATIONAL			LOCAL	
Politics	Economy	Society	Environment	Economy	Society
SETTLEMENT (Infrastructure)					

Figure 1: The impacts on rural development

**FARMERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN COLLEGE OF KECSKEMÉT**

The Regional Advisory Centre providing continuous further education for farmers has been operating at the Horticultural College Faculty since 2007. With regular further training courses - like farmer entrepreneur, bio cultivator, park keeper, wine-grower, winemaker, vineyardist courses - we enhance farmers' theoretical and practical skills and competences in their profession. In addition, at the faculty we provide service with the accredited Plant Examination Laboratory of Soil for planters, which we will expand with environment, food and microbiological experiments and testing of raw materials.

The Regional Professional Advisory Centre assists the work of the accredited Plant Examination Laboratory of Soil to a significant extent, because the binding soil samples of contractual partners of 2008-2009 are analyzed here.

The Fig 2-3 give information about the farmers taking participation in the training.

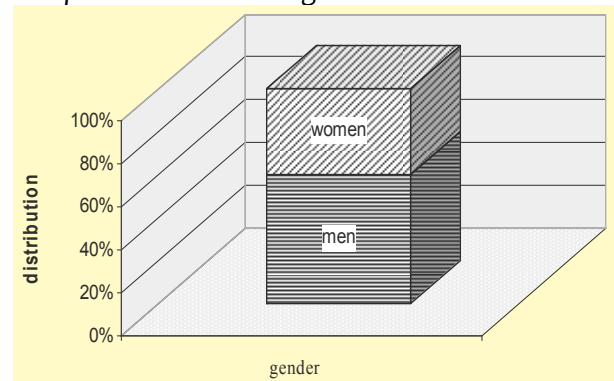


Figure 2. The gender proportion of trainees

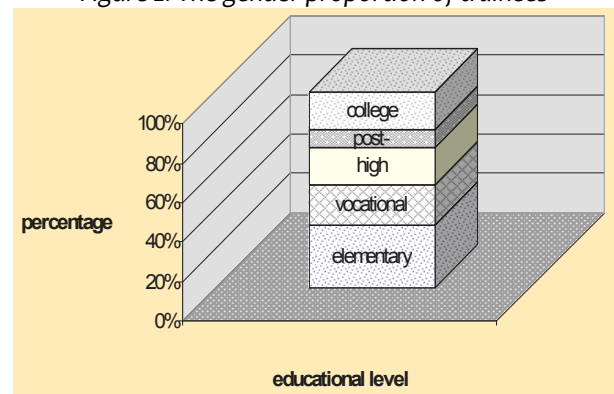


Figure 3. The educational level of trainees

Assessing the figures we can state that the 60% of participants are male, regarding the education level the primary/elementary school education is dominant among the participants, followed by the higher educational graduates. The reason why most people take part in the training is their obligations to meet and fulfil the expectations of grants they have won. Examining the scope of their activities we can conclude that nearly 90% of the participants work as active farmers. The aim of the Kecskemét College Faculty of Horticulture is that after the further training course farmers will be able to carry out:

- improvement measures regarding the standard of living of people living in rural areas,
- problem and development analysis of rural areas, prepare a business plan,
- continuous updating and improvement of the management structure,
- meeting the expectations of international standards of rural development management,
- how to write and coordinate rural development projects

**CONCLUSIONS, SUGGESTIONS**

The Faculty must strive for developing the infrastructural conditions in order to educate the discipline of theoretical and practical rural development in a most modern way. The training can be organized on three levels: basic full time courses (BSc) (bachelor degree program of economic and rural

development), vocational training in rural development, and MSc courses after the successful accreditation. Particular emphasis should be put on courses giving professional qualifications, most of which are subsidized by the state. As a result, we manage to develop close professional relationships with farmers, which partly serve as the practical criteria of the education as well.

In close cooperation with farmers we try to provide services beyond education and further training including both laboratory tests (soil and plant examination, food, raw materials testing, microbiological testing), and purchasing specialized books

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