



## REPORT

### 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH BOHEMIA IN CESKE BUDEJOVICE

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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#### Strengths

- The faculty seems to be well managed. This conclusion comes from the presentations yesterday and the information we received previously.
- The number of students per academic teacher oscillates between 11 and 12. This is a very good result.
- The number of students on all levels (bachelor, master, PhD) is stable which is a great success for the faculties given the economic and social situation with a high demand of employees of the economy and a decreasing number of young people. Focusing here on modern topics (technology in agriculture) is an important point for being successful in the competition for new students.
- The increase in the number of publications in journals indexed in the Web of Sciences increased to 0.9 per academic staff. This is a good result, but here is a potential for increase. This indicator should be at least 1.
- The departments of the faculty have modern laboratories and deal with state of the art research topics (bark beetle, remote sensing in agriculture, life cycle assessment, ...).
- A strength is the strong focus on the cooperation with companies as state of the art research questions can be solved, contact to practice is given by that and also the interest by students is increased. But there are also risks of this kind of cooperation (see below).

#### Weaknesses and potential for more success

- Academic output could be maximized by strengthening the cooperation between (1) the departments of the faculty and (2) by increasing the international cooperation. The faculty has a high number of departments which are covering all aspects of agricultural production and research. By combining research questions, output could be maximized. Or simple by providing support, for example through lab analyses for on department by another one.
- The number of publications as conference proceedings or book chapters has decreased in the last years but it is still high. As this kind of publications are mostly also of high quality but do not count nationally and internationally as much as journal publications (any more), researchers shall be motivated to spend their time in the first place for preparing journal publications not publications in conference proceedings and book chapters.
- The cooperation with companies provides a lot of possibilities, e.g. more budget, contact to the agricultural practice, ... Anyhow, a clear understanding with the companies has to be made on how and when the data can be used for publications. Companies are likely not to share their findings,



this is completely different for universities. Here a mutual understand is necessary so that both organizations get their expected output (companies: increase in success, universities: research papers).

- Given the strong focus on the cooperation with companies, own short courses for graduates (no full master programs) could be designed as part of the life long learning strategy. This can bind companies and graduates stronger to the university. Furthermore, for this kind of courses, also some reasonable fees can be required by the graduates (or from the companies sending them).

Material required for next meeting

- The summary of basic information provided was very helpful.
- Further, more detailed information on publications (publication lists) and projects (mobility projects, research projects) including budget numbers would be appreciated. Also information on number and origin of international students.

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prof. Ing. Jozef Gólian, Dr.

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