

ALEKSANDRAS STULGINSKIS UNIVERSITY



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*The 7<sup>th</sup> international scientific conference  
Rural Development 2015:*

*Towards the Transfer of Knowledge,  
Innovations and Social Progress*

**CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

Edited by Prof. Asta Raupelienė

19–20 November, 2015  
Akademija, Lithuania

The 7th International Scientific Conference  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT 2015:  
Towards the Transfer of Knowledge, Innovations and Social Progress

Conference venue  
Aleksandras Stulginskis University,  
Akademija, Kauno raj. Lithuania

**SPONSORS OF THE CONFERENCE:**

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania  
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All papers published in the Proceedings of the International Scientific conference “Rural Development 2015: Towards the Transfer of Knowledge, Innovations and Social Progress” have been peer reviewed by two experts in the field.

*Conference website: <http://www.ruraldevelopment.lt>  
Conference Proceedings on-line: <http://conf.rd.asu.lt>*

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## **FOREWORD**

We are pleased to present the Proceedings of the 7th International Scientific Conference "Rural Development 2015: Towards the Transfer of Knowledge, Innovations and Social Progress". The Conference took place in Academia, Kaunas district, Lithuania at the Aleksandras Stulginskis University, November 19–20, 2015.

The 7th International Scientific Conference "Rural Development 2015" was the most effective bi-annual platform for the interdisciplinary scientific discussions and the presentations of new ideas for sustainable rural development in the context of Knowledge, Innovations and Social Progress. The Conference brings together scientists, practitioners, policy makers and actors from private sector around the world to share their experience helping countries to provide their citizens with a more competitive economy, more and better jobs and a better quality of life.

The topic of the Conference has allowed for the exploration of different aspects of four main areas:

- Biosystems Engineering and Environment
- Agro-innovations and Food Technologies
- Multifunctional Approach for Sustainable Use of Natural Resource
- Social Innovations for Rural Development

The topic "Towards the Transfer of Knowledge, Innovations and Social Progress" chosen for the 7th International Scientific Conference sparked strong interest among the professional and scientific community and elicited great response to the call for papers. The Proceedings include 130 peer-reviewed papers and contributions from 362 authors. In total we received 248 submissions for the Conference.

We want to thank the contributors and the reviewers who made this issue possible. We also thank the Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture, and Research Council of Lithuania for the generous financial support that made the Conference possible.

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