**TROPENTAG CONFERENCE 2022 at the CZU campus**

**Can we feed the world in turbulent times?**

**Academics and farmers will debate**

**Prague, Sep 7, 2022 –**The Czech University of Life Sciences (CZU) brings together internationally renowned experts on food security and farmers to host an interdisciplinary conference focused on tropical agriculture and rural development, **Tropentag 2022,** **on Sep 14-16.** CZU will provide a space for open communication in turbulent times, asking renowned experts when food security is a pressing issue**: “Can agroecological farming feed the world?”**

“Yes, it can,” argues the co-organizer of the conference, **Prof. Bohdan Lojka**, at the **Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences CZU Prague.**

“We are happy to host the Tropentag Conference after a two-year break back at CZU campus. This year we aim to close the gap between global commerce advocates and organic farmers. Our research has shown that it is possible to adopt techniques respecting nature and increase farmers´ yields at the same time. However, here in Prague, we want to provide a platform for open discussions, new ideas, and address the challenges from various points of view,” adds **Lojka.**

The debates on global food production challenges have become polarized among both scientists and farmers, widening the gap between the advocates of industrial agriculture and global commerce, and the supporters of local food systems and agroecological farming. While the former claim it is only possible to meet the high production demands through conventional agriculture, based on high inputs and machinery, the latter are convinced that the world’s small farmers can increase yields and final production by adopting techniques that respect natural equilibria and processes and maintain or improve soil health without synthetic inputs.

We believe that the conference will provide participants with new ideas to enhance our understanding of the potential capacity of the agroecological approaches to maintain and restore soil health, conserve biodiversity, and adapt to climate changes, and help us face future crises, together with meeting the challenge of feeding global populations.

The Conference offers panel discussions, workshops, and a mini film festival, presenting various perspectives on pastoralism, and tours around the Botanical Garden of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences. Tropentag 2022 in Prague CZU will provide a miscellaneous programme for just about everyone.

The main panel discussions entitled **“Can agroecological farming feed the world?”** will be chaired by [Patrick Worms](https://www.tropentag.de/conference/speakers.php#Worms), science policy advisor at the ICRAF, the world´s premier research institution devoted to the study of trees, and will include the following panellists:

* [**Rebecca Dero**](https://www.tropentag.de/conference/speakers.php#Dero) / Prolinnova smallholder farmer - Kenya
* **Elizabeth Mpofu** / Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum
* [**Larissa Mies Bombardi**](https://www.tropentag.de/conference/speakers.php#Bombardi) / Assoc. Prof at University of São Paulo - Brazil
* [**Jacobo Arango**](https://www.tropentag.de/conference/speakers.php#Arango)/ Environmental biologist at CIAT Colombia
* [**Josef Garvi**](https://www.tropentag.de/conference/speakers.php#Garvi) / Expert on reforestation at Sahara Sahel Foods - Niger
* [**Petr Ehl**](https://www.tropentag.de/conference/speakers.php#Ehl) /CIO at Interlacto, Czech Republic

This year, the conference will feature AfricaRice which is pan-African Center for rice research and capacity building focused on poverty alleviation and achieving food and nutrition security.

The mini film festival will be devoted to the theme of pastoralism, the main movies being the [Natural regeneration to develop a silvopastoral system in Brazil](https://www.tropentag.de/conference/films_atTT22.php#brazil) by Rogerio Mauricio and the [Forest Maker](https://www.zeroone.de/en/movies/forestmaker/) by Tony Rinaudo. For the full programme click [here](https://www.tropentag.de/conference/films_atTT22.php#brazil).

The conference returns live to the CZU campus in Prague after 3 years of having been only online - or hybrid in the past two years. There are over 850 participants registered from 68 countries. Tropentag originally started in Germany in 1997.

The conference is under the auspices of the Ministry of the Agriculture of the Czech Republic, the Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic Zdeněk Nekula, and the Rector of the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague Prof. Petr Sklenička.

For the full programme, click here: <https://www.tropentag.de/conference/program.php>

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**Czech University of Life Sciences Prague**

The Czech Agricultural University is the fourth to fifth largest university in the Czech Republic. It combines a century-long tradition with the latest technologies, progressive science and research in the fields of agriculture and forestry, ecology and environment, technology and engineering, economics and management. Modern laboratories with state-of-the-art facilities, including campus enterprises, provide excellent education with opportunities for personal growth, including involvement in scientific projects at home and abroad. The CZU provides complete university studies, summer schools, special courses, and university of the third age. According to international rankings, the university ranks among the top three percent in the world. In the Academic Ranking of World Universities (the so-called Shanghai Ranking) in 2020, it is ranked 801st-900th in the world and 5th among the ranked universities in the country. In 2021, the CZU has become the 62nd greenest university in the world thanks to its ranking in the UI Green Metric World University Rankings.

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