

# **Agriculture in Tropics and Subtropics**

## **Doctoral Degree Board Meeting Report**

### **7. 3. 2025**

Meeting of the ATS Doctoral Degree Board took place on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The following members of the Board were present.

Present members:

**prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.**

prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejčmanová, Ph.D.

prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.

RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Jaroslav Havlík, Ph.D. (online)

doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Pavel Klouček, Ph.D.

Ing. Martin Kulma, Ph.D.

Ing. Olga Leuner, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Zbyněk Polesný, Ph.D (online)

doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.

prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.

prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc.

Ing. Iva Viehmannová, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.

**Apologies:**

doc. RNDr. David Honys, Ph.D.

doc. Tersia Kokošková, Ph.D.

prof. Lukáš Kratochvíl, Ph.D.

**Secretary:**

Ing. Vendula Ludvíková, Ph.D.

**Minute taker:**

Ing. Barbora Motýlová

## **Programme of ATS Doctoral Degree Board:**

1. Opening (prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.)
2. Information from the last Doctoral Degree Board meeting 15.11.2024 (prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.)
3. Reports from the attestations of PhD students from January/February 2025 (representatives of individual departments)
4. Approval of previously unapproved ISP doctoral student (prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.)
5. Approval of Research Proposals of first-year students (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D)
6. Approval of new SDE examiner (prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.)
7. Approval of the nomination of a new supervisor doc. Vladimír Verner
8. Approval of new Doctoral Dissertation Thesis topics
9. Approval of co-supervisors of Doctoral Dissertation Thesis (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmanová, Ph.D)
10. New Higher Education Act and Admissions Procedure for the Academic Year 25/26 (Assoc. Prof. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.)
11. Miscellaneous

### **1. Opening**

Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D., opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and summarizing the meeting's agenda.

### **2. Information from the Last Doctoral Degree Board Meeting (15.11.2024)**

Prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D., provided an overview of the last meeting held in autumn 2024.

### **3. Reports from the attestations of PhD students from January/February 2025 (representatives of individual departments)**

**Doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D. (Department of Economics and Development):**

1 active student (and 1 interrupted). No problems reported.

#### **4. Approval of previously unapproved ISP doctoral student (prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.)**

- Kristýna Vydrová - **approved**

#### **5. Approval of Research Proposals of first-year students (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejčmanová, Ph.D)**

- Kristýna Vydrová - **approved**

#### **6. Approval of new SDE examiner (prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.)**

Mgr. Tomáš Moravec, Ph.D., was introduced along with his previous scientific work and was proposed as a new member and examiner for the state defense exam.

**Approved.**

#### **7. Approval of the nomination of a new supervisor doc. Vladimír Verner**

Doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D. was nominated as supervisor for doctoral thesis.

**Approved**

#### **8. Approval of new Doctoral Dissertation Thesis topics**

- **Traditional knowledge, use value, and the contribution of local plant species to rural households' livelihood (non-timber forest products, wild edible plants, indigenous trees)** – doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.
- **Promotion of sustainable, profitable and inclusive value chains (climate change, gender empowerment, nutrition security, local food systems, cash security)** – doc. Ing. Vladimír Verner, Ph.D.
- **Agroforestry systems for climate change adaptation and mitigation** - prof. Bohdan Lojka

All topics **approved.**

## **9. Approval of co-supervisors of Doctoral Dissertation Thesis (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejčmanová, Ph.D)**

Supervisors must provide justification for their co-supervisors. A table with the relevant information was presented.

Doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D., noted that the terms "consultant," "co-supervisor," and "advisor of thesis" are used inconsistently across three different documents to refer to the same role. It was discussed whether this inconsistency can be corrected or if it is a system issue.

Prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejčmanová, Ph.D., asked supervisors to complete the justification box as soon as possible.

Part of the proposal was approved. Supervisors need to add the required justifications. **Once the justifications are provided, the proposal will be approved later per rollam.**

## **10. New Higher Education Act and Admissions Procedure for the Academic Year 25/26 (Assoc. Prof. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.)**

Assoc. Prof. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D. mentioned few key things especially those related to PhD students like digitalization, no obligatory state exams, easier change of study program or more autonomy for universities to have fees for english taught programmes. Corrently our faculty have 63 active PhD students (with those who are interrupted i tis 104).

Discussion:

The discussion focused on the uncertainty of funding for the next year, confirming that no guarantees can be made. There was an emphasis on the need to develop and approve a new strategy for admissions and funding, including updating relevant rules on websites well in advance—ideally three months before the academic year begins. The main criterion is the budget for financing PhD students.

Supervisors who can guarantee student income through grants or other sources could receive priority when selecting students. The recommended guideline is three students per department, based on available funding, with departments responsible for paying students 1.2 times the minimum wage. Part-time students do not require income, and strong candidates for whom the faculty lacks funding could be offered a self-paid ATS program.

The importance of creating guidelines for the admission process was highlighted, along with concerns about productivity. It was discussed that funding isn't aligned with student success rates and the completion of their studies. It was agreed that the board should oversee quality assurance.

It was suggested to schedule a meeting in May to brainstorm and finalize new admission rules.

## **10. Miscellaneous**

Doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D. highlighted an issue with the student subject offerings: out of 20 available subjects, 11 are taught in Czech by employees who are no longer part of the faculty. This unresolved issue causes problems for students who try to contact these people.

Efforts to fix the problem have been made, and occasionally the outdated subjects reappear in the system. It was suggested that the technical aspects of the issue might need to be discussed with the system's providers.

It was recommended to solve this issue.

## **Conclusion**

The chairman prof. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D., thanked to all the present members and closed the meeting of Doctoral Degree Board.

In Prague, 7th March 2025

**prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.**

Chairperson of DDB ATS