

Higher education in agriculture sciences in Kosova: current situation, challenges and the future

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The objective of this contribution is analyzing the current situation, challenges and the future of higher education (HE) in agriculture sciences in Republic of Kosova. The HE in field of agriculture (Faculty of Agriculture) in Kosovo was founded about 50 years ago (1973), as a result of the increasing needs for educated experts with superior qualifications, which would result in faster development of agriculture in Kosovo. Currently agriculture and food production in Kosovo contributes with just about 8% (year 2019) of country GDP. In order to increase and develop agricultural sector responding to market demands, there is undoubtedly necessity to have qualified and competent experts. Therefore, HE in agricultural sciences is of crucial importance and needs to be seriously considered. Currently, HE in Kosovo (several public and private Universities), is offering different study programs in field of agriculture, in all three levels of degree (according to Bologna process), the bachelor's, master's, and doctorate (only one generation was enrolled!). One other objective of the paper will be the discussion of the trends in enrollments and graduation of the students of agriculture sector in recent years. In the future more attention should be given to the re-structuring of the study programs in the sector of agriculture (e.g. dual study programs) according to global trends of HE and market needs in order to promote economic growth, employment and sustainable development in Kosovo.

Key words: Higher education; tertiary study cycles, agriculture, Kosovo