



AGRO FORESTRY PRACTICES IN WEST BALKAN  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:  
WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS



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# Report of guest lectures

## Belgrade, October 22<sup>th</sup>, 2024



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### Project information

Project title	Agroforestry practices in West Balkan for sustainable development: weaknesses and strengths
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As part of the project “Agroforestry Practices in the West Balkans: Weaknesses and Strengths – AGFORWEB” two guest lectures were held on October 22, 2023, at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry by professors from Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek. Students from the University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture and the Faculty of Forestry attended the lectures, along with some staff members and project participants. Announcements regarding the guest lectures were published on both the project website (following link: [AGFORWEB News and Events](#)) and the website of the Faculty of Forestry (following link: [Faculty of Forestry Guest Lectures](#)). A list of attendees can be found at the end of this document.

The first guest lecture was delivered by **Dr Dalida Galović** an insightful lecture on "Cattle Breeding in the Agroforestry System" focusing on the ecological and economic benefits of agroforestry (Fig. 1). She defined the various forms of agroforestry and emphasized the significance of silvopastoral agroforestry, providing data on its prevalence across Europe.

Dr Galović highlighted several advantages of this system, including reduced financial investments in infrastructure and feed, and its ecological sustainability. She discussed how silvopastoral practices align with animal welfare criteria and the unique role they play in preventing forest land from fire hazards. By integrating forestry with pasture management, farmers can ensure diverse nourishment for livestock while benefiting from the shade, shelter, and protection that trees provide.

The economic potential of this approach was also emphasized, noting that farms can increase their revenue through livestock production as well as other products such as nuts, timber, and fruits. Professor Galović specifically focused on two breeds: **Buša** and **Podolac** (Podolic cattle), detailing their characteristics and significance in cattle farming, as indigenous breeds of these regions (Croatia and Serbia).



**Fig. 1** First guest lecturer Dr Dalida Galović

In conclusion, she argued that reviving traditional livestock farming based on indigenous breeds and sustainable practices can promote biodiversity and preserve landscapes. The return of livestock to marginal or mountainous areas could foster development in regions under industrial pressure, while the production of traditional, value-added products is increasingly gaining traction in the market.



This lecture underscored the importance of agroforestry as a viable and sustainable practice for both ecological balance and economic benefit.

The second guest lecture was held by **Dr Vladimir Margeta** delivered an engaging lecture on "Free-Range Pig Production in Agroforestry Systems" highlighting successful global practices, particularly in Europe, with a focus on the Dehesa system in Spain. Dehesa is characterized by its unique blend of oak forests and pastureland, where free-range pigs are raised in a sustainable environment, benefiting from the natural resources available in the ecosystem (Fig. 2).

Margeta presented several indigenous pig breeds from the region, including the **Lasata Mangulica** (Swallow-Bellied Mangalitsa) and **Moravka**. He emphasized the advantages of these native breeds, which include:

- **Disease Resistance:** Indigenous breeds demonstrate better resilience against common pig diseases.
- **Adaptability to Environmental Conditions:** They are well-suited to local climates and can thrive in varying conditions.
- **Longevity:** These breeds tend to have longer lifespans compared to conventional breeds.
- **Efficient Feed Utilization:** They make better use of available feed resources.
- **Meat and Fat Quality:** The meat produced from indigenous breeds is often of higher quality, with better flavor profiles.

Professor Margeta stressed the importance of preserving these indigenous breeds, noting that currently, only about 10% of pigs raised are native varieties. He highlighted the genetic value of these breeds, referring to them as a "gene bank" that must be conserved for future generations.

However, he also acknowledged some disadvantages associated with indigenous pig breeds, including:

- **Lower Fertility Rates:** These breeds may produce fewer offspring compared to commercial breeds.
- **Slower Growth Rates:** They typically have a slower rate of weight gain.
- **Biosecurity Concerns:** Managing health risks can be more challenging.
- **Economic Viability:** The production costs can be higher, affecting overall profitability.

Dr Margeta discussed the benefits of integrating free-range pig farming with forestry and pasture management within agroforestry systems. This approach helps in land management by cleaning undergrowth, plowing the soil, and controlling insect populations that can affect tree health by pigs.



**Fig. 2** Second guest lecturer Dr Vladimir Margeta

He concluded that the free-range system is the best method for raising pigs, as it not only enhances the life quality of the animals but also results in superior product quality. By promoting and preserving indigenous breeds within agroforestry systems, we can ensure sustainable and high-quality pork production while also benefiting the ecosystem.

The guest lecture session concluded with the discussion at 13:00 h.



## ATTENDANCE LIST

No	Name	Organization
1	Mateja Stojanović	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
2	Nikola Vujić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
3	Saša Nikolić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
4	Petar Todorović	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
5	Ana Trklja	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
6	Pero Gatorić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
7	Aleksandra Stojanović	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
8	Aleksandra Gliberić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
9	Jovana Stanojević	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
10	Jelena Matejin	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
11	Todor Đukuć	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
12	Vasilije Milenković	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
13	Anđelija Ivković	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
14	Luka Tuović	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
15	Milica Flarić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
16	Anđela Ilić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture
17	Anja Živković	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
18	Maša Četković	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
19	Ivana Maslarević	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
20	Miloš Tomić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
21	Marija Šebeković	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
22	Jelena Mašić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
23	Milica Glogovac	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
24	Teodora Trajković	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
25	Sofija Đukić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
26	Kristina Kravljanac	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
27	Danica Borota	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
28	Jovana Bondžić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
29	Đorđe Todorović	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
30	Petar Popović	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
31	Ana Nenadović	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
32	Iskra Ložaić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
33	Marko Bonđur	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
34	Katarina Kolavić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
35	Dalida Galović	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek
36	Vladimir Margeta	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek
37	Predrag Miljković	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
38	Sara Lukić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
39	Snežana Belanović Simić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
40	Stefan Miletić	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
41	Aleksandar Baumgertel	University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry
42	Vladan Đermanović	University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture