

# **“Strategies for the agri-food sector and rural areas – dilemmas of development”**

**Dear Prof. Oleksandr Pavlov,**

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the **21th edition** of the International Conference organized by the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute. The theme of the conference will be "**Strategies for the agri-food sector and rural areas – dilemmas of development**". The conference is organized under the third edition of the Multi-Annual Program. The first one, implemented in years 2005-2009, was entitled "Economic and Social Factors Conditioning Polish Food Economy Development after Poland EU Accession". In 2011-2014 we focused on "Competitiveness of the Polish food economy in the conditions of globalization and European integration". The current program being implemented in years 2015-2019 focuses on "The Polish and the EU agricultures 2020+. Challenges, chances, threats, proposals".

The conference will be held on **19-21 June 2017** at the Atut Hotel – Wielkopolskie Centrum Konferencyjne in Stary Licheń near Konin (230 km from Warsaw and 120 km from Poznań).

The agri-food sector in Poland and the other EU countries is the important part of their national economies. Being one of the largest sectors of the EU economy, this sector employs 22 million agricultural workers. About 44 million of workplaces in the processing industry, retail food trade and catering services are dependent on agriculture. The EU is the net exporter of food products and beverages which value is estimated at above 130 billion EUR per annum, while the share of Poland in the net export is about 5.5%. Rural areas in Europe comprise half of its territory and are the place of living for about 20% of the European population. However, in most cases the GDP per 1 rural resident is significantly lower than the EU average. The conference organized by IAFE-NRI, with its focus on challenges and dilemmas of economic, environmental and social nature which are faced by the agri-food sector and the rural areas in the XXI century, is expected to be an important event in the discussions about the development of this sector after the year 2020. We hope that the event will make substantial contribution to the debate and consultations about the modernization and simplification of the common agricultural policy after 2020, which are taking place at the EU forum.

**The conference focusses on the following themes:**

1. Megatrends and the most important development challenges of the European and global food economy and rural areas
2. The sources of growth in the agri-food sector – experiences and dilemmas of development
3. The role of farms and agricultural enterprises in actions towards the strategy for sustainable development
4. Transformations of the rural economy and programming of the rural and agricultural policy – strategic challenges

5. Innovation strategies in the sector of agriculture, food industry and rural economy
6. Problems and barriers to achieving the aims of agricultural and rural development policy
7. CAP instruments and their adjustment to challenges at local, regional, European and global levels

Prospective authors are invited to submit full and original research papers that have not been published or submitted for consideration elsewhere. The conference papers will be published in the reviewed book series of the Multi-Annual Program after conference. The official languages during the Conference will be Polish and English, with simultaneous translation.

**Important deadlines:**

**5th May 2017:** submission of the paper abstract (up to 1000 characters, including spaces)

**19th May 2017:** notification of paper acceptance

**July 2017:** submission of full papers

**September 2017:** publication

We inform you that the Organizers of the Conference cover the **conference fee** including the cost of accommodation during the Conference and the travel cost from Warsaw to the place of the Conference.

Please let us know about your ability to participate in this event using e-mail address: [conference@ierigz.waw.pl](mailto:conference@ierigz.waw.pl) or share this invitation with your friends and colleagues who may be interested.

We sincerely hope that you will accept our invitation and we are looking forward to meeting you in Poland on the above occasion. You may find additional information about the Conference on the website of the IAFE – NRI: [www.ierigz.waw.pl/conference](http://www.ierigz.waw.pl/conference).

**Kind regards,**

**IAFE-NRI Organization Committee**