FARMING METHODS IN ORGANIC FARMS ON LOWLANDS AND ON DIVERSIFIED RELIEF AREAS

Key words: LSU, management model, natural fertilisation, organic farm

Summary

Within the 6.1 Multiannual Programme, the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences initiated works on standardization of management methods in permanent grasslands, including organic farming. Two systems: semi-intensive and extensive were distinguished in organic farming. A survey was performed in 21 organic farms. Questions in the survey were formulated in a way to obtain numeric data necessary for detailed characteristics of the farming method. Preliminary results from surveyed households showed that one farm from each group (lowland, foothill and alpine) met the criteria of semi-intensive farming model. The remaining 18 farms used the extensive management system, in this number: 12 farms were lowland, 5 were situated in foothills and 1 was of alpine type. The average share of meadows and pastures in agricultural lands was 45.32 and 22.28%, respectively, in the surveyed farms. The reason for low management intensity in these farms was poor soil that mostly belonged to the 5th or 6th soil quality class. Permanent grasslands were fertilised only with local own natural fertilisers – manure (mean 9.5 Mg·ha⁻¹) and liquid manure (mean 6.2 m³·ha⁻¹). Livestock density was 0.74 on average, in this number pig stock density was only 0.08 LSU·ha⁻¹ of agricultural land. Due to poor soils and low fertilisation, the yield of meadows was small and amounted 3.9 tons of hay and 7.3 tons of hay ensilage per hectare on average.