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## AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

(Zemědělská ekonomika)

## THEMATIC ISSUE

Bioeconomic strategies and systems  
as tools for achieving sustainable  
agriculture and rural development

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## PREFACE:

One promising path for achieving agricultural and food systems sustainability is the incorporation of bioeconomic strategies and systems. As defined by the Global Bioeconomy Summit of 2020, the term bioeconomy involves „the production, utilization, conservation, and regeneration of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology, and innovation, to provide sustainable solutions (information, products, processes and services) within and across all economic sectors and enable a transformation to a sustainable economy.“

Agricultural policies worldwide increasingly call for the use of bioeconomic systems in the development of sustainable agricultural and food systems. In the USA in 2022, for example, the Biden-Harris Administration announced in policy recommendations to advance bioeconomy as part of its Executive Order on Advancing Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Innovation for a Sustainable, Safe, and Secure American Bioeconomy. Similarly, as recently as October, 2023, the UN’s Food and Agricultural Organization acclaimed the “bioeconomy is a catalyst for agrifood systems transformation to greater sustainability.” This announcement occurred as a result of one of eight meetings focusing on bioeconomy at the Science and Innovation Forum (SIF), an annual event organized by the FAO within the framework of the agency’s flagship World Food Forum. EU policy based on Green Deal and Food 2030 principles supports the partnership for ‘Sustainable food systems for people, planet and climate’ which is expected to be implemented in 2024. The common agricultural policy (CAP) and the European Green Deal set ambitious targets and objectives for bioeconomy applications with respect to the sustainability and safety of feed, food and non-food production.

In summary, the bioeconomy has the potential to provide nutritious, safe food to a growing global population, providing sustainable development opportunities and new jobs while reducing environmental harm and waste. Bioeconomic systems go beyond cutting greenhouse gas emissions and restoring biodiversity. It opens new opportunities for green development and jobs in agriculture and other sectors, bolstering food security and nutrition, rural livelihoods, local communities, and innovation at all levels of society.

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With widespread interest in the adoption of bioeconomy practices and systems, it is appropriate to address our accumulated knowledge of innovative practices, constraints and facilitators of wider dissemination of sustainable strategies, and the economic and social consequences of changes towards greater use of bioeconomic principles and strategies.

**This special issue of *Agricultural Economics* seeks to thus advance our knowledge of bioeconomic approaches through empirical, methodological, and theoretical assessments that provide**

- Empirical case studies of the introduction and adoption of bioeconomic approaches in agriculture and assessments of the economic, social and environmental consequences (positive and/or negative) of innovation and change in rural areas.
- New methodologies for identifying and assessing the bioeconomy, including the development and application of assessment tools to evaluate the economic and social impacts of bioeconomy policies and practices in agriculture and rural areas.
- Novel approaches and methodologies in advancing bioeconomic development, including exploration and proposition of cutting-edge methods, or frameworks that offer fresh perspectives on integrating bioeconomy principles into food and agricultural systems (e.g. advanced data analytics, novel modeling techniques, interdisciplinary methodologies, etc.)
- Assessment of policy frameworks for bioeconomy development in agriculture, particularly international, national and regional policies that facilitate the integration of bioeconomy principles and consider their economic and social impacts in rural areas.
- Attention to institutional facilitators and constraints for embedding bioeconomic principles and systems in agriculture and aquaculture.
- Identification of the market, cultural, technological, ethical, and legal constraints and facilitators to bioeconomy and biotechnology changeover in agricultural enterprises and in the rural communities in which they operate.
- Examination of collaborative efforts between public and private sectors, academia, and civil society in advancing bioeconomy initiatives in agriculture.
- Explorations of novel bioeconomy systems for utilizing agricultural and forest resources (including waste) for energy production

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Papers for this special issue must clearly state their empirical and methodological contributions. Empirical analysis requires properly selected datasets, variables, and convincing descriptions and discussions. Papers are not limited by geographical regions and the list of topics above.

### **Manuscript submission information**

Authors are invited to submit original research articles related to the theme of the issue. Submissions must adhere to the journal's guidelines and be submitted through the online submission system. Authors must submit a cover letter, stating their intent to publish in the thematic issue, along with the manuscript. The inclusion of the manuscript in the thematic issue is at the discretion of the Editorial Board.

Manuscripts submitted to this thematic issue will be peer-reviewed and will be subjected to the standard manuscript handling fee.

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### **Important dates**

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Submission deadline: October 31, 2024

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