

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE DAYS IN GYÖNGYÖS

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Introduction

One of the important tasks of science is to respond effectively to the challenges that arise during the ever-accelerating social and economic changes, and to provide appropriate answers to the questions that arise. It is useful to provide guidance for decision-makers at the macro and micro levels. It does this in such a way that there is no salutary „best practice” for the interpretation and explanation of complex phenomena. There are better or worse solutions to problems that fall within the scope of „good practice”.

During the regime change in Hungary, and in the years before that, the actors of science had a lot of important tasks. The country has been set on a new course, but the search for a way continues today. Almost three decades ago, almost at the same time as the regime change, the first International Science Days (ISD) linked to the city of Gyöngyös were organized by the Institute of Business and Industrial Engineering of the Gödöllő University of Agricultural Sciences. At the beginning, experts from agriculture and later from other scientific fields gathered for the event. Each time, the event was organized around different scientific fields and current topics, giving researchers and professionals the opportunity to exchange ideas.

History of International Science Days

The Gyöngyös International Science Days (ISD) and its predecessors appeared as a prestigious scientific event, which is currently organized every 2 years by the Heves County Government Office and the Károly Róbert Campus of the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The event was held for the first time in 1988 under the name Agricultural Economic Science Days. The success of the conference is shown by the fact that in 1998 the list of speakers was expanded and, with its internationalization, it was organized under the name International Agricultural Economics Scientific Days. The conference, which initially had a small number of staff and a professional field, has now become an internationally recognized scientific forum. Since 2008, specialists from various fields of science have shared the results of their research at the International Science Days, while they have the opportunity to build professional relationships and contribute to the development of scientific public life.

Variability of the topic designation

The nature and topics of the International Science Days have undergone significant changes over the years. In the early years, the conference presented more local and regional research, but gradually it encompassed an increasingly wide scientific spectrum (*Table 1*).

Table 1. Topics of International Science Days between 1988 and 2024

Year	Theme
1988	Agricultural Economics
1990	Reform and agriculture
1992	Work in changing agriculture
1994	Modification of the development trajectory of the agricultural economy
1996	Farming-market competition in agriculture
1998	Agriculture and rural development
2000	Rural and agricultural development of the region
2002	The economics of agricultural production and resource utilization
2004	Competitiveness and profitability in multifunctional agriculture
2006	Agricultural adaptation to the changing economy
2008	Economics of enterprises
2010	Sustainable competitiveness in times of crisis
2012	Green economy and competitiveness
2014	Transforming, adaptive agriculture and the countryside
2016	Innovation challenges and opportunities between 2014-2020
2018	Sustainability challenges and answers
2020	Environmental, economic and social challenges after 2020
2022	The „Green Deal” - Challenges and Opportunities
2024	Unity - Action - Performance

The conference targets different fields of science every two years, taking into account current scientific trends and social needs. Thus, it could happen that in some years the focus of the conference was on social sciences, and in other years on technical sciences, economics or health sciences. These diverse topics enabled the event to deal with fresh, current issues every year. This always presented the organizers with new challenges in order to properly reflect the changes in scientific public life and the world. The changing topics ensured that the International Science Days were always attractive to researchers and that more and more international speakers participated. After the initial years, around 200-250 participants - in many cases from 10-15 countries - presented the research results with the help of more than 100 lectures and posters.

Successful results of the conference

The success of the conference is indicated by the fact that the number of participants has continuously increased over the years, and that the event has often provided the

basis for the birth of new research collaborations and scientific publications. The organizers have always placed great emphasis on ensuring that the event is memorable for the participants not only because of the expansion of their knowledge, but also that tangible memories are attached to it (*Figure 1*).

Figure 1. Bronze commemorative plaques



The interdisciplinary nature and the presence of representatives of different disciplines particularly facilitated the spread of new knowledge and contributed to the development of scientific discourse. In addition, the conferences played a prominent role in building bridges connecting scientific public life and the local community. In addition to the research, various professional and cultural programs often helped to strengthen the social impact of the conference, so the event proved to be successful not only from a scientific point of view, but also from the point of view of its community-building role.

We are part of a global economic restructuring. More and more people are interested in sustainability and innovation. The tasks and responsibilities of scientists

and decision-makers have not diminished in recent years, and it is important to find the answer to the question „What kind of world will we live in 5-10-15 years from now?” We organize our conferences in search of answers in the future as well, hoping that science will bring us closer

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