

**Short English summary of the inauguration lecture given by Assoc. Prof. Ing. Olga Ondrašovičová, PhD, 2nd Nov. 2006**

Ecological (organic) agriculture as one of the ways of ensuring animal health, welfare, quality of food and environmental protection shows an increasing tendency in Slovakia, which is reflected in increasing number of producers of bioproducts and 4.2 % of agricultural land managed ecologically.

The lecture pointed to the most frequent health and welfare problems on ecological farms caused particularly by some non-compliances in housing, husbandry and nutrition. The areas, which require attention and improvement, include processing and marketing of the bioproducts. The bioproduct market in Slovakia is relatively small and these products are available only in several specialised health-food shops.

There was also stressed the positive influence of the SAFO project, its contribution and the direct contact with the chief coordinator of the project Prof. Mette Vaarst and coordinator of the WP 6 David Younie during the roadshow in Košice who presented plenary lectures that met with a good response from eco-farmers, processing units, certification bodies and other interested participants.

Ecological principle in agriculture is based on rules, which enable that the ecological agriculture becomes a harmonic part of nature and ensures protection of all components of the environment.