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Editorial Office

Faculty of Agriculture, Goce Delcev University, Stip, Krste Misirkov Str., No.10-A P.O. Box 201, 2000 Stip, Republic of North Macedonia

japs@ugd.edu.mk

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Krste Misirkov Str., No.10-A, P.O. Box 201,

2000 Stip, Republic of North Macedonia

japs@ugd.edu.mk

<http://js.ugd.edu.mk/index.php/YFA>

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CONTENT

Marija Gjosheva Kovachevikj, Verica Ilieva, Saso Arsov

INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE RICE PRODUCTION TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN KOCHANI VALLEY..... 9

Boban Malinov, Aco Kuzelov

QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF SAUSAGES MADE WITH ADDITION OF PUMPKIN AND BLACK SEED OILS 25

INTRODUCTION

This year, 2020, started with the vast spread of the virus SARS-CoV-2 that quickly evolved to a global COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic induced changes in both our everyday and professional life which inevitably led to an economic crisis on a global scale.

As the world was adapting to this situation, many factories and warehouses were forced to close, the production in many industries declined, state borders were closed. As other branches of the industry were slowing down, the production and manufacturing of food and drugs continued to work with full force. Social distancing was instigated, and thus, became the new normal. This social distancing era did not affect science and education, as they continued with the help of online platforms and the commodities that today's technology has to offer.

In these times of global economic crisis and a viral pandemic, the key role of science, education and food production in the sustainability and evolution of humans was once again proven. The agricultural industry did not go unaffected by COVID-19. Restrictions of movement, as well as basic aversion behavior by workers, may impede farmers from farming and food processors - who handle the vast majority of agricultural products - from processing. Shortage of fertilizers, veterinary medicines and other input could affect agricultural production. Closures of restaurants and less frequent grocery shopping diminish demand for fresh produce and fisheries products, affecting producers and suppliers. However, besides all the hardships that were brought along with the crisis did not halt the agricultural industry and food production kept on developing and functioning in order to meet the demands.

Journal of Agriculture and Plant Sciences Vol. 18. No 1 is published in the midst of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. This volume proves that science and scientific research are of profound importance to agriculture and food processing and production, and must not be held down, even when the world faces a pandemic.

JAPS Editorial board were given a great responsibility, to sustain the continuity of published volumes of the journal in these difficult times of a pandemic and an economic crisis. Therefore, with great honor and respect, we would like to present the latest scientific achievements in agriculture.

Editorial Board,

December, 2020

Editor in chief,

Prof. Liljana Koleva Gudeva, PhD

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Editorial Office

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