

**„Plant productivity and food safety:
Soil science, Microbiology, Agricultural Genetics and Food quality”
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Second day (16th of September 2021)

Session VI: Urban soils – Towards to sustainable use and management

Session Chair: PhD Piotr Hulisz, Assoc. Prof. at NCU; PhD, Przemysław Charzyński, Assoc. Prof. at NCU

Nowadays, 55% of the world’s population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase further. During the development of cities, fertile soils, predominantly used for agricultural purposes and providing a wide range of ecosystem services such as food and biomass production, dilution, filtration and sequestration of pollutants, nutrient resources, storing genetic materials, and use for recreation, information and knowledge archives are being transformed into SUITMAs (soils of residential, traffic, industrial and commercial areas). The designation of new places for settlements usually leads to the soil degradation and a loss of valuable soil resources. That is why monitoring of changes in urban soil cover, reasonable spatial planning and protection of the soil environment are important aspects of an effective urban management, especially in relation to the potential and possibilities of producing food in cities.

Research subjects includes:

- ecosystem services provided by SUITMAs,
- urban agriculture challenges,
- soil hazards in the city,
- urban soils management strategies.

