

## Enhancement of Postgraduate Studies on Sustainable Agriculture and Future Farming Systems

Issue 4, February 2022

### 2<sup>nd</sup> project year

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2021, the SAGRIS project finished its second year of implementation. Due to pandemic restrictions in 2020 all events were digitised in 2020 whereas in 2021 easing of some restrictions allowed arranging project activities and events in face-to-face and hybrid formats.

### Events conducted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> project year

- ✓ Meeting of SAGRIS modules developers.
- ✓ Thematic workshops.
- ✓ Block Seminars SAGRIS.
- ✓ SAGRIS Toolboxes.
- ✓ Meeting of Network Strategy Group on enhancement of postgraduate and studies in HEIs of Russia and Kazakhstan
- ✓ International forum and public conference on postgraduate education in agricultural HEIs of Russia and Kazakhstan

### Contents

Project outcomes: 2<sup>nd</sup> year of implementation .....1

Block Seminars SAGRIS .....2

Erasmus Days 2021 .....5

International Forum .....5

SAGRIS partners & contacts.....6

### Block Seminars SAGRIS: 2<sup>nd</sup> project year



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## Block Seminar on Module 2 «Crop and Livestock systems under climate change»



From 20-24 September 2021, the first Block Seminar on Module 2 "Crop and Livestock systems under climate change" was delivered. It was arranged by Buryat State Agricultural Academy (Russia) and A. Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University (Kazakhstan).

Postgraduate students and teachers from the Russian HEIs: Stavropol State Agrarian University, Novosibirsk State Agrarian University, Buryat State Agricultural Academy, Arctic State Agrotechnological University travelled to the Tunkinsky district of the Republic of Buryatia to see successful examples of sustainable rural area and agricultural tourism. Doctoral students and lecturers from the Kazakhstani universities S. Seifullin KATU, KazNARU, Zhangir Khan WKATU and A. Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University held a meeting in Kostanay.

In addition to lectures and practical sessions, doctoral and postgraduate students participated in an open discussion on climate change and the assessment of natural resources in a changing climate, and there was a discussion on the scientific paper "Agriculture's Contribution to Climate Change and Role in Mitigation Is Distinct From Predominantly Fossil CO2-Emitting Factors". On the final day, the young scientists presented their group projects and solutions to existing problems in the face of climate change and participated in a roundtable discussion on "Challenges for the Future of Agriculture under Changing Climate".



Photo: participants of the Block Seminar on Module 2 from Russian agricultural universities.

### Programme of the Block Seminar

- ✓ Excursions to advanced agricultural enterprises in the region
- ✓ Open discussions on climate change
- ✓ Discussion of scientific articles and popular science films
- ✓ Speakers from Europe, Russia and Kazakhstan
- ✓ Case studies by postgraduate and doctoral students



Photo: participants of the Block seminar on Module 2 from Russian agrarian universities



Photo: participants of the Block Seminar on Module 2 from Kazakhstani universities.

Video and photos of the Block Seminar here:

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## Block Seminar on Module 3 «Advanced methods of scientific working»



The first Block Seminar on Module 3 “Advanced methods of scientific working” was delivered between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in a hybrid format. S. Seifullin KATU from Kazakhstan and Stavropol SAU from Russia hosted postgraduate students and lecturers from their respective countries.

The programme of the Block Seminar was eventful and intense, it included lectures conducted by scientists from Germany, Czech Republic and Poland, plus seminars and workshops on how to prepare manuscripts for publication in top-ranked scientific journals. The synergy of projects and integration into the scientific community, as well as completed projects demonstrating scientific achievements, allowed achieving a high quality of group projects developed by postgraduate students from Russia and Kazakhstan. They generated and contributed to active and constructive discussions among the participants of the Block Seminar.

During the week-long Block Seminar, a deep dive into the theory and practice of modern research methods was undertaken, taking into account the experience of scientists and the achievements of doctoral students from universities in Kazakhstan, Russia, Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland.

At the end of the Block Seminar, the scientific lead of Module 3 Prof. Dr. Axel Schwerk (Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland) summarised the results and received feedback from the participants. The organising universities awarded certificates of further training to all participants of the Block Seminar.



Photo: participants of the Block seminar on Module 3 from Kazakh universities

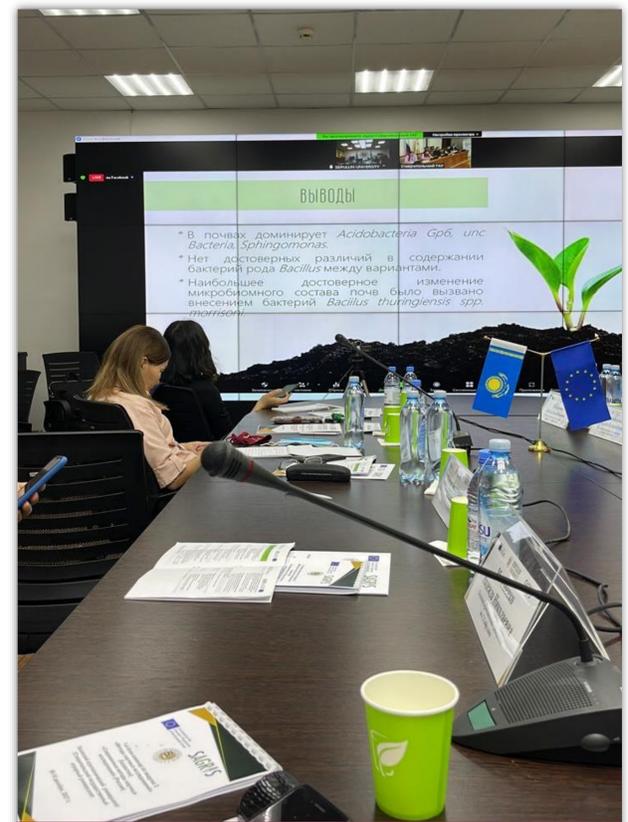


Photo: participants of the Block Seminar on Module 3 from Kazakhstani universities



Photo: participants of the Block Seminar on Module 3 from Russian agricultural universities



Photo: Prof. Aleksei Gerasimov (Stavropol SAU) at the Block Seminar on Module 3

### Video and photos of the Block Seminar



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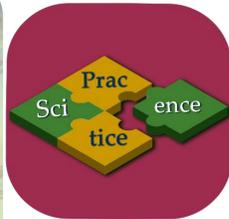


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## Block Seminar on Module 4 «Transdisciplinary methods for sustainable agriculture»



The first Block seminar on Module 4 was held between 25<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Arctic State Agrotechnological University. PhD-students and teachers from partner universities of Russia and Kazakhstan joined together in Yakutsk whereas scientists and experts from the EU universities joined online.

### Block Seminar programme included

- ✓ lectures by European academics;
- ✓ practical sessions and workshops;
- ✓ integration into the scientific community and postgraduate student reports;
- ✓ video production and participative approaches;
- ✓ business game "Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Food Security";
- ✓ foresight session "Sustainable agricultural development, application of transdisciplinary research methods";
- ✓ a stakeholder round table on "System Approach to Research and Management of Sustainable Agricultural Development Processes".



Photo: participants of the Block Seminar on Module 4 from Russian agricultural universities



Photo: participants of the Block Seminar on Module 4 from Russian and Kazakhstani agricultural universities



Photo: participants of the Block Seminar on Module 4 from Russian and Kazakhstani universities

### Video and photos of the Block Seminar here:



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## SAGRIS project at the international Erasmus Days 2021



The SAGRIS project took part in Erasmus Days 2021 with an online presentation of the project. Around 100 participants from universities of Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia and Kazakhstan joined the meeting. The agenda included experience exchange on implementation of the SAGRIS project, presentation of the research projects of PhD students who participated in the Block Seminars on Module 1 "Smart Agriculture and Digitalization" and Module 2 "Crop and Livestock Systems under Climate Change". Young scientists (master's students, postgraduates, doctoral students, teachers and researchers) were able to make an efficient dialogue with practical experts who are actively involved in the SAGRIS project. They got the newest information about the possibility to get involved in the project, possibilities of studying on advanced PhD programmes and participating in the SAGRIS Block Seminars.

## International Forum "Prospects of Postgraduate Education in Agricultural Universities of Russia and Kazakhstan on the Way to Integration into the International Scientific Community"

The International Forum united representatives of the SAGRIS consortium from 5 European universities, Russian and Kazakhstani HEIs, experts from accreditation agencies, scientific and research organisations and agribusiness ones. In the beginning of the forum, the experts assessed the quality of education in the agricultural sector and outlined ways for enhancing educational programmes in agricultural HEIs. The second part of the Forum was marked with spontaneous speeches by PhD students of Russia and Kazakhstan with a focus on "Challenges on the professional path of a young scientist, third cycle education perspectives". These speeches set the tune for the following panel discussion, which facilitated a dialogue among young scientists, scientists, practical experts, representatives of universities administrations and scientific community.



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