



Table of Contents

**IN PRESS**

**AGRICECON 2015**

**AGRICECON 2014**

**AGRICECON 2013**

**AGRICECON 2012**

**AGRICECON 2011**

**AGRICECON 2010**

**AGRICECON 2009**

**AGRICECON 2008**

**AGRICECON 2007**

**AGRICECON 2006**

**AGRICECON 2005**

**AGRICECON 2004**

**AGRICECON 2003**

**AGRICECON 2002**

**AGRICECON Home**

**Editorial Board**

**For Authors**

- **Authors Declaration**
- **Instruction to Authors**
- **Guide for Authors**
- **Copyright Statement**
- **Fees**
- **Submission**

**For Reviewers**

- **Guide for Reviewers**
- **Reviewers Login**

**Subscription**

Agricultural Economics (Zemědělská ekonomika)

Least developed countries – the case of Burundi

Jeníček V., Grofová Š

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[ [fulltext](#) ]

The contribution is focused on the food problem in the least developed countries, on the chosen areas where the overall situation is the most problematic. It deals with Burundi, belonging to the low income food deficit countries with one of the world's lowest rates of the gross domestic

product per capita. The paper defines the food security situation in the global connection, representing a wide complex of economic, social, demographic, technologic and political aspects of production, distribution, shift and consumption of foodstuffs. The inter-related causes of food insecurity are mainly the long lasting civil wars, a limited access to land, environmental degradation, climatic shocks and the rapid population growth resulting from the high birth rates and the return of refugees. Subsistence crops and livestock products represent the main source of income for most households. The performance of these subsectors is very low, and generates chronic food deficits. Agriculture is thus the key sector in the predominantly rural economies and there is still a significant room for growth, diversification, increasing productivity and improving competitiveness.

**Keywords:**

agriculture, conflict, economic growth, food security, poverty

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[ [fulltext](#) ]