

Agrofilm 2021 awarded filmmakers

This year's International Film Festival Agrofilm 2021 has once again passed the test of determination, endurance, courage and capabilities of the organizing team to provide a full-featured festival week even during the pandemic's third wave. Once again, films earned awards and forced us to think.

Audiences could enjoy from the comfort of their homes almost all films submitted to the 37th Agrofilm, which made for a total of 44 hours of online screening. They could also watch a livestream of the discussion forum on the topic of Land Adjustments in Practice and submit their questions. This particular event is an integral part of the festival and always takes place on Wednesday at NPPC in Lužianky.

Partners of the festival took measures during the traditional screenings of the films to provide safe environment for audiences to enjoy the films either on the academic soil of multiple universities in Nitra, Bratislava, Zvolen and Košice or at the Museum of TANAP, at NPPC in Bratislava and in a synagogue in Brezno. They offered a total of 68 hours of interesting documentaries from the sphere of agriculture, food production, sustainable use of natural resources as well as research and innovation.

For the second time, the pandemic prevented a closing and award ceremony in Nitra and the authors of the 14 awarded films will receive their awards by mail. Among the awarded films, German and Slovak productions dominated this year.

AWARDED FILMS

*The **Grand Agrofilm Award** was awarded to the German film produced by the BBC Studios, **Extinction. The Facts**, which reveals the astonishing results of scientific research from 450 prominent scientists. We are in the middle of a global mass extinction event affecting millions of plant and animal species. How can we slow down this effect of evolution accelerated a thousand times? What does it mean for humanity? These questions, but also answers, were presented by the director, Charlotte Lathane, who received an award as well as a symbolic financial contribution of 2000 EUR towards her future creative endeavours.*

*Film produced for RTVS by directors Ľubomír Viluda and Ivan Kršiak, **The Shepherd's Path**, received the **Award of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic**. The viewer is guided through the documentary by people who dedicated their lives not only to sheep breeding, but to maintenance of traditions of Slovak chalets and who lived in harmony with nature. Charms, magic and rituals helped them protect themselves and their herd from acts of nature and evil forces.*

*Polish coproduction film **Stolen Fish** has already been awarded multiple international awards and at Agrofilm, it deservedly received the **Award of the President of Agrofilm**. It shows that as a result of the economic activities of a Chinese fishing corporation, the sea ecosystem is exhausted and the inhabitants of the smallest African country, Gambia, are losing their food source. As the first film focused on fishmeal factories in this country, it offers a unique view of the causes behind migration of people and the role of women in the new economic conditions.*

Since avocado gained the status of “vegan meat” and most recently also “superfood”, its growing expanded globally. In Europe, the climatically most appropriate country for its production is Portugal. The inhabitants and small farmers, however, do not want to accept this trend, because it is becoming apparent that growing of the “thirsty” avocado has negatively contributed to the long-term lack of water. Film *Thirsty avocados - New monocultures in Portugal's south* received the *Award of the Mayor of the City of Nitra*.

A successful project, which helped Indian farmers in the sub-Himalayan lowlands to overcome the unfavourable situation and manage successfully with the help of modern technology, was the inspiration behind the Indian film *Resonating Resilience*. The international jury awarded it the *FAO Award*. Strategic research, building of capacities, showcases of procedures resistant against climate change, solutions for agriculture’s vulnerability to climatic change and increased funding, that is the road to success.

If you were unable to watch during the week, the festival films can still be enjoyed on Saturday October 9th in at the multiplex Mlyny Cinemas in SC Mlyny in Nitra from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The most interesting moments of Agrofilm 2021 will be discussed also in a 40-minute special of the show *Farmer’s Revue*. You can watch it on the second channel of RTVS on Saturday October 9th 2021 at 1:30 p.m. or reprised on Sunday October 10th at 8:35 a.m. Afterwards, it will be available in the video archive at www.rtvsk.sk.

Thank you for your continuing support. We are already looking forward to Agrofilm 2022.

The list of Award –Winning Films Agrofilm 2021

	Cat. No.	Title	Country	Award proposals
1	DE 8	Extinction. The Facts	Germany	Grand Agrofilm Award
2	DE 13	Roots – The marvel under the earth	Germany	Award of the Rector of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra
3	SK 18	The Shepherd's path	Slovakia	Award of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
4	HU 1	Wild forests, wild crags - In search of the Phantom	Hungary	Directing Award
5	PL 1/ UK/ES	Stolen Fish	Poland, United Kingdom, Spain	Award of the President of Agrofilm
6	DE 5	Apple Scab – Venturia inaequalis	Germany	Agrofilm Jury Award
7	CZ 6	Don't give up - Who will pay the bill	Czechia	Award of the President of the Nitra Self-governing Region
8	SK 1	Is gamekeeping still important?	Slovakia	Award of the Rector of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra
9	DE 11	Re: Thirsty avocados - New monocultures in Portugal's south	Germany	Award of the Mayor of the City of Nitra
10	SK 24	Multisoil - chance for land	Slovakia	Award of the Association of Agricultural Cooperatives and Trade Companies of the Slovak Republic
11	IN 1	Resonating Resilience	India	FAO Award
12	SK 9	Lost meadows: an unlikely story of nature’s revival	Slovakia	Award of the Slovak Agriculture and Food Chamber for the Slovak Film
13	DE 10	planet e.: The Billion Tree Plan - New Forests for More Climate Protection?	Germany	Award of the Rector of the Technical University in Zvolen
14	SK 29	My Life on a Farm	Slovakia	Award of the RTVS for promotional film