



CONTENTS

PREFACE	7
1 INTRODUCTION.....	7
2 EU AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP).....	8
2.1 Introduction to CAP.....	8
2.2 Agri-environmental principles in CAP	17
3 EU ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY	22
3.1 History of environmental policy in EU	22
3.2 Environmental law.....	27
3.3 EU Institutions acting in environmental protection.....	32
3.4 Environmental law in Slovakia.....	35
4 WHAT IS SOIL?.....	46
4.1 Definitions of Soil	46
4.2 Functions of Soil.....	48
4.3 Concept of Ecosystem Services.....	52
4.4 Soil Classification.....	53
4.5 Soil Mapping	56
4.6 Soil Information Systems in Slovakia	58
5 SOIL TYPES	61
6 SOIL EVALUATION.....	74
6.1 Theoretical Principles of Evaluation of Soil Quality and Production Capability.....	74
6.2 Evaluation of Soil Production Potential	76
6.3 Typological Production Categories of Agricultural Soils in Slovakia	83
6.4 Evaluation of Soil Bioenergetic Potential	86
6.5 Soil Productivity Indexes.....	87
6.6 Indexes of Non-Commodity Soil Functions	88

6.7	Indicators of State and Development of Soils in Slovakia	88
7	SOILS IN SLOVAKIA AND IN THE EU IN NUMBERS	96
8	THREATS TO SOIL	105
8.1	Loss by Soil Sealing	105
8.2	Physical Soil Degradation	114
8.2.1	Soil Erosion	114
8.2.2	Pedocompaction	121
8.2.3	Soil Degradation by Linear Underground Structures.....	125
8.3	Chemical Soil Degradation.....	125
8.3.1	Soil Acidification and Alkalisation	125
8.3.2	Soil Salinization	127
8.3.3	Pollution of Soil	128
8.3.4	Pollution by Soil.....	135
8.4	Biological soil degradation.....	138
8.4.1	Decrease in Amount and Activities of Soil Organisms.....	138
8.4.2	Increased Mineralization of Soil Organic Matter.....	139
8.5	Agricultural Soil Degradation	144
8.5.1	Soil Sealing due to Agricultural Construction Activities.....	144
8.5.2	Intentional Soil Water Regime Changes	144
8.5.3	Destruction of Physical Soil Structure	146
8.5.4	Soil Degradation due to Agricultural Production Techniques	146
8.5.5	Use of agrochemicals in Agriculture	146
8.5.6	Allelopathy in Soil	150
8.5.7	Soil Fatigue	151
8.6	Overall Evaluation of Soil Degradation in Slovakia	151
8.7	System Measures against Soil Degradation.....	154

9 SOIL AND GLOBAL WORLD PROBLEMS	157
9.1 Soil Sealing and Other Types of Soil Loss	157
9.2 Global Problems of Soil Degradation.....	158
9.3 Food Security.....	159
9.4 Disruption of Nitrogen Cycle	160
9.4.1 Impact on Air Quality	160
9.4.2 Impact on Water Resources Quality	161
9.4.3 Impact on Plant Production Quality.....	162
9.4.4 Impact on Human Health	163
9.5 Disruption of Carbon Cycle.....	163
9.6 Climate Change	168
9.7 Ozone Layer Depletion.....	171
9.8 Desertification and Drought	172
9.9 Soil Fighting against Water and for Water	176
10 THE OWNERSHIP AND THE RIGHT OF USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN SLOVAKIA.....	179
10.1 Sources of the land law in Slovakia.....	181
10.2 Ownership relations to agricultural land	183
10.3 The price of the agricultural land	195
10.4 The importance of land policy	197
11 LAND PROTECTION IN THE EU AND SLOVAK REPUBLIC.....	199
11.1 Land protection in the EU	199
11.2 Land protection in Slovak republic	201
12 REFERENCES.....	205