

Abstract (in english):

Modern agriculture faces soil erosion as one of its problems in the Czech Republic. Soil conservation practices are implemented to prevent erosion. This thesis reports on perception of the soil conservation practices by farmers themselves. Hypothesis of the research is based on declaration of organic farming in the Czech Republic: to specifically protect natural sources. Main research question is: Is there a difference in perception of soil conservation practices between certified organic farmers and farmers using conventional methods? As a concept to examine perception, this thesis uses the theory of planned behavior developed by Icek Ajzen.

Results show that farmers' attitudes towards soil conservation practices in general are negative. Their attitudes can be explained by intermingling beliefs about erosion, the agriculture subsidy system and own soil quality. Specific practices are evaluated by other than anti-erosion effects. The farmers do not perceive social pressure from their peers to adopt soil conservation practices and their perceived control over adoption of a practice is low. Evaluating the level of difficulty of specific practices, smaller farmers feel substantial difficulties regarding financial issues. The results do not indicate a difference in perception of soil conservation practices between organic farmers and conventional farmers.

Keywords: farmers, theory of planned behavior, attitude, soil erosion, soil conservation practice, qualitative research