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# Plants and people – a shared history, a shared future. A new perspective

*“The world is a garden, and we are all its gardeners”*

Professor Daniel Janzen, University of Pennsylvania, 1965

We are pleased to present the second issue of *Kosmos*, a continuation of the previous volume devoted to the relationship between humans and the world of plants, in which we sought to show our readers that the fate of people and plants is inseparably intertwined. This issue develops that narrative further, highlighting new areas of research and the current challenges we face as a global community.

Plants have always formed the foundation of human life: they create the atmosphere we breathe, stabilize the climate, and provide food, medicines, raw materials, and aesthetic inspiration. And yet we still easily succumb to “plant blindness” – a cultural tendency to overlook the organisms that sustain the biosphere. Mean-

while, protecting plants and understanding their diversity are becoming key conditions for the survival of future generations.

In the previous issue, we drew attention to the importance of biotechnology, the search for new crop species, and the use of phenomics, big data tools, and modern genome-editing methods in building more resilient and sustainable food systems. In this volume, we aim to broaden that perspective. The articles collected here reveal the multidimensional nature of plant research – combining biotechnology, ecology, medicine, food science, and the humanities. Together, they tell the story of how profoundly we are connected with plants and how much depends on our responsibility for their future.

We hope that this second issue of “**Plants and people – a shared history, a shared future**” will serve as a valuable complement to the first, while also encouraging further reflection. The world of plants is not merely the backdrop of our existence, but a partner upon whom the future of our civilization depends. And if, as the motto suggests, “the world is a garden,” we must ask ourselves what kind of gardeners we aspire to be.

As the editor responsible for this issue of *Kosmos*, I would like to thank all the Authors whose articles form part of it, as well as the Reviewers for their valuable assessments. I also wish to thank the Editorial Team of the journal, who organized the entire publishing process, for their excellent cooperation. Our gratitude goes to the former Editor-in-Chief, Professor Krystyna Skwarło-Sońta, to the current Editor-in-Chief, Professor Patrycja Golińska, and to the Editorial Secretary, Professor Joanna Wyszkowska. Without their support and continuous assistance, this issue of *Kosmos* would not have flourished as it has!