

**VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY**  
**AGRICULTURE ACADEMY**

**Rural Development 2019**

**Research and Innovation for Bioeconomy**

*Proceedings of the 9<sup>th</sup> international scientific conference*

26–28 September, 2019



Kaunas, 2019

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT 2019:  
Research and Innovation for Bioeconomy

Edited by prof. Asta Raupelienė

Conference venue  
Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy  
Akademija, Kaunas distr. Lithuania

All papers published in the Proceedings of the International Scientific conference “Rural Development 2019: Research and Innovation for Bioeconomy” have been peer reviewed by two experts in the field.

Conference website: <http://www.ruraldevelopment.lt>  
Conference Proceedings on-line: <https://ejournals.vdu.lt/index.php/rd/about>

The journal is indexed by the international databases: EBSCO, DOAJ, Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (until 2017) .

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## FOREWORD

We are pleased to present the Proceedings of the 9th International Scientific Conference “Rural Development 2019: Research and Innovation for Bioeconomy”. The Conference took place in Academia, Kaunas district, Lithuania at the Vytautas Magnus University, 26–28 September, 2019.

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference “Rural Development 2019” was the most effective bi-annual platform for the interdisciplinary scientific discussions and the presentations of new ideas for Sustainable Rural Development in the context of research and innovation for Bioeconomy. The Conference brings together scientists, practitioners, policy makers and actors from private sector around the world to share their experience helping countries to provide their citizens with a more competitive economy, more and better jobs and a better quality of life.

The topic of the Conference has allowed for the exploration of different aspects of four main areas:

- Agro-innovations and Food Technologies
- Biosystems Engineering and Environment Integrity
- Multifunctional Approach for Sustainable Use of Bio-Resources
- Social Innovations for Rural Development

The topic “Research and Innovation for Bioeconomy” chosen for the 9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference sparked strong interest among the professional and scientific community and elicited great response to the call for papers. The Proceedings include 86 peer-reviewed papers and contributions from 283 authors. In total we received 106 submissions for the Conference. A selection of papers are available in this volume. The majority of the contributed papers are included as are selected papers from the discussions sessions and have been peer reviewed by two experts.

We want to thank Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture, and Research Council of Lithuania for the generous financial support that made the Conference possible.

2019, December 28

Editors: prof. dr. Asta Raupelienė  
dr. Judita Černiauskiene

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