



NEWSLETTER

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EXPERIENCE OF THE VISIT TO LITHUANIA AND ESTONIA DURING THE AUTUMN OF 2022

BRITAE VISITS TO THE BALTIC STATES - LITHUANIA AND ESTONIA

The BRITAE members visited Lithuania and Estonia from the 10th to the 21st of October 2022 for two weeks training program. The program included the consortium meeting and a number of technical visits throughout Lithuania and Estonia. These two countries have been EU members since 1st

May 2004. The land area of Lithuania and Estonia is 65286 square kilometers and 45227 square kilometers respectively, and the capitals are Vilnius and Tallinn. During the technical visits, large-scale dairy farms, vegetable farms, a crop research institute, and several other important places were visited. Furthermore, participants gained insight into how these farms manage their operations and use cutting-edge agricultural technology. Along the traveled routes, large farmlands, grasslands, and forests could be seen. Although the land area of Lithuania is quite similar to Sri Lanka, the population of Lithuania is about one-tenth of the population of Sri Lanka there for it is possible to having this much of large farms in Lithuania compared to Sri Lanka. The dairy farms visited in Lithuania provided new dairy industry experience, including farm management, as well as the chance to discuss the industry with farm owners or managers. The technologies used for harvesting beetroot by large machines in one of the largest vegetable farms visited in Lithuania. A major point identified during these visits was that the farmers are rich and smart. Furthermore, we were able to visit the Estonian crop research institute and share knowledge and experiences with researchers in plant breeding crop protection and germplasm conservation. Additionally, a microgreen farm was visited, and it was a recent advance in agriculture and added the newest experience for us. Overall, these visits were incredibly informative and gave a much better understanding of the latest advances in agricultural technology.

In addition to those technical field visits, we also took part in a number of technical sessions, excursions at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (Vilnius Tech), Lithuania and Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), Estonia,

cultural excursions at Vilnius Old Town and Tallinn Old Town. Those technical sessions provided an opportunity to share knowledge and experience with foreign academics as well as agriculture stakeholders. The cultural excursions broadened our understanding of the history and culture in Lithuania and Estonia as well as created wonderful memories. Finally, this visit provided an excellent opportunity to experience the agriculture sector in Europe and share knowledge and experience.



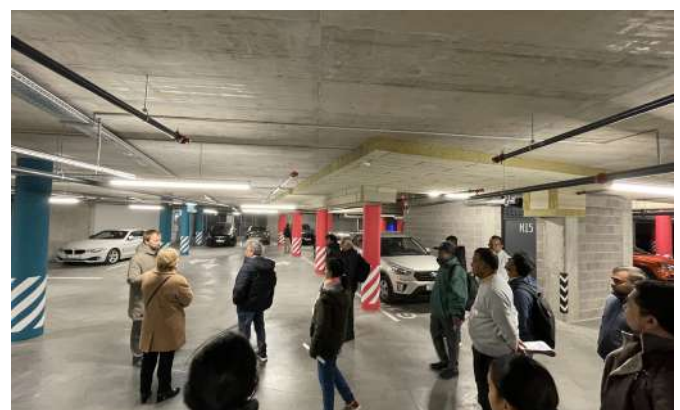
innovative farms at Šakių Rajono



Suvalkijos Daržovės, ŽŪK



Griškabūdžio ŽŪB



Naujasis Skansenas Project



Compiled by
University of Colombo

BRITAE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS VISIT VILNIUS TECH ON 10-14 OCTOBER 2022

Co-funded by the
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of the European Union



VOLUME 5
ISSUE 5
FEBRUARY 2023

The 6th International Workshop on Building Agro-ecosystems Resilience in Asia was conducted as part of the capacity-building activities of the BRITAE project. The project aims to develop joint curricular modules on building resilience in tropical agro-ecosystems in Sri Lankan universities in order to increase their capacity to continually modernise, enhance the quality and relevance to global market needs of the education offered to students, and ensure international cooperation. A 5-day training programme was organised by Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (Vilnius Tech). The event consisted of seminars, activities and technical visits to agricultural sites in Lithuania. Over the course of events, scientists and educators from Sri Lanka, Estonia, the UK and Lithuania were able to understand the latest agricultural methods, observe good practices, and take advantage of knowledge transfer opportunities.

During the trip to Padovinio ŽŪB on 10 October, the participants were introduced to the agricultural company's activities and achievements. The next day, workshop participants visited UAB Raseinių Žuvininkystė and had a chance to see the largest fish breeding ponds in Lithuania. The participants made two stops on 12 October - at Šakių Rajono Griškabūdžio ŽŪB and Suvalkijos Daržovės ŽŪK, where several technological innovations in agriculture were demonstrated. On 13 October, meetings and discussions were held at the Vilnius Tech LinkMenu Factory with Jonas Sviderskis, director of the Lithuanian Association of Agricultural Companies, and Jonas Pupius, adviser for the National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture. Professor Artūras Kaklauskas introduced the seminar participants to the latest global technologies in the field of agriculture, such as smart agriculture, AI, IoT, Society 5.0, big data analytics, blockchain, digital twins, robotics and drones. Later, a presentation was given to the

participants about the activities of the LinkMenu Factory, followed by a tour. On 14 October, the project participants were given a tour of Naujasis Skansenas, a newly built project in Vilnius. The participants were introduced to the latest solutions for building sustainable residential buildings.



Trip to Padovinio ŽŪB, an agricultural company in Marijampolė District, 10 October 2022



Trip to UAB Raseinių Žuvininkystė, 11 October 2022



*Trip to one of the innovative farms at Šakių Rajono
Griškabūdžio ŽŪB*



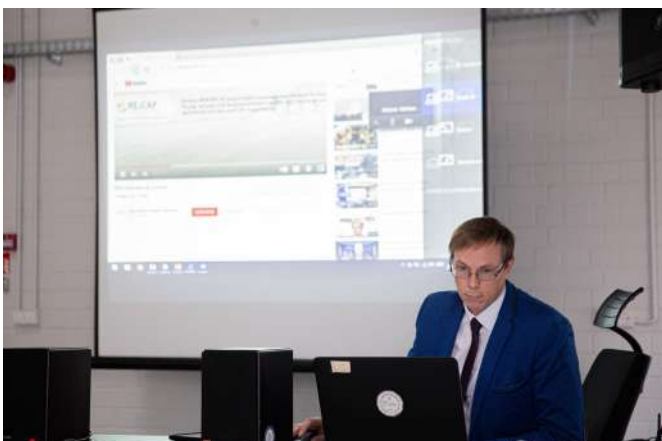
*Getting acquainted with the activities of Suvalkijos
Daržovės, ŽŪK*



*Meeting of participants at the LinkMenu Factory,
13 October 2022*



*Professor Artūras Kaklauskas's lecture "Agriculture
5.0: smart agriculture, AI, IoT, Society 5.0, big
data analytics, blockchain, digital twins, robotics,
drones", 13 October 2022*



*Jonas Pupius's presentation to seminar
participants "Application of modern technologies
in National Paying Agency activities",
13 October 2022*



*Tour to the Naujasis Skansenas project,
14 October 2022*

Compiled by
Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania.

BRITAE visit to Estonia

It was a pleasure to welcome the BRITAE project team to Estonia as part of a visit to the Baltic States for technical visits, consortium meetings and international workshops from the 10th - 21st October 2022. Following a week of activities in Lithuania, delegates from the BRITAE partner universities of Sri Lanka, UK and Lithuania came to Estonia to engage in workshops relevant to the BRITAE project and to visit state-of-the-art agricultural enterprises and research facilities with opportunities to discuss and network with practitioners and researchers. In addition, delegates were introduced to Estonia's cultural heritage and context through a number of cultural excursions.

The visit included two days of "classroom" activities in Tallinn followed by two days of field trips to locations outside of Tallinn and a final day for networking and individual activities.

Day 1 (17th October)

The first workshop focused on online learning platforms, digital learning resources, online coursework and assessment with presentations from TalTech specialists followed by facilitated group discussions.



In the evening, delegates participated in a cultural excursion of Tallinn Old Town with the theme: "500 years back in time" including a traditional medieval dinner.



Workshop - online learning platforms, digital learning resources, online coursework and assessment.



Cultural excursion - 500 years back in time.

Day 2 (18th October)

Activities on day 2 were hosted on the main TalTech campus in Tallinn. A guided tour of the TalTech Innovation Centre "Mektory" was followed by "sandpit" discussions around future project proposals aimed at sustaining the BRITAE network and principles beyond the current grant funding period. The project team then had the honour of being joined virtually by Eugenio Delfino - Project Advisor of the Erasmus+ program - for a general discussion about the BRITAE project.

In the afternoon, the project team attended the public defense of a doctoral dissertation entitled "Readiness Assessment for BIM- based Building Permits" by PhD candidate Kaleem Ullah.

Day 3 (19th October)

The BRITAE project team made a technical visit to the Estonian Crop Research Institute (ETKI) in Jõgeva. Delegates were greeted by Ilmar Tamm, Head of the Jõgeva Plant Breeding Department, who gave an overview of ETKI's activities and research projects. Guided tours of ETKI's facilities for Plant Biotechnology, Plant Protection, Cereals Breeding and its Gene Bank followed. A cultural visit to the Estonian National Museum in Tartu took place in the afternoon with dinner in Tartu before returning to Tallinn in the late evening.



*Technical visit - Estonian Crop Research Institute
in Jõgeva*

Day 4 (20th October)

Field visits on the fourth day were to a smart agriculture start-up: Rohefarm - an indoor farm in Viimsi that uses aeroponics technology to grow microgreens - and then to the Moe Distillery and Museum. The day was concluded with a late lunch and cultural tour at Vihula Manor before returning to Tallinn.



Cultural visit - Estonian National Museum in Tartu





Technical visits - Rohefarm and Moe distillery



Cultural excursion - Vihula Manor

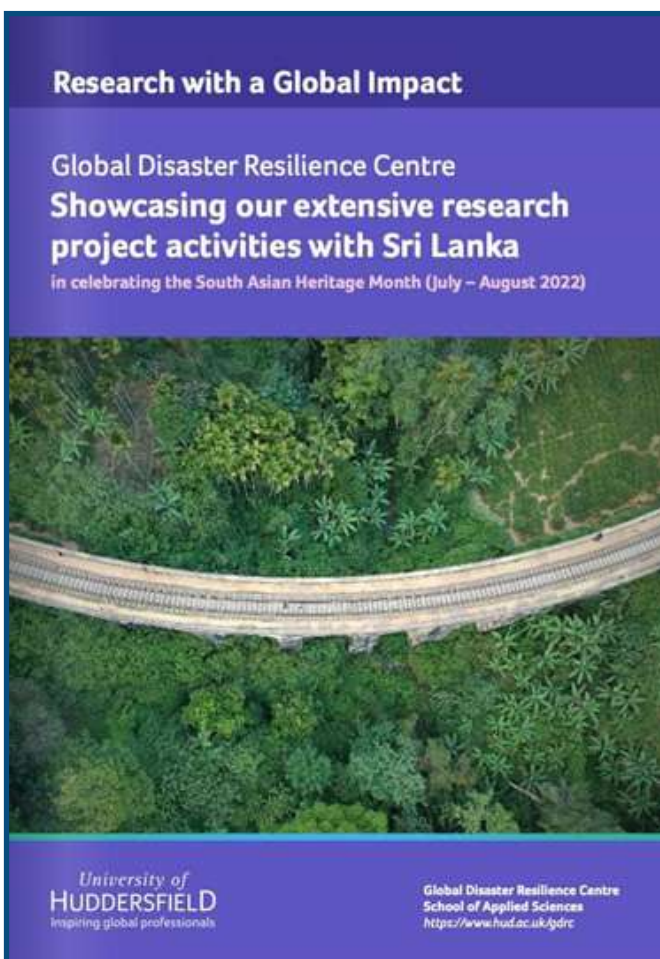
Day 5 (21st October)

The final day of the Estonian visit was set aside for individual networking, small group meetings and travel back from Estonia.

Compiled by
Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia.

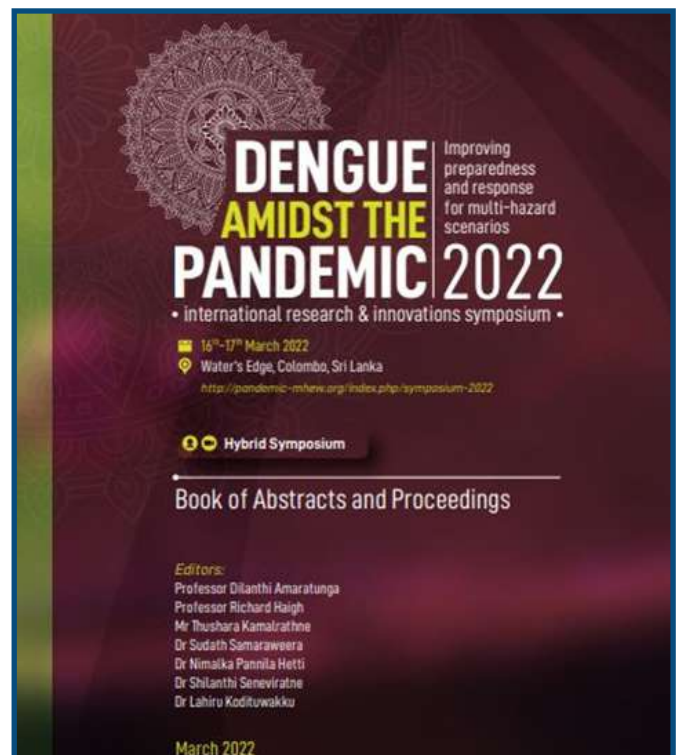
COMMEMORATION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH - UNITED KINGDOM

The Global Disaster Resilience Centre (GDRC) of the University of Huddersfield joined with the International office of the University to celebrate the South Asian Heritage month on July-August, 2022. South Asian Heritage Month is an awareness month that runs from 18 July to 17 August every year. Its aim was to raise the profile of British South Asian heritage and history in the UK through education, arts, culture and commemoration. The ultimate goal is to support people to better understand the diversity of present-day Britain and improve social cohesion across the country. GDRC was able to conduct an exhibition to highlight the recent initiatives with Sri Lanka including 38 posters of the research projects with Sri Lanka along with 12 ongoing research project posters.



CONTRIBUTION TO THE DENGUE AMIDST THE PANDEMIC 2022 - INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM

Prof Dilanthi Amaratunga and Prof Richard Haigh initiated the Dengue Amidst the Pandemic 2022 International Research and Innovations Symposium together with the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka. The event was held on 16-17 March 2022 at Waters Edge, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event consisted of 11 pre and post congress sessions, 7 plenary sessions and networking events. A total of selected 36 oral presentations and 50 poster presentations involving over 150 scientists and professionals took part in the conference, in addition to the most insightful plenary sessions held alongside. Furthermore, 3 keynote and guest speakers shared their insights stimulating the invaluable discussions and debate around the conference theme. A book of abstracts was published out of the abstracts presented at the event.





CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNDRR GLOBAL MEETING

Prof. Dilanthi Amaratunga was invited to represent the E-STAG (EU Arm of the STAG) and to be a panelist for the 2nd UNDRR global meeting of R-STAGs held in November, 2022. She was able to share her thoughts as a panelist in the session on understanding risk. Action areas included: 1) Understand risk creation and perpetuation in the contemporary risk landscape: systematic, cascading and complex risks; and 2) Address inequalities, injustices, marginalization and vulnerabilities. Recognizing the importance of research, scientific and technical information for disaster risk reduction, UNDRR established Scientific and Technical Advisory groups (STAG), which provides technical advice and support in the formulation and implementation of activities carried out by the disaster risk reduction community.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD AND UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE CONDUCTED THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON BRITAE PROJECT

The 5th International Workshop on Building Agro-ecosystems Resilience in Asia was conducted as

part of the capacity-building activity of the project BRITAE. The project aims to develop a joint curricular module on building resilience in tropical agro-ecosystems in Sri Lankan Universities to increase their capacity to continually modernise, enhance the quality and relevance of education of students to the global market needs, and ensure international cooperation.

A nine-day training programme was organised by the University of Huddersfield (HUD) and the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) in the UK. The event consisted of several guest lectures, dissemination activities, and technical visits to some identified agricultural sites in the UK. During the visit to the UK, the Sri Lankan scientists and educators were able to understand the state-of-the-art approaches in agriculture with a view to observing good practices and opportunities for knowledge transfer.





Compiled by
University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom.