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4th CASEE Conference

Food and Biomass
Production - Basis for
a Sustainable Rural
Development

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4th CASEE Conference

Food and Biomass Production - Basis for a Sustainable Rural Development

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Zagreb, Croatia

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University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture, Zagreb, Croatia

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Forestry, Zagreb, Croatia

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Editorial Note

The CASEE Network, funded in 2010, is aimed to support the development and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube region by strengthening research, education and University development within the region. In this context, the annual CASEE conferences bring together Central and South Eastern European Higher Education institutions relating to the Life Science disciplines.

Rural areas in Europe and specifically the Danube region are more and more under pressure. The rural areas urgently need economic chances for development. One of the opportunities could be the implementation of the bio-based economy. Driven by scientific and educational challenges, we aimed at discussing the potentials and options of biomass and food production in the Danube region, seeking for new concepts and technologies, knowing that agricultural intensification alone cannot be the solution. Preserving soil and water resources and their sustainable use is one of the great challenges when increasing biomass production.

The 4th Conference “Food and Biomass Production – Basis for a Sustainable Rural Development” was held in Zagreb at the University of Zagreb, organized by Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Forestry, Croatia, 1-3 July 2013. It was a great pleasure to host our dear colleagues and friends in the occasion of Croatia’s entry into the European Union and hereby we give thanks for their support again. The conference program consisted of four main workshops focused on the issues of soil protection and the Danube perspectives, food and biomass production as a challenge and chance for rural development, agriculture, water use and protection in the Danube region, and last but not least, education.

As much as 130 participants from 11 countries attended the conference and 64 lectures were presented. The main idea of the network is to develop contacts among young scientists, and thereby spread knowledge, experience and friendliness within the region.

Organizing and Scientific committees wish to express cordial gratitude to everyone that participated in the program with oral or poster presentations. Our sincere gratitude is expressed to the reviewers for time and effort devoted in the manuscripts that are published in this special issue of *Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus*.

Finally, special thanks must go to all members of the CASEE team for their enthusiasm and support of the network activities, and particularly to Martin Gerzabek, the president of the CASEE Network for his engagement and support.

Davor ROMIĆ
Guest editor and Chairman of Organizing Committee

Milan MESIĆ
Guest editor and Chairman of Scientific Committee

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