

CHRONICLE

A life dedicated to the science of agronomy



Leonas Kadžiulis (born on June 27, 1926 in Skapiškis province, Rokiškis district) is a graduate of the Lithuanian Academy of Agriculture's Department of Agronomy. Upon graduation with a diploma of a scientific agronomist in 1950, he started working at the Dotnuva Experimental Station as a senior research worker. During the period 1952–1955, he did a PhD study course at the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Agriculture and Soil. In 1955, he defended a doctoral (then candidate of agricultural sciences) thesis entitled "Choice of more suitable mixtures of perennial grasses for moderately heavy soils of the Lithuanian SSR".

In 1956, after reorganisation of agricultural research institutions and establishment of the Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture in Dotnuva, L. Kadžiulis commenced his long-term grassland research. Based on his scientific research findings, cultivated pastures were established in Lithuania. From 1962 to 1990, L. Kadžiulis headed the Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture's Department of Grasslands and Pastures (since 1970 – Department of Grassland Husbandry).

Grassland research conducted by prof. L. Kadžiulis and his disciples has contributed substantially to the theory and practice of grassland science. With his scientific research the professor validated grassland cultivation according to the genetic types of Lithuanian soils and focused grassland research on ecologically clean, environment-friendly, balanced cattle forage.

In 1972, the vast research material accumulated by the professor was summarised in the doctor habilitatus thesis "Fundamentals of perennial grasses cultivation and use as forage". A monograph based on this work "Cultivation of perennial grasses for forage" was published in the same year, for which the author was given a State Award in 1974. In 1977, the monograph was published in Russian. In 1976, prof. L. Kadžiulis (with co-authors) received the USSR State Science Award for the work "Development and introduction of advanced technology for land amelioration and intensive use for cultivated grasslands and pastures".

Research results of prof. L. Kadžiulis have been published in 7 monographs, over 200 scientific articles, some of them in significant foreign publications. He has written 16 research reports. Much has been done to disseminate scientific knowledge to agricultural producers – brochures, scientific and popular articles in journals, periodical press and scientific recommendations. Prof. L. Kadžiulis has made verbal presentations in many international events – in the World Grassland Congresses, European Grassland Conferences – in Finland (1966, 1992), Australia (1970), Switzerland (1971 and 2004), Sweden (1973), Germany (1977 and 2001), Great Britain (1982), Slovakia (1990), Denmark, Estonia (2000), France (2002), participated in other important symposia in Portugal, USA, the Netherlands, Russia and former USSR republics. Since 1991, prof. L. Kadžiulis has been taking part in the World Lithuanian Symposia on Science and Creativity.

The professor has accomplished much in training and educating research workers – super-

vised 17 doctoral theses and was a member of doctoral committees.

The professor was a Lithuanian committee member of the international programme “Man and biosphere” and head of the project “Ecological anthropogenic effect on landscape”, participant in the international programme ECOSLIT, member of several scientific boards, head of the Board for Agricultural Science under the LR Ministry of Agriculture, member or chairperson of many committees.

Since the restoration of Lithuania’s Independence, prof. L. Kadžiulis has been actively involved in various professional and public activities. In 1992, L. Kadžiulis worked as Minister-without-Portfolio (for science and studies) of the Republic of Lithuania, in 1993 he was elected and twice re-elected chairperson of the Lithuanian Science Board and headed it until 1999. Until 2001, he was employed at the Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture as head researcher, and in 1998–2000 chairperson of the Institute Board. Prof. L. Kadžiulis is a man of merit in Lithuania’s agriculture and development of science. Especially much has been done with other researchers of our country in the reorganisation of science and studies system, drafting Science and Studies Law, development and assessment of various legal documents and regulations related to the national science and studies issues.

Professor took care to immortalise the memory of the former agronomists-deportees in Dotnuva. For his scientific activities, L. Kadžiulis has been awarded the Honorary Title of the Lithuanian Merited Science Activist (1976), pedagogical science title – professor (1976), elected a corresponding member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (1985). In 1998, for his merits to Lithuania’s science L. Kadžiulis was awarded the 5th degree Order of Grand Duke of Lithuania Gediminas.

After retirement, prof. L. Kadžiulis has not retreated from active scientific activities. He takes part in the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences’ activities, is a member of scientific editorial boards of “Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija” (Universal Lithuanian Encyclopedia) and “Žemės ūkio enciklopedija” (Encyclopedia of Agriculture), member of editorial boards of the journals “Žemdirbystė=Agriculture” and “Žemės ūkio mokslai=Agriculture Sciences”, board member of the Lithuanian Union of Scientists.

On the occasion of the anniversary, we wish the professor good health and success to him and his family in their further path of life.

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