



The Foreword

The Estonian University of Life Sciences has been leading the international agricultural forum Agroforum Mare Balticum for three years now. Our selected topics have been driven from the fact that agriculture and food production use a substantial share of natural resources: 70% of water and 40% of energy. To meet the demands of the growing population, food production must increase by at least 50% by 2050.

Our experience organising this conference has demonstrated that there is a pressing need to develop our actions further, to find solutions to the most pressing issues in the field of agriculture and food production both in the Baltic Sea region and among Eastern Partnership Countries. This is why we have prepared to launch a project together with the St. Petersburg State University of Economics, St Petersburg State Agrarian University, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Warsaw University of Life Sciences, focusing on improving cooperation between the Baltic Sea countries amongst universities, entrepreneurs and politicians to tackle the problems of the development of environmentally smart agriculture in the Baltic Sea region and beyond. Bringing together stakeholders from all levels enables us all to learn

from each other and focus on the most pressing issues in agriculture and related fields. We are glad that the Council of Baltic Sea States agrees with our goals and has decided to support our cause via their project support facility.

The long-term aim of our project is to increase resilience in Baltic Sea agriculture by the achievement of sustainable intensification via smart agricultural practices, thus it is also in accord with the Europe 2020 Strategy. Resilience in environmentally sustainable agriculture involves transformative changes in meeting the demands of food security, natural resource protection and development. It reduces vulnerability and promotes adaptive capacity by timely action and through application of best practices to reduce the risks farmers face.

We hope that our project will be mutually beneficial to all partners of BSRUN and we invite you all to collaborate and contribute.

Mait Klaassen
Rector of EMU