

Viability of small farms managed by young farmers under new "farm-to-fork" strategy (2020-1-CZ01-KA203-078495)



TADAS NURSERY GARDEN

Gardening thrives on a sense of community

Identification data:

Name: Tadas farm Location: Virbališkės, Kaunas district, 53459 Lithuania Farm size: 8 ha Year established: 2005 Production: Flower nursery, Tree nursery (fruit, decorative), landscaping Web/ Facebook / Twitter: https://www.facebook.com/tadoukis.lt/; https://tadoukis.lt

Tadas farm is a family business that gathers a team of professionals and sells seedlings of fruit trees, fruit bushes and ornamental plants both in the nursery garden and online. The farm also provides landscaping services, during which professional landscape designers prepare visualizations and perform landscaping works on the plot. Currently, the farm is also actively creating content on social networks, thus educating the gardeners' audience and remotely.

Both family members Tadas and Kristina Cvilikai work in the nursery garden. Tadas Cvilikas - farmer, founder of the nursery, owner. In 2016, he obtained a bachelor's degree in agronomy, and in 2018, he obtained a master's degree in ecology. Kristina Cvilikienė - farmer, nursery garden marketer, landscape design specialist. She got Bachelor's degree in marketing in 2003; Bachelor's degree in business projects in 2006; In 2019, she obtained a professional bachelor's degree in engineering, majoring in landscape design.

Tadas farm is very easy to reach when traveling from Kaunas. The business is located on the main road to Šakiai. The farm area is 8 ha, the nursery occupies 3 ha, 5 ha are berry fields. Fruit trees, ornamental plants, fruits and berries are grown. The range of garden plants - colonial and narrow-leaved fruit trees is very wide: peaches, apricots, cherries, cherries, pears, apples, nectarines, plums. There is also a wide range of dwarf and medium-sized fruit trees and fruit bushes. The range of ornamental plants is also expanding. Landscaping services are provided. Designs, consults, prepares 3D visualizations. Carries out regular and seasonal maintenance of the plot. Provides individual consultations, prepares plant care recommendations. Performs plant pruning and shaping. During the season sells blackberry berries and juice, raspberries, blueberries. Creative workshops are organized, video consultations are provided.

Entrepreneurs since 2019 are active members of the Lithuanian Berry Growers 'Association and the Planters' Association. Participation in the above-mentioned associations helps to expand the knowledge in the field of product and activity innovations, expands the circle of relevant and potential partners. Participation in the activities of associations requires a time investment and a relatively small financial investment.

Entrepreneurs work very closely with clients, other nurseries, research institutions, and experts. The range is supplemented by plants from other farms, thus supporting them and expanding their awareness. The berries grown on the farm are delivered to local small shops, thus expanding their range. One of the most beautiful examples of partnership is friendship with schools, when children come to the farm and see how vegetables and fruits are grown. These are small educational projects that will be remembered by children for a long time.

The main advantages of the cooperation are increasing the awareness of Tadas farm and other farms, maintaining friendships, and exchanging goods. Collaborating with schools brings good emotions to both the staff and the children themselves.

The first steps in farming were at the grandparents homestead, and plant sales at fairs and markets. Tadas started his activity in 2005. In 2015, the nursery garden moved to Kaunas district, Virbališkės village. With the constant expansion of the range, there was a growing need to increase not only the sales area in the nursery garden, but also to move it to the online space. Since 2016, the plants are sold not only in a nursery garden, market or fair, but also in an online store. Therefore, the plants have become available to any customer in the Lithuanian region. Over the years, farmers have gained a lot of experience in how to pack the plants with high quality and deliver them safely to the customer.

Farmers participated in several support measures of the National Rural Development Program.

Tadas Farm is a small family business with a love for plants and a focus on customers. Works more sincerely, listens carefully, takes care of the plants more responsibly - that's why the nursery's fruit trees ensure a good harvest in the customers' garden. The farm has a <u>YouTube</u> video channel, which broadcasts video tutorials.

Tadas family sees the farm as a "different nursery garden" in the future. It will not be just a commercial space, as the nursery will also house creative, educational and play spaces.

Photos:

