



Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland 2014–2020

Measures available for farmers
promoting sustainable soil
and water management

Eija Hagelberg, Project Director

Baltic Sea Action Group

ENRD seminar 14th June 2018 Brussels



Agriculture in Finland



- Year 2016: 50 288 farms in Finland
- Average field area in 2014: 42,96 hectares
- Field area total: 2,2 million hectares
- Two Rural Development Programmes:

Mainland Finland

Åland Islands



Source: nationsonline.org

Goals for sustainable management of soil and water:

- Prevent erosion
- Water storage (soil as a sponge & wetlands)
- Effective drainage system
- Irrigation
- Enhance soil biodiversity
- Enhance soil structure
- Carbon sequestration





Measures available for soil and water management in Mainland Finland Rural Development Programme:

- ✓ M01 Knowledge transfer and information actions
- ✓ M02 Advisory services
- ✓ M04 Investments in physical asset
- ✓ M10.1 Agri-environment-climate commitments and contracts
- ✓ M11 Organic production
- ✓ M16 Cooperation

Knowledge transfer and information actions



Järki Pelto project field demonstration in Salo, SW Finland, August 2018. Photo Eija Hagelberg, BSAG



Advisory services as part of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020



- Advice offered over a wide range of subjects
 - **Cross-compliance conditions, greening payments, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, protection of water and soil, innovations, environment payments, maintaining agricultural land, organic production, plant protection and integrated control, welfare and health care of production animals, and issues related to environmental efficiency, including more efficient energy use and renewable energies**
 - 2016: 10417 farms

Peer to peer learning & group advisory
are the most effective ways to learn!

Photo Eija Hagelberg BSAG



Agricultural investment support



- **Livestock farming investments**
- **Arable farming investments (for instance sub drainage systems)**
- Product warehouses and investments that promote putting products in marketable condition
- **Investments that improve the status of the environment**
- Investments aiming to improve quality
- Investments in energy production on farms
- Feasibility studies



Non-productive investments

- **Wetland investments**

Farmers, registered associations and water management organisations

- **Restoration of traditional rural biotopes**



Gene bank conservation measures

- Conservation of local crop varieties
- Safety base collections of local crops
- Conservation of the genetic heritage of local breeds



Agri-environmental-climate commitments and contracts

Environment commitment

Parcel-specific measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporation of slurry into the soil - Recycling of nutrients and organic matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control of runoff waters - Environment management grasslands - Plant cover on arable land in winter - Use of organic cover for horticultural plants and seed potatoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity in arable land environments Alternative plant protection for horticultural plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of wetlands - Management of biodiversity in agricultural environments and landscape - Crane, goose and swan fields - Rearing of local breeds
	<p>Farm-specific measure; Balanced use of nutrients > precondition for selecting parcel-specific measures</p>			
<p>Baseline requirements for environment payments (no payments)</p>				
<p>Baseline (no payments): incl. cross-compliance conditions (=statutory management requirements, requirements of good agriculture and environment) and maintaining agricultural land</p>				

Environment contracts

Measures covered under greening payments are not eligible for environment payments

Elements of the environment payments system 1/2

- Environment commitment

An measure that concerns the entire farm:

- **Balanced use of nutrients, includes:**

- 5 year crop rotation plan
- Online exam on a-e-c payments
- Soil quality test
- Rules for fertilization

Parcel-specific measures:

- **Recycling of nutrients and organic matters**
- **Incorporation of slurry into the soil**
- **Control of runoff waters**
- **Environment management grasslands**
- **Plant cover on arable land in winter**
- **Use of organic cover for horticulture plants and seed potatoes**
- **Biodiversity in arable land environments**
- Alternative plant protection for horticulture plants



Photo Kaisa Riiko

Elements of the environment payments system 2/2

- Environment contract
 - **Management of wetlands**
 - Management of biodiversity in agricultural environment and landscape
 - Rearing of local breeds
 - Crane, goose and swan fields



Photo Eija Hagelberg BSAG



Progress at the end of 2017

- Target for field cover is 1,9M ha
 - 96 % of the budget is allocated.
- 86% of active farmers are involved in environment commitments
 - Area of commitment is over 90 % of active farmers field coverage



Photo Eija Hagelberg BSAG



Organic production

Changes in programming period 2014–2020

- Now a separate measure with commitments (previously a special support contract as part of an agri-environment support measure)
- National target: the share of organic production will be 20% of agricultural area by 2020 (2017: 11,4 % = 259 451 hectares)

Funding in programming period 2014–2020

- EU-co-financing
- EUR 326 million



Photo Eija Hagelberg BSAG

Focus on the ecological needs:

- Biological activity in soil
- Soil compaction fix and prevention
- Carbon sequestration
- Better targeting to prevent soil erosion
- Water storage in soils (make soils work as a sponge)

Tools:

Multi-beneficial measures (soil + water + biodiversity + carbon sequestration)

Better planning → Soil management plan, holistic planning, holistic management

More training and education to farmers

Sufficient incentives for farmers!



A field testing day (OSMO project) for the right air pressure in tractor wheels in order to prevent soil compaction. Photo Eija Hagelberg BSAG



Soil biodiversity indicators. Photo Sanna Söderlund BSAG



Spreading fiber sludge from pulp industry to the field for soil amendment purpose

Photo: Soilfood Oy

Thank you for your attention!



Tiina Malm; RDP Finland in general (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)
tiina.malm@mmm.fi

Anna Schulman; Agri-environmental measures (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)
anna.schulman@mmm.fi

Eija Hagelberg; Baltic Sea Action Group eija.hagelberg@bsag.fi
www.bsag.fi www.jarki.fi



Photo Eija Hagelberg BSAG