



Annual report 2016

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Conducted seminars

Seminar 490 - Nordic Agrifood Expertis

Time: 22 January

Place: Helsinki, Finland

Number of participants: 55

Seminar organisers: Jarkko Niemi Finland, Svein Sköien Norway, Magnus Halling Sweden, Magdy Mohamed Egypt, Mila Sell Finland, Oiva Niemeläinen Finland

Outcome

The seminar addressed the question how the Nordic agrifood expertise could contribute to the progress of a sustainable food production and food security in developing countries. The main objective was to establish connections between stakeholders within development cooperation activities in the agrifood area.



Seminar 489 Challenges for the new rurality in a changing world. 7th International Conference on localized Agri-Food Systems

Time: 8-10 May

Place: Stockholm, Sweden

Number of participants: 80

Seminar organisers: Paulina Rytkönen, Sweden, Ursula Hård, Sweden

Outcome

Challenges for the New Rurality in a Changing World highlighted four topics. The first topic referred to various aspects of the articulation of the New Rurality and its challenges and opportunities, with a specific focus on the Nordic countries, the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea, and the Eastern European Countries. The second topic highlighted aspects of territorial governance and localized agri-food systems in particular Europe, North and South America. The third topic focused on the impact of the market on localized agri-food systems, with a special focus on short food chains, public procurement and tourism. Finally questions related to the connection between localized agri-food systems and the environment were discussed.



Seminar 491 16th Nordic Herbage seed production

Time: 20-22 June

Place: Grimstad Norway

Number of participants: 48

Seminar organisers: Birte Boelt, Denmark, Gunilla Larsson, Sweden, Markku Niskanen, Finland and Lars T. Havstad, Norway. In addition, John Ingar Øverland, Trygve S. Aamlid and Elise K. Pedersen was involved in the practical organization of the seminar and field excursions in Grimstad and Vestfold.

Outcome

The objective of the seminar was to encourage communication between workers actively engaged in herbage seed production research and extension in the Nordic and Baltic countries. A total of 48 delegates from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Latvia and Estonia participated at the seminar.

The seminar programme included 21 oral and 7 poster presentations within the five sections: (1) Plant breeding / variety testing, (2) Plant protection, (3) New technology / knowledge sharing, (4) Useful and harmful insects in clover seed production and (5) Seed crop management. Abstracts and the full papers presented at the seminar can be downloaded at the NJFs homepage.

Included in the seminar programme were excursions to seed production research trials at NIBIO Landvik, Grimstad, and to practical seed producers of grasses and clovers in Vestfold, which is the main seed production county in Norway. In addition, social arrangement as seminar dinner at the seminar venue Strand hotel Fevik, Grimstad, and a boat trip along the coastline of Grimstad with the sail ship 'Solrik' was included in the programme.



Seminar 492 Advances and Innovations in Agricultural Engineering, 2nd NJF - Agromek-EurAgEng joint seminar

Time: 28-29 November

Place: Herning, Denmark

Number of participants: 50

Seminar organisers: The seminar was planned and arranged by an organizing committee consisting of Nils Bjugstad (NO) – chairman of workshop, IMT, NMBU. Snorri Sigurdsson (IS), secretary of workshop, SEGES P/S Denmark. Allan Pedersen (DK), CEO for Agromek & Danish Agroindustry (until 1th of November). Claus Sørensen (DK), Department of Engineering, Aarhus University. Ole Green (DK), CEO, Agro Intelligence. Eskil Nilsson (SE), advisor, Visavi God Lantmannased AB. Hannu Haapala (FI), CEO ProAgria South Ostrobothnia. Kestutis Navickas (LT), Institute for Energy and Biotechnology Engineering, Aleksandras Stulginskis University & Per Anders Hansson (SE), Department of Energy and Technology, SLU.

Outcome

The seminar was arranged in advance of the Agromek Fair at MCH conference center in Herning the 28th and 29th of November. The main objectives with this Joint seminar were to attract several participants to the seminar as well as to improve networking and cooperation with the agricultural engineering industry and highlight future innovation. A similar workshop was also ar-ranged in 2014 with great success.

Totally, around 50 delegates from Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Belgium, Latvia, Germany, USA and Nepal, participated at the workshop. There were two keynote speakers; David Ball from Bosch Deepfield Agricultural Robotics and Niels Dybro from John Deere, Moline Technology Innovation Center, Illinois, USA. Additionally we had 21 oral presentations and four posters, all within robotics, sensors, imaging, energy, tillage, innovation, management and systems, and/or precision farming. We also had a short demonstration of an agricultural field robot, Thorvald II and equipment for inspection of sprayers.

The last half day all the participants had the possibility to visit the Agromek Fair. The participants were offered to follow SIG (special interest groups) which were planned and announced in advance, in order to get better insight to selected topics and com-panies & news.

Abstracts are part of these proceedings and presentations (PDF) can be downloaded for free from NJF's home page: www.njf.nu.





Outlook 2017

NJF No.	Suggested seminars	Date and place
496	Animal welfare and longevity	April 20 – 21 Riga, Latvia
497	Nordic Conference on Reindeer Husbandry Research	May 29-31 Jukkasjärvi, Finland
495	4 th Organic Conference	June 19-21 Mikkeli, Finland
498	Working group Fur Animals	October 8-20 Oslo, Norway

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(see under National Section, Latvia, Chairperson)

Snorri Sigurdsson

(see under National Section, Iceland, Chairperson)

Secretary General

Anna Mårtensson

Sections

Animals

Responsibility area

To increase knowledge needed for the development of Nordic domestic animal production through joint efforts, and to develop biological and economical animal production systems in balance with the environment and that fulfil public expectations. Producers and users of this knowledge, as passive or active receivers or contributors are found at all points along the food chain. This food chain runs from producers via processing industry and dealers to consumers in cooperation with international networks. Among the important arguments for strengthening domestic animal production in the Nordic countries are securing the supply of safe and high quality food, minimising imported nutrients, and maintaining a sustainable rural economy. In addition, companion animals, equines and fur animals are included, as these represent important fields of animal production. The main research fields are livestock systems, environmental issues, breeding, genetics and biotechnology, animal nutrition and feeding, feed evaluation and quality, animal health and welfare, equine science, and fur animal and companion animal science. The focus of our seminars is to gain and share knowledge, experiences and best practices in these issues. Seminars provide an excellent opportunity to build up new networks and enhance collaboration between researchers, rural extension and education specialists, and other interested stakeholders.

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(see under National Board, Chairperson, Latvia)

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Economics

Responsibility area

The main objectives are to enhance the scientific knowledge, research cooperation, exchange of ideas and experiences among agricultural economists in the Nordic and Baltic countries in the fields of micro- and macroeconomics, food economics, resource and environmental economics and rural economic development. The section also tries to develop and strengthen our cooperation with other sections of NJF. The strategic focus areas are identification and resolution of unique economic problems related to agriculture and the food industry in all the Nordic and Baltic countries,

interdisciplinary cooperation with biological and social research teams and institutions, and cooperation with economists and economic research institutions in European and other countries.

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Environment

Responsibility area

The Environment section promotes development of sustainable cultivation systems, based on efficient use of plant nutrients and proper soil and water management. The section works on reducing the consumption of limited natural resources and counteracting environmental problems. The focus is on the environmental aspects of nutrients and water in the soil-plant-atmosphere system, the effect of fertilisation methods and animal manure application, tillage methods, drainage and irrigation on the leaching of nutrients and other contaminants, as well as gaseous emissions. The section also works with measures taken outside the field to minimise losses of nutrients and contaminants to surface waters, groundwater or the atmosphere. Maintaining the biodiversity of the cultivated landscape and promoting advanced landscape planning and architecture are other goals of the section.

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Plants**Responsibility area**

The section covers crop production, plant protection and soil science. Current tasks focus on food safety, food quality and cultivation techniques throughout the production chain. Improved cropping systems are required to satisfy the need for higher productivity and product quality with an associated low environmental impact. Special emphasis is given on aspects typical of the Nordic/Baltic countries.

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Weeds

Chairperson

Jukka Salonen

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Lars Olav Brandsæter, lars.olav.brandsaeter@NIBIO.no

Reindeer husbandry

Responsibility area

To promote research on reindeer husbandry related issues in the Nordic countries. A central aim is to accomplish networking between scientists from different disciplines, countries and research organisations, as well as between science and end-users (reindeer husbandry, management agencies and others) and thereby stimulate knowledge building and research cooperation. We also wish to integrate young researchers and students into reindeer husbandry-related research. Our vision is to contribute to maintaining reindeer husbandry as a resilient social-ecological system.

The establishment of the Reindeer Husbandry Section is a consequence of the closure of the previous contact forum, NOR (Nordic Council for Reindeer Husbandry Research; <http://site.uit.no/rangifer/>). As a well-established member organisation, NJF has the prospect of continuing the previous role of NOR as a contact forum and for e.g. arranging research seminars and initiating joint research projects. An independent section for reindeer husbandry research at NJF is justified by the multidisciplinary field, which covers a range of diverse themes within natural and social science and humanities.

The permanent Section Board will consist of at least one representative each for reindeer husbandry research in Norway, Sweden and Finland, and possibly representatives from Iceland and Greenland too. Board members may be appointed from other member countries if they are interested in joining; at least one representative from a reindeer herders' organisation; a representative from a relevant management agency; if available, a contact person representing reindeer husbandry related research in Russia.

Chairperson

Birgitta Åhman

(see under scientific committee, delegates)

Section board members

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Rolf Rødven / Øystein Ballari

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Päivi Soppela

University of Lapland,
Rovaniemi, Finland
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Technology**Responsibility area**

The area of activity aims to ensure a sustainable material cycle in agriculture, from field to fork and back to field, which includes high quality food as well as non-food products like fibre, energy, landscape values for recreation, sports and tourism. This production must be sustainably maintained in perspectives considering food safety and quality, animal welfare, working conditions, environmental impact, biodiversity, economy, society and development of living rural areas. The Technology section works from a Nordic perspective in an international world including interaction between agricultural research and farmers, industry and consumers.

Chairperson

Snorri Sigurdsson

(see under National Board, Iceland)

Vice chairperson

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(See under National Board, Sweden)

Alastair Ward

(See under National Board, Denmark)

Hannu Mikkola

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Oliver Sada

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Working groups**Horse husbandry**

Chairperson

Snorri Sigurdsson

(see under National Board, Iceland)

Bioenergy

Chairperson
John Morken E-mail: john.morken@umb.no

Robotic milking
Chairperson
Snorri Sigurdsson
(see under National Board, Iceland, Chairperson)

Farm buildings
Chairperson
Tapani Kivinen E-mail: tapani.kivinen@mtt.fi

NJF Honorary Members

DENMARK
A. Neimann-Sørensen, professor – 1999

ESTONIA
Heldur Peterson, professor – 2014

FINLAND
Eeva Tapio, professor – 1987
Erkki Oksanen, professor – 1987
Oiva Niemeläinen, professor - 2014

LATVIA
Peteriz Rivza, professor – 2014

LITUANIA
Algirdas Radzevicius, professor – 2014

NORWAY
Lars Sjøflot, professor – 2006
Svein Skøien, researcher – 2016

SWEDEN
Jan Rendel, professor – 2001
Tord Eriksson, agronomist – 2008
Roland Sigvald, associate professor – 2014