

Baltic Sea  
Regional Conference

# QUO VADIS, FARMLAND BIODIVERSITY?

November 14<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Estonia, Tartu



# PROGRAMME



Photo: Arne Ader

## ORGANISERS:

**Estonian Agricultural Research Centre**, Department of Agricultural Research and Monitoring  
**Ministry of Agriculture of Estonia**, Department of Rural Development



The European  
Agricultural Fund for Rural  
Development: Europe  
investing in rural areas

**CONFERENCE VENUE: Dorpat Conference Centre (DCC), <http://www.dorpat.ee/>**

*Address: Turu 2, TASKU, Tartu, 51013 (entrance by car from Soola street, on foot from Turu street)*

## PROGRAMME (01.11.2012)

DAY 1 (November 14, Wednesday)		
<b>SESSION A: Biodiversity and High Nature Value Farming – a state of play</b>		
Session explores approaches for defining and understanding farmland biodiversity (BD) in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR)		
Time	Location	Presentation / Activity
08:00 - 09:00	DCC	<b>Registration</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> floor of the adjoining Tasku Centre, in front of lobby
09:00 - 09:15	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Welcome</b> <i>Illar Lemetti, Deputy Secretary General, the Estonian Ministry of Agriculture</i> Video speech by the minister of the Estonian Ministry of Agriculture
09:15 - 09:35 (15+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>What is a farmland biodiversity?</b> An academic point of view <i>Irina Herzon, University of Helsinki, Finland</i> Scientific definition and interpretation of farmland biodiversity to set the framework for the conference
09:35 - 09:50 (10+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>What is a farmland biodiversity?</b> A farmer's point of view <i>Aarne Ots, A Farmer, Sürgavere Agricultural Co-operative, Estonia</i> Nature-friendly farmer and agronomist introduces his views on biodiversity and what kind of steps he has taken in his farm to increase biodiversity potential and why biodiversity is useful for him
09:50 – 10:00	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Reflection of presentations</b>
10:00 - 10:25 (20+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Farmland biodiversity in BSR and intervening factors</b> <i>Pille Koorberg, Agricultural Research Centre (ARC), Estonia</i> The general situation with farmland biodiversity in the Baltic Sea Region, main trends and signs of threats
10:25 - 10:50 (20+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>On-going and future Rural Development Programmes under the CAP: a challenge or an opportunity for high nature value farming and biodiversity protection</b> <i>Trees Robijns, BirdLife Europe</i> Which aspects from the CAP are the most important driving forces for BD protection? How different measures in RD should interact and what opportunities there are for improvement in the new policy? The state of play of the CAP reform, opportunities and challenges of CAP 2013+

Time	Location	Presentation / Activity
10:50 – 11:00	DCC, HALL BAER	Reflection of presentations
11:00 - 11:20 (20 min)	Lobby in front of hall BAER	Coffee break
11:20 –11:45 (20+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>View on the relationship between farming and biodiversity.</b> A case study of Sweden <i>David Ståhlberg, Swedish Board of Agriculture, Sweden</i> What are the biodiversity functions in farming and what has been done in Sweden to support them?
11:45 - 12:10 (20+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Farming and biodiversity - where are borders for the high nature values?</b> A case study of Estonia <i>Iiri Raa, ARC, Estonia</i> “High nature values” versus “nature values”? What and who is defining thresholds? What are the values to be preserved, how to identify and measure them? Does the secret for future farmland biodiversity lie in the large scale landscape heterogeneity or in small-scale specialized protection actions? Challenges for the identification of HNV farmland and its values a practical example from Estonia
12:10 - 12:30	DCC, HALL BAER	Reflection of presentations
12:30 - 13:15 (45 min)	Lobby in front of hall BAER	Lunch

### SESSION B: How to monitor, calculate and interpret farmland biodiversity (BD) - is five better than six?

This session explores the functions of monitoring of farmland BD and its role in assessment of policies. Main questions which this session is trying to find answers:

- **Why do we need and how can we use BD monitoring in policy making?** How much we can rely on and use assumptions and “common sense” without measuring the actual situation? Use and usefulness of “universal” farmland BD indicators
- **How to set targets for farmland BD in the policies and measure achievements?** Targets at EU, regional and national level? Where goes the line between the “species richness” and “species poverty”? How to find best composition of species for high BD? How to quantify which level of farmland BD is high enough to preserve biodiversity and ensure ecosystem services in the region?
- **Influence of diverse farmland landscapes in the region** - different species have different needs – how to decide which landscape features/species should be preferred and measures selected to meet these controversial requirements of the species/habitats? (e.g. what is better – open landscape or mosaic landscape?) How to find the balance in setting the preservation targets?
- **Interpretation of the monitoring results in the light of agricultural management – can we find causes for changes in the monitored taxa?** How to differentiate landscape and agriculture derived impacts? How to explain changes if one indicator shows positive and the other negative trend? Which and how many intervening factors (e.g. landscape indices, land use data, weather conditions, and predators) should be considered while analysing farmland BD indicators? The trade-off of including too many factors in (model) analysis
- **What is the specific role of farmland biodiversity in providing ecosystem services and public goods in Baltic Sea Region?**

Time	Location	Presentation / Activity
13:15 – 13:20	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Introduction to Session B</b>
13:20 - 13:40 (15+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Are birds the best indicators for farmland?</b> <i>Juha Tiainen, Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, Finland</i> How to monitor farmland birds for the policy impact purposes? How to set targets? What needs to be considered to find causes for changes in the monitored taxa? How results depend on the monitoring objects and the quality of the monitoring? What is expected from the AE monitoring and what do AE monitoring results actually represent and demonstrate? How can trends in farmland birds be related to changes in other taxa?
13:40 - 14:00 (15+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Bumblebees as farmland biodiversity indicators in Estonia</b> <i>Eneli Viik, ARC, Estonia</i> Bumblebee monitoring in the frame of AE evaluation and challenges of interpreting results in policy and multiple intervening factors context. Why bumblebees as the farmland biodiversity indicators? How to set targets? What kind of farming actions may influence this taxa – leguminous crops in the crop-rotation, use of pesticides, etc.
14:00 - 14:20 (15+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Plant communities of high nature value grasslands</b> <i>Anders Jacobson, Swedish Species Information Centre, Sweden</i> Value of the grassland plant communities. Reflecting the values - how to use plants as indicators? How to make decision – is it valuable at all? How to set targets? Should identification of high nature value grassland plant communities be calibrated between Member States? Should approach to restoration and management be calibrated between Member States? Do we need best practice guidelines or should rely on knowledge of the farmer and local level officials?
14:20 - 14:35 (15 min)	Lobby in front of hall BAER	<b>Coffee break</b>
14:35-16:00 (~1,5h)	DCC, HALL BAER, HALL PARROT	<b>A participatory discussion technique will be used to address 3 key questions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question 1: Why do we need and how can we use BD monitoring in policy making?</li> <li>• Question 2: How to set targets for (evaluation of) the policies and measure achievements?</li> <li>• Question 3: How to improve the quality of BD monitoring and data accessibility in the BSR? Do we need a common database and which data should be included?</li> </ul>
16:00 - 16:20 (15+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Landscape indices and farmland biodiversity</b> <i>Juliana Dänhardt, Lund University, Sweden</i> Which landscape characteristics should be considered in (agricultural) policy assessments? Which landscape indices to choose and how, what do they present, pros- and cons. How to set targets?

Time	Location	Presentation / Activity
16:20 - 16:40 (15+5 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<p><b>Role of functional agro-biodiversity (FAB) in preserving nature values</b> <i>Felix Wäckers, Lancaster University, UK</i></p> <p>Introduction of FAB concept as an example of an action which is beneficial both for a farmer and for biodiversity and is not a supported policy measure. Experiences on fine-tuned multifunctional vegetation strip (insects and vegetation interactions, blooming conveyer according to the insects spreading).</p>
16:40 - 18:15 (~1,5 h)	DCC, HALL BAER, HALL PARROT	<p><b>A participatory discussion technique will be used to address 4 key questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question 4: What is the specific role of farmland biodiversity in providing ecosystem services and public goods in the BSR?</li> <li>• Question 5: Is it possible to define high nature value farming systems in the BSR, if yes, then how?</li> <li>• Question 6: Impacts of landscape heterogeneity - how to decide which landscapes/species should be preferred and measures selected to meet controversial requirements of the species/habitats?</li> <li>• Question 7: Could functional agro-biodiversity (FAB) concept 'BD working for a farmer' be advised in the BSR as one solution to promote sustainable agricultural production? How to make it applicable?</li> </ul>
18:15 – 18:20	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Conclusions of the day</b>
19:00 - 20:15	Hotel Dorpat	<p><b>Small guided tour in town</b></p> <p>Gathering at the reception of hotel Dorpat</p>
20:30 - 22:30	History Museum	<p><b>Reception</b></p> <p>History Museum of the University of Tartu</p>

**DAY 2 (November 15, Thursday)**

**SESSION C: Common Objectives and Measures to Solve Common Problems?**

This session will begin exploration of the potential for a common approach amongst the EU Member States in the BSR for optimising the use of future RDP measures (2014-2020) to protect farmland biodiversity in the region. A participatory approach will be used to encourage the sharing of experiences between practitioners and policy-makers from around the BSR

<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Presentation / Activity</b>
<b>09:00 - 09:10</b>	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Introduction of the day</b>
<b>09:10 - 11:15</b> (~2 h)	DCC, HALL BAER, HALL PARROT, lobby	<p><b>POSTER SESSION</b></p> <p><b>Practical measures implemented (e.g. under CAP/RDP) to preserve farmland biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>A participatory discussion technique will be used to address 3 key opening questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the common farmland biodiversity issues in the BSR?</li> <li>• Is it desirable and / or feasible to co-ordinate future policy measures in the BSR Member States to more effectively protect farmland biodiversity in the region? How to improve this cooperation?</li> <li>• What common measures could be important for including in all RDPs of the BSR?</li> </ul>
<b>11:15 - 11:30</b> (15 min)	Lobby in front of hall BAER	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>SESSION D: Moving towards future – applicable solutions for common farmland biodiversity issues?</b>		
<b>11:30 - 13:00</b> (~1,5 h)	DCC, HALL BAER, HALL PARROT	<p><b>Open Discussion Session</b></p> <p>Participants will be invited to set their own agenda for the next 3 hours of the programme (excluding lunch) until 15:15 by selecting key issues ('hot topics') of specific interest / concern to them. Space and time will be provided for participants to engage deeply, creatively and flexibly in discussion of these issues. The facilitator will begin the session by providing an overview of the process</p>
<b>13:00 - 13:45</b> (45 min)	Lobby in front of hall BAER	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:45 - 15:15</b> (~1,5 h)	DCC, HALL BAER, HALL PARROT	<b>Open Discussion Session (continues)</b>
<b>15:15 – 15:30</b> (15 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<p><b>Preservation of farmland biodiversity in the Baltic Sea Region - how to better meet the needs of a farmer, farmland and society?</b></p> <p><i>Mark Redman, Independent Consultant</i></p>

<b>15:35 - 16:15</b> (~40 min)	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Results of Open Discussion Sessions and general reflections of the conference</b> Feedback from the conveners of the open discussion groups
<b>16:15 - 16:30</b>	DCC, HALL BAER	<b>Closing the conference</b> Pille Koorberg , ARC, Estonia



Photos: K. Kaisal, E. Viik, P. Koorberg, U. Paal, T. Kukkk, A. Aasapõllu