



Nordic Association of Agricultural Science

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GREETING FROM NJF SECRETARIAT

Welcome to the fourth edition of NJF newsletter! This is a slightly shorter issue than before. We have compiled some relevant information in a few pages.

Year 2024 has been hectic and NJF has been engaged in different activities, including REACH conference in Lithuania and the 5th NJF – EurAgEng – AGROMEK Joint Seminar in Denmark, and several activities reported in the previous newsletter. REACH conference, for example, brought together by scientists from the Nordic and Baltic countries and it enabled two days full of interactions and insights around the resolving environmental and climate change issues in agriculture. The event was intended for researchers and experts with backgrounds in fields such as plants, soil, environment, animals, technology, economics and social sciences.

The conference was not the only item NJF has been working on. We are soon launching a new, more user-friendly website that will also support members in organizing conferences and other events, and working to provide interesting events during 2025. So, keep supporting and following us.

In the meantime, let us wish a Happy Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025!

Silvia Gaiani, Secretary General of NJF and Jarkko Niemi, President of NJF



Photo: Jill Wellington, Pixabay

MEMBER IN FOCUS: Neringa Rasiukevičiūtė

Neringa Rasiukevičiūtė is a Chief researcher at the Laboratory of Plant Protection IH LAMMC and member of the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences from 2023. She has obtained bachelor's (2009) and master's degree (2011) in Agronomy at Lithuanian University of Agriculture and PhD in Agronomy at LAMMC (2016), a postdoctoral fellow at LAMMC (2017-2019). Her main research areas are phytopathology, biological and alternative plant protection, postharvest disease, fungal pathogens molecular studies, pathogen interactions under led light, and strawberry diseases.

She has had a short-term internship at the Latvia State Institute of Fruit-Growing (2014) and at the National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology, Spain (2019). She has participated in 18 projects with funding for example from NordForsk, the Research Council of Lithuania, European Regional Development Fund, National Scientific Programmes (UOGA, EDNEPA), Ministry of Agriculture, and ERA-NET Eupresco II. She is author of 30 articles with an impact factor, two Elsevier (2019) and Springer (2020) chapters, 27 peer-

reviewed articles. She has participated in more than 45 conferences and was the main organizer behind the REACH conference held in Lithuania.

1. How long have you been a member of NJF?

I have been a member since 2017. So far, I have attended many conferences and seminars organized by NJF.

2. What is the added value of being part of NJF?

There are many added values in being part of NJF. First of all, NJF brings together researchers in agricultural science and promotes collaboration among colleagues from the Baltic-Nordic countries. Second, it provides a common ground for the sharing of information and best practices.

3. How do you see the future of agricultural science and NJF?

Agricultural and horticultural sciences face many challenges not only due to climate change but also due to EU regulations. NJF provides a framework for a wider collaboration with colleagues. Seminars, workshops, and conferences bring together researchers from the same area. NJF still has the potential to grow, bring researchers together, and share research information.



Photo: Neringa Rasiukevičiūtė

4. What makes you happy?

Working in the laboratory makes me happy. I like that, after working in the laboratory, we can bring our research to the field and see how our solutions help directly the farmers. foto: Till Seehusen. Credits: Håvard Simonsen

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Participate as a speaker in NJF's online conference. The economy working group of NJF is organizing a monthly international multidisciplinary continuous on-line conference "Challengers of Economics, Education and Society Development in the Nordic – Baltic Countries and beyond". Separate webinars of this conference take place via Microsoft Teams **every first Wednesday of each month** (no event in July and August) from 13:00 until 14:30 EET (from 12:00 until 13:30 CET). The schedule of each seminar includes two 15-20 minutes' presentations with possibility for 20 minutes' discussion after each of them.

Researchers and PhD and master's students from Nordic and Baltic countries and all over the world are invited to participate as speakers. Those who would like to participate as speakers are invited to prepare an abstract of their presentation and to register for participation at their most suitable date by fulfilling [the online registration form](#). Alternatively, the title of presentation, name of speaker and co-author(s), annotation and keywords of presentation can be sent via email to the coordinator of this activity, Linas Stabingis (linas.stabingis@gmail.com). The programme of upcoming seminars and other information is available at the [NJF website](#).



Picture: Pixabay / Alexandra Koch

Stay tuned! New face-to-face conferences and events for year 2025 will be announced in the next newsletter.

REPORTS FROM PAST CONFERENCES

REACH conference “Resolving environmental and climate change issues in agriculture”, Vilnius, Lithuania, 8–9 October 2024



The 1st Nordic-Baltic REACH conference organized by NJF “Resolving Environmental and Climate Change issues in agriculture” took place on October 8-9th, 2024, in Vilnius, Lithuania. The conference was organized by Nordic Association of Agricultural Science (NJF) in collaboration with the Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (LAMMC), the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (LMA), the Young Academy of Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (LMAJA).

The main topics covered by the conference were technological solutions for a cleaner agri-food system, biodiversity, plant and soil health in a new climate, sustainability and animal production, economics, social impacts and life cycle sustainability assessments. and modelling of agriculture, food system, environmental, climate change and European policy issues.

The conference was attended by approximately 75 researchers from Finland, Latvia, Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Denmark and Lithuania. In total 4 plenary presentations, 35 oral presentations and 22 flash presentations took place during the conference.

Keynote speakers were:

- Dr. Lillian Øygarden who made a presentation on “Climate change – new challenges and need of adaptation strategies for Nordic-Baltic agricultural production systems”.

- Prof. Dr. Heikki Lehtonen who presented “How to integrate necessary actions and solutions to climate and environmental sustainability challenges to economically viable agriculture?”

- Per Hansson, the secretary general of Nordic Joint Committee for Agricultural research (NKJ) presented “Nordic-Baltic agricultural research collaboration for sustainable agriculture”.

- Prof. Dr. Ainis Lagzdins who presented “Challenges and solutions to reduce nutrient losses and transport from agricultural areas”.

The best oral presentation was awarded to Prof. Dr Biruta Bankina on “Leaf blotch as an emerging disease in faba bean sowings” and the best flash presentation was given by PhD student Jānis Kaņeps “Genetic diversity of Pyrenophora tritici-repentis”.

The conference was an excellent opportunity to meet researchers and experts from various fields of agriculture to exchange ideas, share experiences, and establish new networks and partnerships.



The 5th NJF–EurAgEng–AGROMEK joint Seminar: Advances and innovations in agricultural engineering, Herning, Denmark, 26-27 November 2024

Around 30 participants from Iceland, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway participated to the seminar. The venue of the seminar was close to the Agromek agricultural exhibition area, which made it possible for the participants also to follow topics of interest at the fair. A seminar linked to such an exhibition stimulates to improved interdisciplinary communication, co-operation and more innovation.

The programme included 19 presentations. In addition, participants had a walk around at selected exhibitors with smart farming equipment at the fair. The overall feedback was that the participants were very satisfied with the arrangements regarding content, quality of presentations, program, size of meeting room and facilities as well as networking with other colleagues. Agromek dinner took place on Tuesday evening together with several hundred other people mainly representing companies.

Seminar webpage was made in cooperation with NMBU and OrgaNicer at Agromek: <https://www.nmbu.no/en/research/seminar-agromek>. The program, book of abstracts and overview over keynote speakers are available at the website. The organizing committee was chaired by Nils Bjugstad from Norway.

Because of the costs and transport distances, a hybrid solution will be evaluated for the future. There is a need to find solutions to increase participation from the Baltic countries, who did attend earlier seminars. For example, a hybrid solution. There are interests to follow up with a similar seminar or conference together with the next Agromek in 2026!

Nils Bjugstad, REALTEK, NMBU



NEWS FROM ACTA AGRICULTURAE SCANDINAVICA

Submit your REACH conference paper to Acta Agriculturae Scandinavica section B – Plant and Soil Sciences. Acta welcomes the presenters of REACH conference to submit their manuscripts to the special issue that is combined with NJF congress issue.

A special issue on economics and social sciences in animal health. Submission reporting

presentations and posters presented at ISESSAH 2023 conference or ISVEE-ISESSAH 2024 are welcomed by Agriculturae Scandinavica section A – Animal Science. For further information, please contact jarkko.niemi@luke.fi.



Support Nordic-Baltic agricultural scientific community by publishing your research in Acta!

[Recent articles in Acta Agriculturae Scandinavica, Section A — Animal Science:](#)

Methods for assessing skin temperature in two breeds of dairy cows and their correlation to indoor and rectal temperature.

Productive performance of beef bulls fed tall fescue silage or meadow fescue silage and complemented with cereal grains.

Evaluating the effect of semen storage and dilution rate on boar sperm quality.

Evaluation of a phytogetic blend fed with monensin on post-weaning growth performance, health, and sera metabolite responses during the initial 56 d feedlot receiving period in steer calves.

Effect of season, age and period on semen quality traits in buffalo bulls.

Climate change analysis on organic honey yield in Artvin via XGBoost machine learning.

Mutations with known links to pork quality defects in Norwegian and German pig populations.

[Recent articles in Acta Agriculturae Scandinavica, Section B — Soil & Plant Science:](#)

Sugar content and dry matter are key factors predicting sprouting of yellow bulb onions regardless of treatment with maleic hydrazide.

Pomological, organoleptic, and biochemical values of Norwegian heritage apple cultivars.

Productivity and quality parameters of *Allium fistulosum* L.

Nodulation performance and agronomic traits of European common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) genetic resources.

Significant weed species, density and frequency in sesame cultivated areas of middle Shabelle Province in Somalia.

Lentil (*Lens culinaris* L.) cultivation in Sweden: possibilities and challenges.

Integrated analysis of agronomic traits and nutritional composition in Bambara groundnut: correlation, regression, and path coefficient approaches.

Enhancing growth, yield and physiological quality of sweet pepper fruit through application of fertiliser and moringa leaf powder (MLP).

Seasonal dynamics of the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys* [Stål]) in an urban landscape.

Easy yield mapping for precision agriculture.

Zinc outperforms other foliar fertilisers in enhancing lentil yield and harvest index in semi-arid regions.

OPEN JOB POSITIONS

If you would like to announce a position in the newsletter, please inform NJF secretariat about the job advertisement or website where your open jobs are announced.



Picture: Pixabay

[Open positions at the University of Helsinki](#)

[Open positions at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences](#)

[Open positions at Research institutes of Sweden](#)

[Open positions at Natural Resources Institute Finland \(Luke\)](#)

[Open positions at the University of Copenhagen](#)

[Open positions at Aarhus University](#)

[Open positions at Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research](#)

[Open positions at Norwegian University of Life Sciences](#)

[Open positions at Agricultural University of Iceland](#)

[Open positions at Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies](#)

[Open positions at Estonian University of Life Sciences](#)

[Open positions at Pellervo Economic Research PTT](#)

[Research positions in agricultural sciences elsewhere, mostly in Europe.](#)