



Nordic Association of Agricultural Science

NJF NEWSLETTER MAY 2026



TOPICS

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT JARKKO NIEMI

NJF'S MEMBER IN FOCUS: JOHANNA LEPPÄLÄ

Johanna shares her thoughts on the future of NJF and organizational work. What are the most important topics in science according to Johanna?

UPCOMING EVENTS

2-DAY INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Workshop at Apelsvoll, Norway, 21-22 May. Focusing on the role of cover crops in climate adaptation.

28TH NJF CONGRESS

Conference will be held in Tartu Estonia, October 14-16. Call for abstracts, registration and programme.

<https://nordicagriculture.eu/>

Summer a season with plenty of agronomic and field activities, conferences and stakeholder events.

Greetings from the president

This summer NJF is organising or co-organising several conferences and workshops. At the end of May, there will be a two days international workshop on building climate-resilient soils with cover crops at in Norway. Conferences taking place in in June include the Nordic Herbage Seed Production Seminar in Denmark, the Nordic-Baltic organic farming conference in Sweden and Issues in Peat and Peatlands conference in Finland.

In the Autumn, NJF is involved in organing the traditional joint Agromek seminar in Denmark and a conference on scientific actualities and innovations in horticulture in Lithuania. Hence, there will be plenty of opportunities for NJF members to interact and collaborate.

The main event of this year is however NJF congress that will be organised in October in Estonia under the theme "Securing food supply in Nordic-Baltic region for the future" The congress programme will include inspiring keynote presentation, matchmaking opportunities and social activities. So please submit your abstract to the congress!

As you may have noticed, NJF has organised an abstracts competition for young scientists. The results of the competition will be announced in the beginning of May on our website and LinkedIn channel, so please stay tuned for the news.

Best regards,
Jarkko Niemi, President of NJF

UPCOMING EVENTS

NJF 28TH CONGRESS

28TH NJF CONGRESS

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT BY 31 MAY 2026



Nordic Association of Agricultural Science

SECURING FOOD SUPPLY IN NORDIC-BALTIC
REGION FOR THE FUTURE

KEY DEADLINES

31 May - Abstract submission
closing

30 June- Early bird
registration closing

31 August- Late registration
closes

SESSION TOPICS

Climate change

Food and supply security

Technology and innovation

Food economics and policy

Healthy feed and food

Animal farming

SAVE THE DATE



14-16th October
2026



Tartu, Estonia,
University of Life
Sciences

Abstract
submission and
registrations:



<https://www.emu.ee/en/njf2026>

Follow NJF on
LinkedIn:



Estonian University
of Life Sciences

14-16TH OCTOBER
2026

TARTU, ESTONIA,
UNIVERSITY OF LIFE
SCIENCES

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
AND REGISTRATION:



[HTTPS://WWW.EMU.EE/EN
/NJF2026](https://www.emu.ee/en/njf2026)

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT BY 31 MAY

The abstract submission closes in 31
May, 2026.

Early bird registration closes in 30
June and late registration closes in
31 August.

SECURING FOOD
SUPPLY IN NORDIC-
BALTIC REGION FOR
THE FUTURE

2-day international workshop at Apelsvoll, Norway, 21–22 May 2026



Building climate-resilient soils with cover crops

Are you facing more intense rainfall, longer dry periods and increasing production risk?

Do you want to strengthen soil resilience and climate adaptation in vegetable systems?

Are cover crops part of your strategy – or should they be?

More info about the programme and registration form:

<https://nibio.pameldingssystem.no/cove-r-crops-as-a-climate-adaptation-tool-1>



Interested in presenting your results? Contact: till.seehusen@nibio.no
mette.thomsen@nibio.no

NJF Conference Seinäjoki 11–12 June

Resolving Issues in Peatlands and Peat Use in Agriculture and Horticulture



Call for abstracts!

We invite you to propose a presentation to the conference by submitting an abstract around one of the following topics:

- Alternatives to peat as bedding materials in animal production and growing media in greenhouses and horticulture
- Rewetting peatlands, paludiculture
- New insights on climate impacts of organic soils and their mitigation
- Economic and policy issues
- Just transition: How it can be implemented, what do farmers and other stakeholders think about it and what are the implications to agriculture?
- Other topics related to the theme of the conference



More info:



<https://nordicagriculture.eu/resolving-issues-in-peatlands-and-peat-use-in-agriculture-and-horticulture/>

NJF'S MEMBER IN FOCUS:

JOHANNA LEPPÄLÄ



“Climate and Biodiversity Crises Are Too Often Overshadowed by Politics and Economics.”

Johanna Leppälä works as a senior scientist at the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) in Rovaniemi. She focuses on field crop production under northern conditions.

“I’m interested in the whole food value chain and in advancing locally produced food,” she explains.



Over time, her work has become more practice oriented. “Earlier, I was mainly an academic researcher. Today, my work is more closely connected to real-life farming and practical challenges.”

Changes in organizational work affecting NJF

Johanna became involved in NJF through a colleague. Today, she serves as Chair of the Finnish Section of the Nordic Association of Agricultural Science.

“The organizational world is changing. We need to listen to our members and organize meaningful activities that fit modern working life.”



Photos from Johanna's home album.

Science in Times of Crisis

For Johanna, the most important research topics are clear.

“Climate change and the biodiversity crisis are central. Food production is fundamental for society, but these topics often gets overshadowed by political and economic crises.”

She talks about the responsibility of science.

“Science must keep its focus, because it is the foundation of new innovations. Without strong research, we cannot solve these challenges.”



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Looking Ahead: The Future of NJF

Johanna sees both opportunities and challenges ahead for NJF.

“People have less time for long-term voluntary work. There are fewer active members, and that affects many organizations.”

She believes flexibility is key.

“We need to offer meaningful ways to participate, even with busy schedules, including opportunities for short-term or occasional voluntary involvement.”

A Message to the Next Generation

To young people considering a career in agriculture, Johanna has a clear message:

“This field needs fresh and new thinking. Food production needs new ideas and new perspectives.”

She underlines the relevance of agriculture for everyone.

“We all eat. Agriculture affects all of us. That’s why this field matters, and why young professionals can really make a difference.”



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**Remember to follow us on LinkedIn to
get all the latest news from NJF!**



Thank you for being a member!