

Deliverable C1.1b Survey report on potential demonstration areas¹

Survey on potential demonstration areas

We aimed to characterize and commit to work on four different regions in Finland. These regions work as demonstration areas in the OPAL-Life -project, and a total of 20 pilot farms are invited from these regions to participate to the project. In Finland, the different agricultural production lines are concentrated to specific areas, aiming the geographical and diverse production line coverage at the same time. Also the pedo-climatic conditions vary a lot across Finland.

On 7th December 2015 the project team made the first decisions on the demonstration regions. Four representative areas in Finland were characterized based on the results of surveys that were carried out in the beginning of the OPAL-Life project partly in collaboration with the PeltoOptimi-project having national research funding. At the first stage we characterized ten 10 × 10 km areas, and identified intensity of agriculture, the number of farms, distribution of field parcel sizes and numbers, production lines, land use and pedo-climatic conditions and constraints. The additional selection criteria for regional demonstration areas were e.g. their differences in potential for GHG mitigation, in adaptation requirements and means to climate change and also region specific socio-economic base.

As an outcome of the preliminary characterization process of the ten 10 × 10 km areas, we ended up in identifying four potential, larger OPAL-Life demonstration regions:

- 1) Southern coastal region:
 - a. often domination of cereal monocultures
 - b. lots of plant production farms
 - c. also special crop production
 - d. main spring wheat production region
 - e. variable soil types, often clay soils dominate
 - f. climatically advantageous region with long growing seasons

¹ This report is part of OPAL-Life project, funded by the European Commission (LIFE14 CCM/FI/000254).

- 2) South-western inland region:
 - a. often domination of cereal monocultures
 - b. lots of plant production farms with cereals as dominating crops
 - c. also specialization on horticultural crops
 - d. pig, poultry and beef production
 - e. clay soils typical with soil compaction problems
 - f. climatically advantageous region with long growing seasons

- 3) Eastern inland region:
 - a. dairy and beef production region
 - b. lots of grassland in crop rotations
 - c. also crop production farms
 - d. spring barley and oat main annual crops
 - e. specialized seed production
 - f. variable, often mineral soils
 - g. short growing seasons with limited crop choices

- 4) Northern region:
 - a. dairy and beef production region
 - b. lots of grassland in crop rotations
 - c. spring barley and oat production
 - d. also plant production farms
 - e. region having the highest share of organic soils

Methods employed: A desktop study.