

NJF seminar 422
**Fostering healthy food systems through
organic agriculture - Focus on Nordic-Baltic Region**
International Scientific Conference
Tartu, Estonia, August 25–27, 2009

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Airi Vetemaa (Estonian Organic Farming Foundation),
Eve Ader (Ministry of Agriculture)

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Local organizers

Darja Matt, Elen Peetsmann, Sirli Pehme and Ragnar Leming (Estonian University of Life Sciences)

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Preface

The last NJF (Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists) seminar 369 devoted to organic farming took place in Alnarp 2005, where the representatives of Baltic countries were not numerous. All the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea are responsible for the ecological conditions of the sea and the health of the people inhabiting the region. This is why the development of more sustainable agriculture as organic farming plays the major role. Therefore the title of our international conference – NJF seminar 422 taking place in Tartu, Estonia, August 25–27, 2009 – is “Fostering healthy food systems through organic agriculture – focus on Nordic-Baltic region”. At the conference there are participants from all the countries around the Baltic Sea and also from all over the world but the dominating part is played by the Baltic countries. Hopefully the conference is encouraging the research in all the fields of organic farming and holding the conferences on organic farming becomes regular. For Estonia the conference has special importance because 20 years ago, in 1989 the first activities in organic farming were started by the Biodynamic Association of Estonia. The present conference is organized thanks to joint efforts of the NJF, the Ministry of Agriculture of Estonia, the Estonian University of Life Sciences and the Estonian Organic Farming Foundation. These proceedings contain papers presented at the conference.

Deep gratitude is expressed to the members of the international organizing committee consisting of Eve Ader, Ministry of Agriculture of Estonia, Jon Magne Holten, Oikos, Vibeke Langer, University of Copenhagen, Arja Nukanen, MTT Agrifood Research Finland, Marika Mänd, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Karin Svanäng, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Vytautas Pilipavicius, Lithuanian University of Agriculture and Airi Vetemaa, Estonian Organic Farming Foundation. Thanks are also due to local organizers Darja Matt, Ragnar Leming, Sirlil Pehme and Elen Peetsmann from the Estonian University of Life Sciences. Luule Metspalu deserves special thanks for help in editing the conference proceedings – the Special issue of Agronomy Research. On behalf of the organizing committee I wish all the participants and guests of the conference inspiring days of the exchange of experience and new ideas for promoting our common goals in developing organic farming.

Anne Luik
Chair of the Organizing Committee
Professor, Vice Rector
Estonian University of Life Sciences



Special issue I

Plant production:

Soil fertility and nutrient management

Crop rotation, fertilisers and cultivars

Cropping Systems

Weed and pest management

Organic farming and environment