

ProAgria Research Farm Network: Towards Sustainable Agricultural Innovation

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Are you ready for the future of farming? ProAgria Research Farm Network is paving the way for innovative and sustainable agricultural practices. As we gear up, we invite you to delve into our transformative Living Lab platform.

Background

ProAgria Research Farms is a growing and evolving Living Lab launched with the support of the Finnish Parliament in 2022. It aims to create a platform for testing, training, research, innovation, and data collection to advance future agricultural methods.

In 2022, we piloted the operation of the network with 25 dairy farms, focusing on developing automated data collection, data anonymization, and network collaboration. We also organized workshops for researchers and advisors to gather ideas and assess their needs for the network.

The current network comprises 40 farms from various regions in Finland. Farms within network provide data to ProAgria and participate in various projects through specialized agreements. This data is automatically collected from ProAgria's agricultural software and stored in the Data Lake cloud service.

40 Farms and Counting

ProAgria Research Farms is already powering ahead with 40 farms in our network. But that's not where we're stopping! By the end of this year, our sights are set on expanding our network to encompass a minimum of 50 farms, covering various domains including dairy, specialized crops, and vegetable cultivation. We invite both organic and non-organic farms to the network, with the inclusion of school farms adding an educational dimension.

At the heart of ProAgria Research Farms is the farmer. Our central goal is to make engagement in research and development not just beneficial, but also financially rewarding. We're committed to ensuring that the efforts farmers invest in these studies are compensated.

Data-driven innovation

Our network farms contribute invaluable data to our state-of-the-art cloud service, DataLake. From crop accounting and cropping plans via the Mtech Digital Solutions MyFarm platform to milk recordings and nutrition plans from dairy farms, our data sources are diverse and dynamic. Additionally, we proudly incorporate insights

from the carbon calculator, providing a holistic view of carbon sequestration in both soil and crops. Initial datasets show promising insights into farming practices and ecological impact.

The ProAgria Research Farm Network stands as a pioneering endeavor, propelling agricultural innovation through data-driven research. In 2023 we aim to amplify the network's reach and standardize practices. One of this year's main goals are to boost communication with equipment manufacturers to create new data sources in the future. The partnership between researchers, farmers, and technology developers is set to create a synergy that surpasses the sum of its parts, driving agricultural progress in Finland.

Sowing Seeds for the Future

Our vision stretches beyond the horizon. We aspire to gather a robust community of over 200 active farms in our Research Farm network. With this we hope to achieve diverse representation of farms to facilitate comprehensive research. We also aim to build communication framework and facilitate interaction between farmers, researchers, advisors, and developers.

This is more than just data – it's about active collaboration.



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Data source examples (extracted from the Mtech Digital Solutions MyFarm platform)
Crop Accounting, Cropping plans, Carbon Sequestration, Carbon Sequestration Data,
Milk Recordings and Nutrition Plans (from dairy farms)

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