



Elinkeino-, liikenne- ja ympäristökeskus
Närings-, trafik- och miljöcentralen
Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

General planning of biodiversity, buffer zones and wetlands in the agricultural environment and Teho Plus Project

Senior Adviser Mikko Jaakkola



The planning is....

- **A part of the implementation of Finnish agri-environment programme (RDP)**
- **Funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**
- **Coordinated by regional environment authorities**
- **A way to find out needs in the planning area, present ideas and possibilities offered by the area and location**
- **Large scale planning
(river basin, region, municipality)**



The planning is done to....

- To increase landowners interest in water protection and other environmental issues
- To increase farmers willingness to apply for support for establishment and management of buffer zones and wetlands as well as other special measures
- Find out where the measures should be located to be most effective and get them there
- To allocate the support funds to optimal sites
- To make better co-operation and understanding between different interest groups concerning agriculture and environment





The planning is done in co-operation with

- **Farmers and landowners**
- Regional and local agriculture, forestry and fishery authorities
- Regional and local unions of farmers
- Local advisory organisations
- Other interest groups (associations for nature, conservation, local hunting and fishing clubs, other NGO etc.)

The planning is not

- farm-scale planning, construction planning, site specific designing, no surveying or making measurements, no considering permits possibly needed



the planning is done on the areas where

agriculture is the most prevailing form of land use , nutrient load to waters from agriculture is considerable

risk of erosion is high, flooding occurs frequently

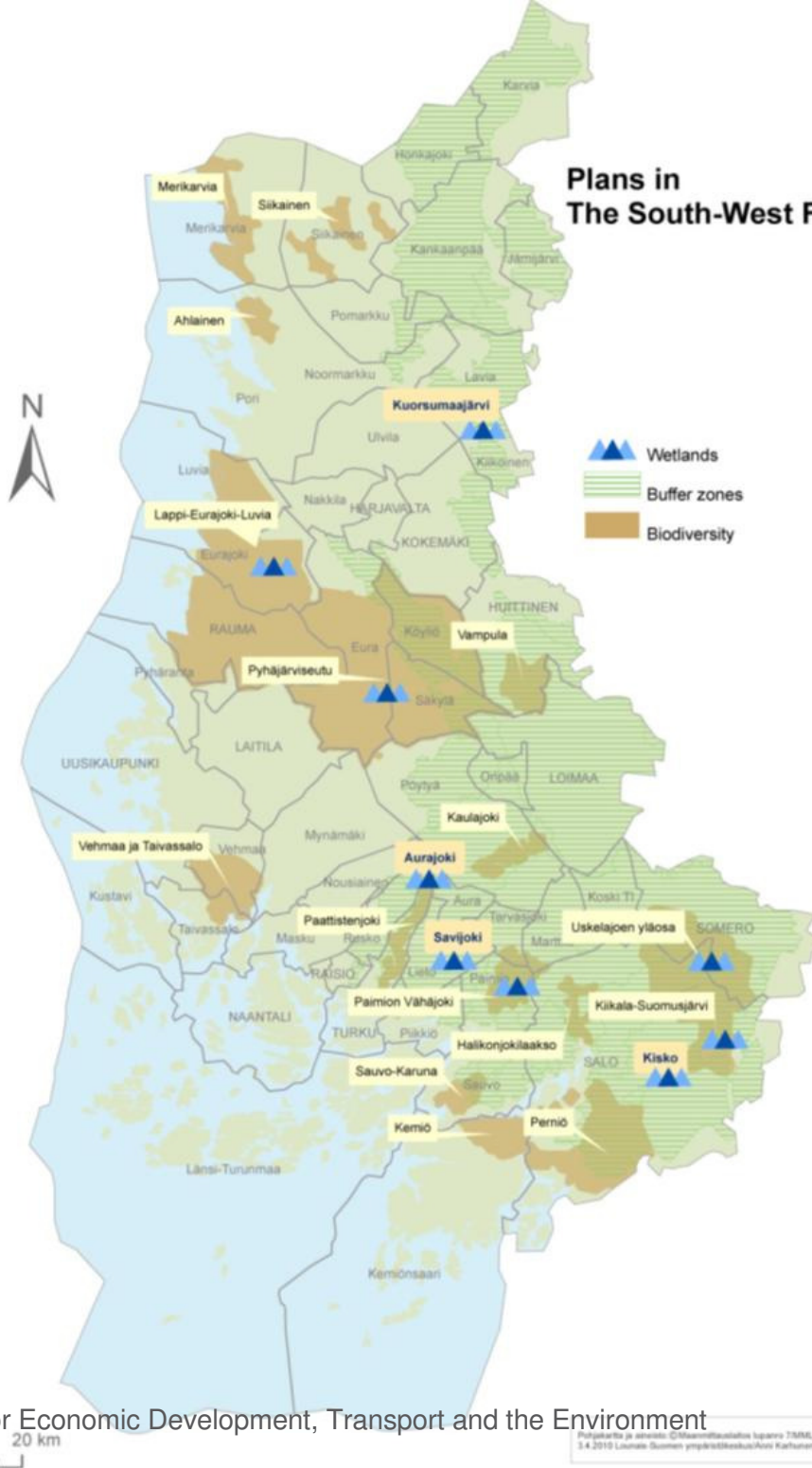
water quality needs improving and there is local willingness to act

there are nature protection areas, red list species , valuable

habitats, lot of variety in landscape = potential biodiversity is high

Plans in The South-West Finland

**So far 42
plans carried
out**





The planning procedure

1. background research

catchment area, channels, land use, topography, soil, nature protection areas, valuable habitats and species, old maps, aerial photos etc. , analyses using GIS

2. field investigation, always targeted by background information

mapping suitable sites for buffer zones, wetlands, potential biodiversity, vegetation etc.

3. landowners (and local authorities, interest groups etc) are informed on every phases of the planning process and always before field work

when possible sites are on the maps before the final plan and maps are drawn everyone interested has possibility to comment on the draft maps and plans –

4. “open house” presentations and deciding – invitation is sent to every farmer on the planning area, others are invited by newspaper ads

5. publishing : reports, booklets or map presentations

6. voluntary establishment and management of bufferzones, maintaining meadows or other kinds of biodiversity objects or construction of wetlands



**Open house presentations –
invitation is sent to every
farmer on the planning area,
others are invited by
newspaper ads**





managing bufferzone

Places for buffer zones

- Fields with frequently flooding



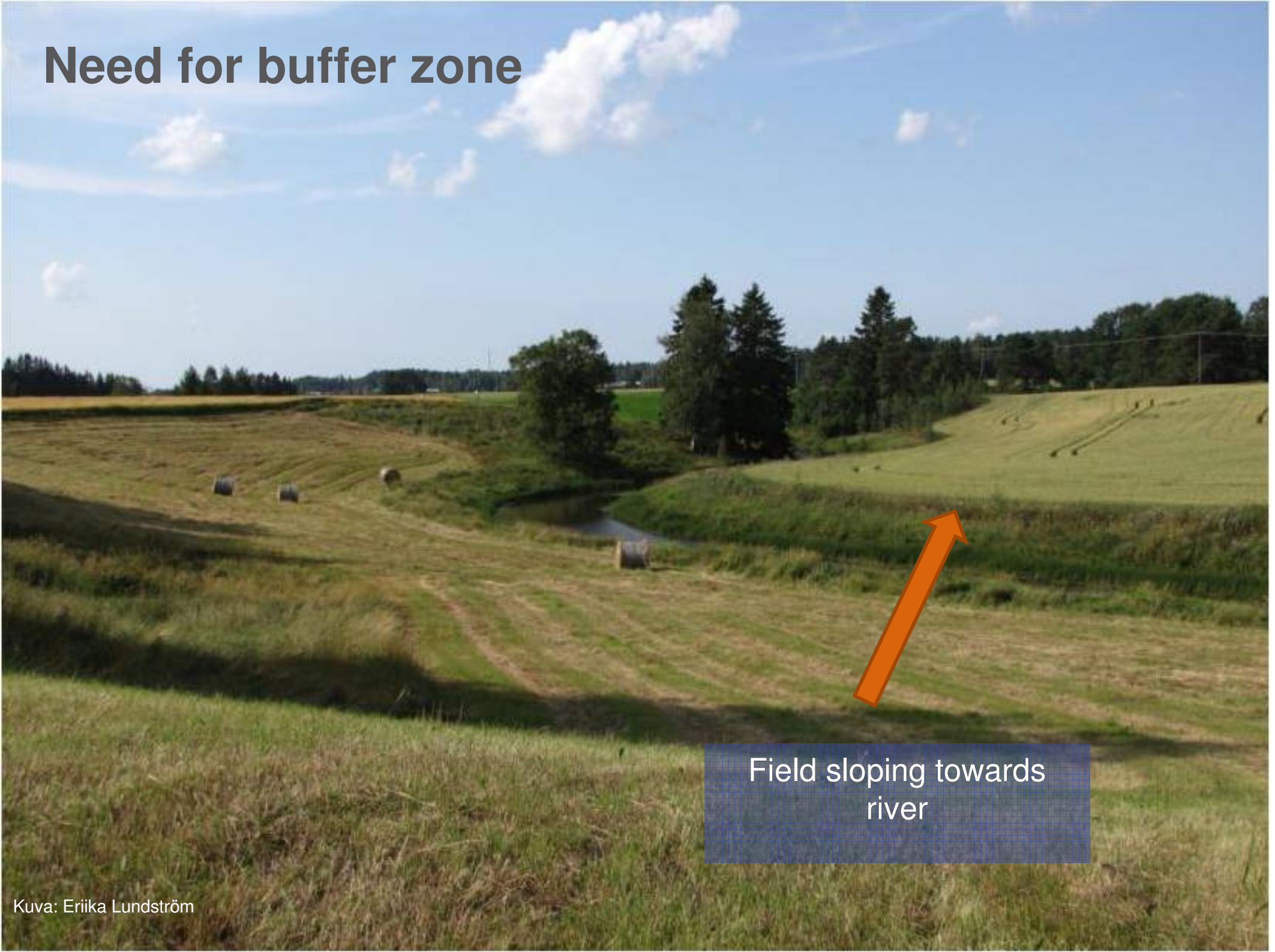
Places for buffer zones

- Fields with deep slopes and high risk of erosion



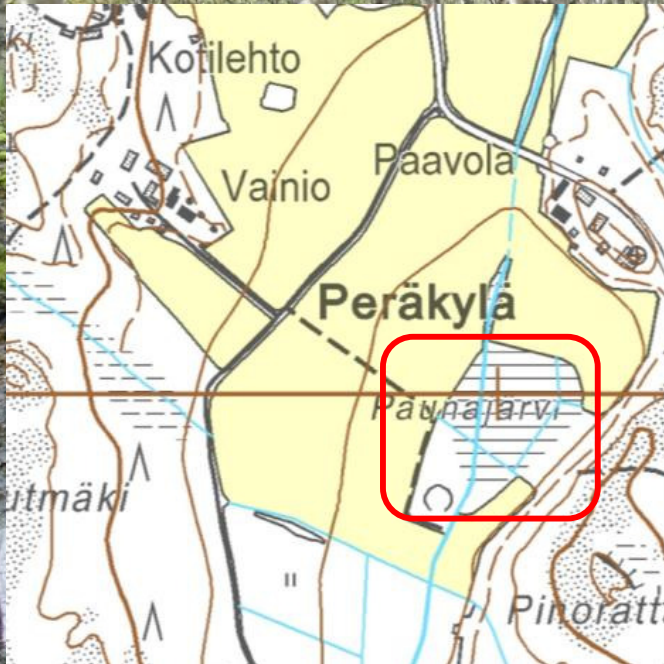
Pic: Anni Karhunen

Need for buffer zone



Field sloping towards
river

**For example lake
drained to get more
fields and for forestry, -
not succesful – :
suitable site for
wetland**

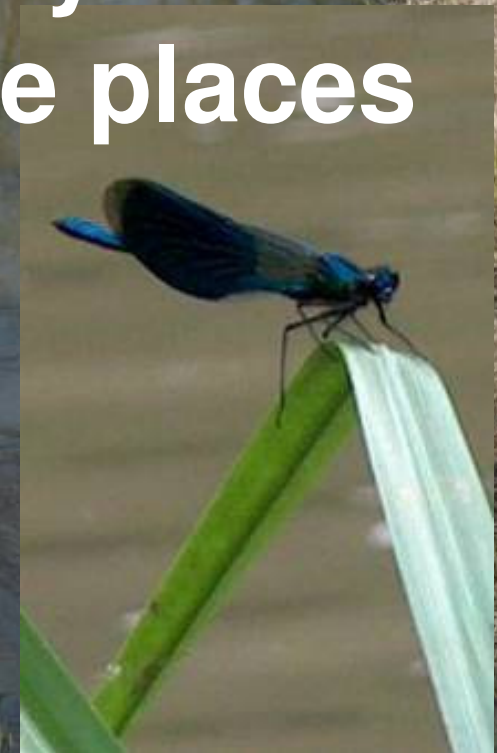




Multifunctional wetlands

- Existing wetlands (for development or enlargement)
- Old naturally sites
- New suitable places

Background pic: Anni Karhunen



Jätkäntien kokeistokkein ennen järkevää voida olla järkevää. Joon aiheuttama ravinteita näkyy selvästi purukuhodon ympäröiviä alueita korkeampia ruokakasvustoja. Alue on varsin peltomaailman hienon vienuksetuokkeiden perustamilla. Haaronjokeen kokeistoa suunnitellaan kannattaa tarkastaa sen hetken erityistuen ehdot. Tällä hetkellä uoman valuma-alueen peltopotteen on riittä erityistuen, eikä etujen mukainen kokeistokinta-alla ole realistinen. Suuresta mitakaavassa Saamijärvi toimi tämän laajan Kuitkaistenjärvenkin alueen käsittävän valuma-alueen lausutusalaana.

Haaronjoen mutkassa Ala-Kierin kylän kaakkoispuolisilla peltoaukeilla sijaitsee muutama pellon metsäsaareke, joilla on keskimääräistä monimuo-

ta katajia, kuusta, koivua, mäntyä, pihlajaa, nuorta haappa, raitaa ja tuomeakin. Saarekkeen pohjoisosissa on varsin järeää puustoa. Sähkölinjan alla on säilynyt jonkin verran melko rehevää avointa niittyä, johon on linnut kuitenkin runsaasti haavesaikoita. Niityluellaa ja sen laidilloita kasvaa hietakastikkaa, kieloa, niityntätkelmää, nurmipuntarpäätä, koiranputkea, mesiangervoa, hiirenvirnaa, valkovuokkoa, sian- ja ojajärsimää, huopakeltanoa ja metsäkurjenpolvea. Myös pienemmät, kaakkoispuoliset saarekkeet ovat ottaa mukaan koanaisuuteen, jos kohteelle haetaan hoitotukea, vaikka niillä ei ole vastaavanlaista niitytkasvillisuutta kuin suurimmalla saarekkeella.

Kuusiston tilan alueella on maisemallisesti hieno sekapuustoinen reunavyöhyke, jota laidunnetaan eritvistuen avulla.

Hoito: Alue on jo nyt maisemallisesti avara ja valoisa, joten hoidon jatkuminen nykyisellään riittää turvaamaan kohteen maisema- ja monimuotoisuusarvot.

Kauklaistenjärven pohjoisosat ovat laajasti ruovikon, sarojen, kurjenjalan ja matalakasvuisen pajun luonnehtimia rantaniittyalueita. Aluetta on monin paikoin laidunnettu muutamia vuosikymmeniä sitten. Laidunnuksen voisi aloittaa uudelleen, niillä alueilla missä maapohja kantaa eläimet.

Tässä kohdassa on ladon ympäristössä paikoin katajaa kasvavaa niittyaluetta. Ladon itäpuolilla on koivuvaltaista aluetta. Kohde lienee vanhaa laidunmaata, sillä kenttäkerros koostuu edelleen varsin laajasti ruohovartislaihosta.

Hoito: Mikäli mahdollista kannattaisi niittymäisiä alueita niittää ja koivikkoa harventaa hakamaisempaan asentoon. Koko alue soveltuisi myös laidunkäyttöön.

Kaukulaistenjärven länsiosassa on koivuvaltainen hakamaa-alue (81a), jota harvennamalla ja laiduntamalla siitä saisi hienon laidunalueen. Vanhat aidanjäänteet kertovat muutaman vuosikymmenen takaisesta laidunhistoriasta. Kohteen läheisyydessä on muutama rantapeltö (81b), jotka voisivat muuttua suojavyöhykkeiksi ja mahdollisesti jatkossa laiduntaa yhdessä hakamaa-alueen kanssa. Hakamaa-alueella kasvaa myös katajaa ja muuta puustoa: haappa, jokin verran myrsky kuusta ja mäntyä. Kenttäkerros on rehevää, nurmilukuhaval-



Good results :

- **More applications and more commitments from planning areas**
- **Most of applications from the sites where buffer zone or other special measure is really needed or is effective**
- **Giving comments and making decisions about applications easier**
- **When the need is already assessed and in GIS-system (work of authorities is easier)**
- **Planning has been a good advisory tool in the environmental issues concerning farming**
- **Information collected during planning is useful and valid long time e.g. for other planning process or advisory projects**



But...

- **Planning doesn't improve water quality or promote biodiversity**
- **Should we do something else ? – e.g. still only 30-50 % of buffer zones needed in the catchments are established at its best**
- **Bufferzones and wetlands improve water quality only little, not state of our coastal waters, even if local effects are positive**
(loading from agricultural land enters the water bodies through field drainage system)
- **Improvements in water quality are painfully slow**
- **Planning hasn't solved management problems**
(e.g.how to manage meadows cost-effectively without cattle or what to do with bufferzone grass)



There is the need to change the planning methods or the focus ?

- **Need to control water flow in drainage areas - floods and drouhgts, should the planning be done from stronger hydrological viewpoint ?**
- **More co-operation with forestry sector ? Pilot project in SW Finland with forest sector (METSO-network Programme)**
- **Target to biodiversity or water protection, soil protection or all ?**
- **Towards real catchment scale planning or a maybe more effective farm scale planning or both?**

What is TEHO Plus?

- Project tries to find new ways for more sustainable farming

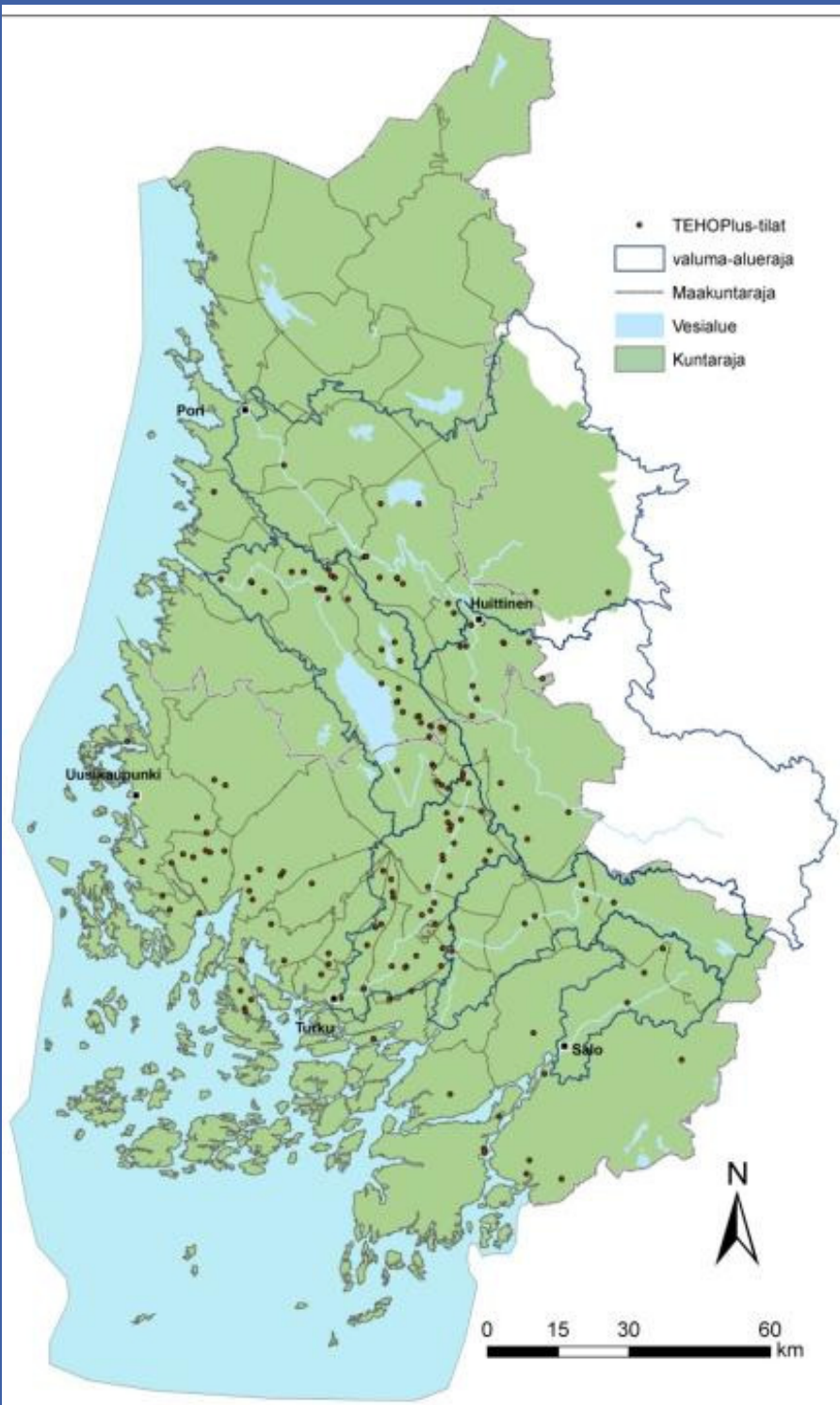
- Promoting methods for water protection, maintaining or improving biodiversity, GHG-emissions, adapting to climate change

173 co-operative farms

- Plant production and livestock farms

Regular and organic

- Every farm gets environmental handbook





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Activities in TEHO Plus

Handbook of farm's environment issues

- **The farmers involved in the project have gained increased environmental awareness on both water protection and biodiversity issues through the advisory work**
- **With the help of the maps, farmers have been shown the field plots on their own farms which are exposed to the most serious risk of erosion. This is backed up by information on nutrient balances and phosphorus figures.**
- **During farm visits the farms have been assessed as to whether they provide suitable conditions for buffer zones, wetlands and sedimentation ponds.**



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Activities in TEHO Plus

- **New knowledge has been produced on catch crop cultivation after growing early vegetables.**
- **Nutrient balances have been included in advisory services provided on a farm-specific basis.**
- **Proposals have been made on the structure of planned agri-environmental program 2014 – 2020 and for utilising GIS data in the targeting of environmental actions.**



Thank you for your attention!