NJF Report • Vol 5 • No 2 • Year 2009

Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists

NJF Seminar 422

Fostering healthy food systems through organic agriculture - Focus on Nordic-Baltic Region

- International Scientific Conference

Tartu, Estonia, 25-27 August 2009

NJF
Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists

NJF Seminar 422

**Fostering healthy food systems through organic agriculture –
Focus on Nordic-Baltic Region**

International Scientific Conference
Tartu, Estonia, August 25–27, 2009

PROGRAMME

ABSTRACTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Organized by
Estonian University of Life Sciences
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Estonia
Estonian Organic Farming Foundation
Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists

System learning comparison of organic apple growing in four Nordic-Baltic region countries

M. Rahtola
University of Helsinki, Department of Applied Biology. Tel.: +358 40 5734791; e-mail: mikko.rahtola@gmail.com

Apple is among the most important horticultural crops in the Nordic-Baltic Region. Growing systems of apples are slow to develop, because of the very long life-time of the trees. Anyway there is a strong public and environmental pressure for organic apple production. This on-going study focuses to the farming system development of apple orchards in four countries, Finland, Estonia, Sweden and Northern Germany. From each country one or two professional orchards are chosen for the research, which is done by analyzing the farming systems and their development on the farm with personal interviews and questionnaires. The hypothesis for the research is that there is hidden interactions which inhibit the use of some part of the solutions allowed in organic farming. The development of growing systems on farms is categorized in four steps: observing, thinking, planning and acting. Results of this study will help to find the key-factors for developing advisory services and farmers know-how in organic apple production.

Resistance of strawberry cultivars to blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*) in organic and conventional growing

K. Kahu and A. Kikas
Estonian University of Life Sciences, Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Polli Horticultural Research Centre, Polli, Karksi-Nuia 69108, Estonia; e-mail: kersti.kahu@emu.ee

Strawberry blossom weevil is one of the most serious pests in organic and conventional strawberry plantations in many countries of Europe, including Estonia. In 2002 the trial with four strawberry cultivars: Bounty, Korona, Polka and Senga Sengana in two variants, organic and conventional were established in Polli. The aim of this trial was to study strawberry yields and the cultivars resistance to the blossom weevil both in organic and conventional growing. The data were collected in 2004–2006. The results showed that the extent of the blossom weevil damages was influenced by the cultivar and by the age of the plants. The highest resistance to blossom weevil in both variants showed cultivar Senga Sengana, whereas the lowest one was noted in the cultivar Korona. The significant differences in average yield per plant between organic and conventional growing were not observed in 2004, but the yields were significantly higher in conventional variant in 2005 and 2006.