

# Finlands implementation of the biogas policy challenges and lessons learnt

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## Policy instruments



- **The promotion of biogas production and use and nutrient recycling have long been important objectives of Finland's agricultural and rural policy**
- **Investment subsidies under the Rural Development Programme have been used for biogas**
- **The 2016 government programme presented a key project on nutrient recycling. This key project is included also into the next 2019 government programme.**
- **The goal of this project is promoting nutrient recycling in agriculture and the whole food system with the objective of creating a market for organic fertilizer products**
- **The tools for this are promoting innovations and business activities related to nutrient recycling, assisting and bringing together actors, advice and training**
- **These actions have also included measures promoting biogas production and use, and they have now been further developed**
- **Key project on nutrient recycling works in close cooperation with the National Biogas Programme, which was launched in January 2020**



## The main features

- **Key project on nutrient recycling (2016-2019), examples:**
  - Funding of pilot projects to promote technology, logistics and innovations and to create a market for organic fertiliser products
  - Facilitation and information project to promote business experimental projects
  - Project to promote nutrient recycling in horse manure
- **Key project on nutrient recycling (2020-):**
  - Experimental project funding and facilitation activities continue
  - Investment aid is targeted at companies and biogas plants processing manure or digestate
  - Agricultural schools are assisted in the preparation of study content on nutrient recycling
  - In cooperation with the National Biogas Programme, emphasis will be placed on the treatment of digestate from biogas plants and the recycling of nutrients



## Did the schemes achieve their objectives? (1/2)

- **Effectiveness**

- A total of 39 experimental projects were funded, 120 companies were consulted on the Facilitation project, and approx. 2500 persons were covered by the Horse manure project activities

- **Efficiency**

- The assessment of climate impacts has not yet been carried out
- The projects are long-term, so the results will not be visible until later

- **Acceptability**

- It is important to make recycled fertiliser products more user-friendly
- Change is needed to make farmers' attitudes and practices more favourable to the use of recycled nutrients
- In addition to experimentation and product development, practical implementation will also be needed in the future



## Did the schemes achieve their objectives? (2/2)

- **Implementation and enforcement**
  - The experience gained in the project has been used to plan measures for the forthcoming CAP period, in particular in the preparation of environmental and climate measures
  - Good practices found in the experimental programme for nutrient recycling will be applied to other agricultural sectors
  - Taking the nutrient cycle perspective into account an increasingly important area in the assessment of biogas plants
- **Social/distribution impacts**
  - New opportunities for entrepreneurship in rural areas (machinery contracting, outsourcing of processes etc.)
- **Wide impact**
  - Improving the sustainability of agricultural production, for example by increasing soil carbon, reducing the use of artificial fertilizers and reducing nutrient emissions to the sea and lakes



## What are the key learning points?

- **Cooperation between actors in different sectors brings results**
- **However, the launching of cooperation often requires external bodies that bring the actors together**
- **Systemic changes will not take place quickly, but will require a long-term approach – it is an innovation and learning process**
- **This applies not only to economic changes but also to changes in thinking and technology**
- **Young people are at the forefront of change by thinking open-mindedly and challenging traditional practices**



A serene landscape of a lake at dawn. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding forest. In the distance, two swans are visible on the water. The forest is dense and green, with some trees showing early autumn colors. The sky is a soft blue with light clouds. The text "THANK YOU!" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The foreground is framed by green foliage on the left and right sides.

**THANK YOU!**