METK
Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge

Pioneers of Estonian Rural Life

Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge

A brief overview

1

2

METK
Maaelu Teadmuskeskus

Three Main Focus Areas

Research Activities

Plant variety breeding, plant protection, plant bio-technology, gene bank; soilHUB, CAP evaluation, FADN, and many other areas of importance to agriculture.

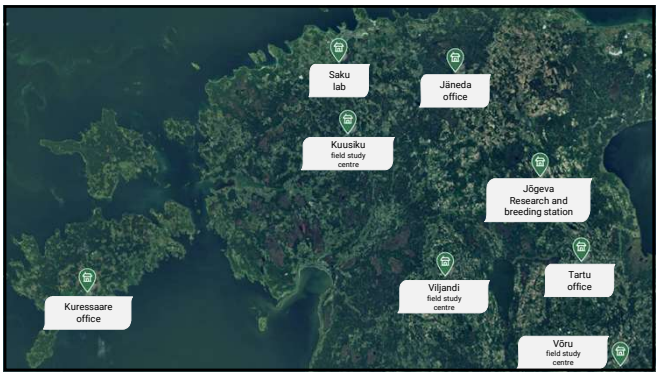
Laboratory, Field Testing

The accredited laboratories provide a wide range of laboratory services for the agricultural sector and high-level analytical competence. Field testing centers conduct the field trials for Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) Board and other essential tests.

Networking

Networking activities in the field of agriculture and rural life, AKIS coordination centre, National CAP Network, knowledge transfer actions, Advisory Services, Innovation Support Services including EIP-AGRI.

3



4

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JÕGEVA CAMPUS

5

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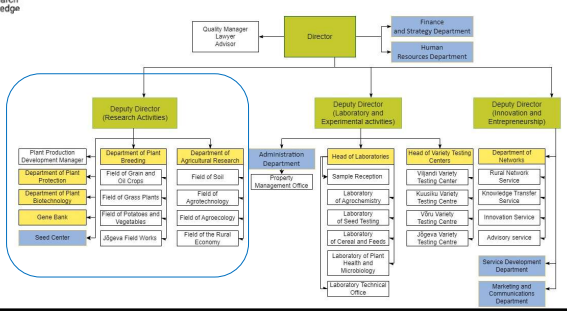
Structure of our institution



6

Employees and academic staff

- 330 people works at METK, of whom **134 worked in research-related** departments
- Researchers made up 15.4% of all METK employees, with 35.8% in departments related to research
- There is research **staff of 48** people - researchers, and 10+ PhD candidates in partnership with universities
- The research activity was positively assessed by an international committee in 2024

7

Projects

- The CoE **Agroecology and new crops in future climates** project addresses the challenges of agriculture in future climates and the non-sustainable ecological footprint of food production systems
- The CoE for **Sustainable Land Use** project focuses on developing an innovative data cube to address relationships between biodiversity and carbon at various spatial and temporal scales considering the societal drivers and impacts
- We contribute to a number of EU wide networking projects e.g. ClimateFarmDemo , Climate Smart Advisors, EJP Soil C arouNd and modern AKIS

8

Databases and collections

- Gene bank seed and *in vitro* collections of plant genetic resources
- Breeding collections consists genotypes for breeding of 22 different crop species, including cereals, legumes, oil crops
- A database of 216 DNA fingerprints based on SSR markers for wheat, barley, and potato varieties
- Phytopathogenic fungi collection
- Database of agrochemical analysis of soil samples
- Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) database

9

R&D infrastructure

- Breeding Centre I in 2019, net surface area 1100 m2
- Renovated laboratory renovated in 2020withnet surface area 600 m2, which incorporates activities of the departments of Plant Biotechnology, Plant Protection and Gene Bank
- Seed-processing facility opened in 2023wihtnet surface area 2500 m2
- Field testing area with adjustable precipitation (2023, testing area 8250 m2
- Multi-purpose greenhouse (2024, net surface area 1800 m2

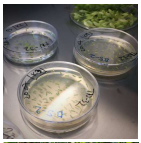
10

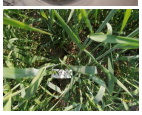
11

Lab Centre in Saku – 2023

12

Main outcomes of recent years





- Expansion of plant biotechnology research
- Launching fungicide resistance research
- Applied research in agrotechnology
- Creation of the precise science-based soil nutrient models
- Digital soil map applications and fertilisation guidelines
- Integrating agro drones to plant breeding and plant protection trails

13

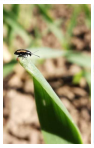
Infrastructure

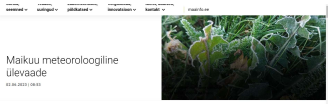
14

Field Days and farmer networks

15

Monitoring and knowledge transfer





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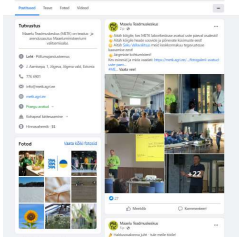
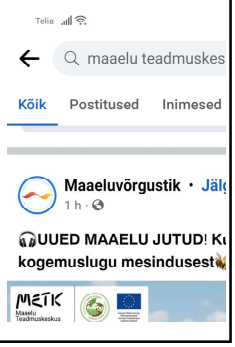
16

Knowledge transfer





17

Pioneers of Estonian Rural Life

We are good at
- research
- field studies
- knowledge transfer

We are looking for cooperation

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18