

Country analysis PRM legislation of Finland
The situation of Finnish farmers

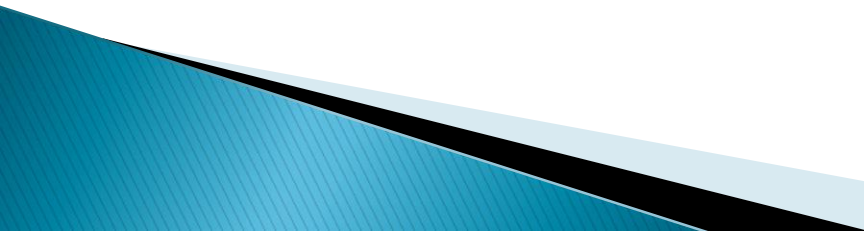
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Abstract

- ▶ Finland, northernmost country in EU
 - ▶ Very small seed markets
 - ▶ Strict seed legislation
 - ▶ Landraces are minor issue
 - ▶ No organic varieties available
 - ▶ Very little testing other than new varieties
 - ▶ Only few products produced of old varieties available
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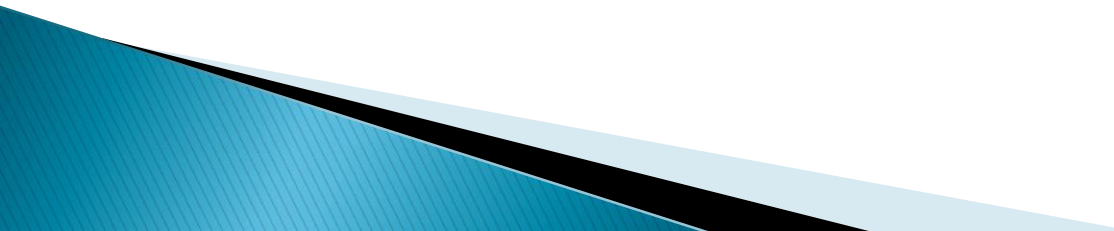
Northern location

- ▶ Advantages of production
 - Less diseases and pests
 - Long summer days
 - Clean soil, water and air
 - ▶ Disadvantages of production
 - ▶ Short growing season
 - ▶ Less suitable varieties to grow
 - ▶ Long distances and small population
 - ▶ Small local markets
 - ▶ Transportation costs of export (over the Baltic) expensive
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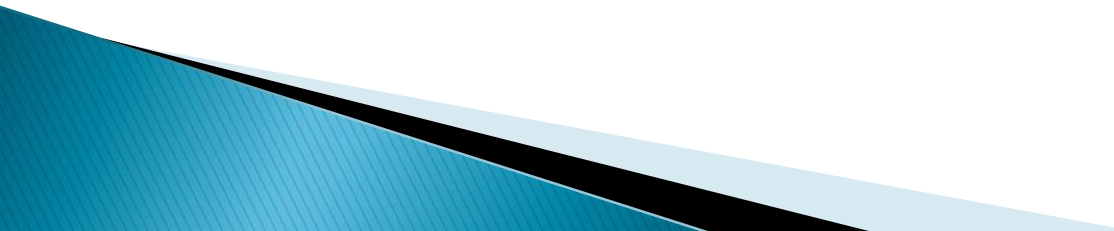
Niche market for breeders

- ▶ Only one Finnish breeder
- ▶ Finland is niche market for breeders.
- ▶ Organic seed market niche of niche!

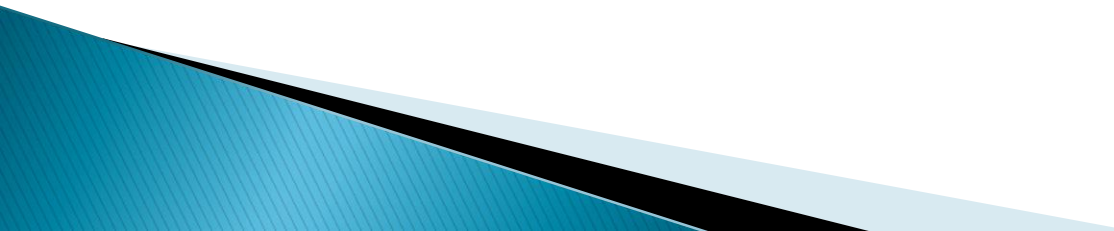
National catalogue of varieties vs. seeds in markets

- ▶ Many varieties, but same genetic heritage.
 - ▶ They are not bred for low-input farming.
 - ▶ Farmers offered only same popular varieties.
 - ▶ Variety in catalogue does not guarantee or require availability from seed companies.
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Seed markets

- ▶ For example:
 - ▶ When new rule of 100 % organic feed came for organic cows
 - Seed companies didn't have available good legume varieties for feed production.
 - They also had very limited amount legume seeds for sale.
 - First years most legume seeds came illegally from other organic farms.
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Conservation varieties

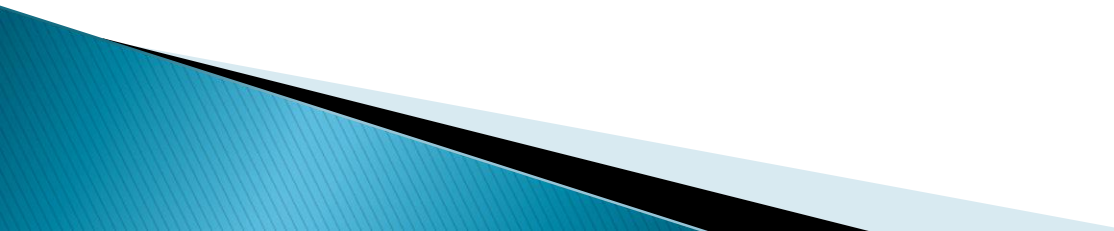
- ▶ Regulations are too strict.
 - ▶ Variety must be of Finnish origin.
 - ▶ We have only few varieties on the catalogue.
 - ▶ we can hardly find more.
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Landraces and old varieties

Case examples

- ▶ Old spring spelt variety from Gotland
 - Milling company wanted to make cultivation contract of the variety
 - Farmers wanted to buy the seeds of the "variety"
 - No certified seeds available = Potential sales wasted
- ▶ Old varieties from other Nordic countries potential for Finland
 - How to get the seeds legally?

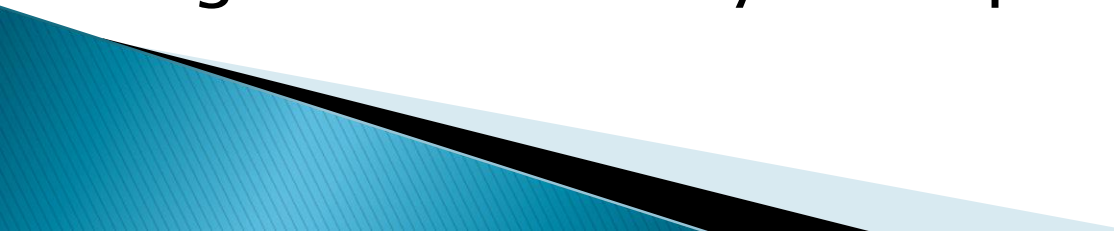
Variety testing

- ▶ Only new conventional varieties.
 - ▶ No organic variety testing.
 - Some field test on conventional varieties in organic fields.
 - They have some old varieties in these tests.
 - ▶ No variety test for low-input farming
 - ▶ There is need for farmside and local testing.
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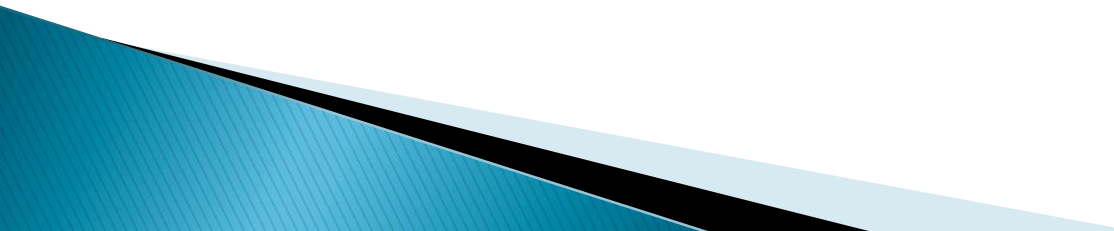
Non-commercial seeds

- ▶ Impossible for farmers legally get the seeds to the variety testing.
- ▶ Exchanging seeds between farmers illegal, even for testing seeds in different location.
- ▶ Barriers of entry to market.
 - DUS and VCU testing far too expensive.
 - Uniform and stable requirements are too high.

Conclusions of Finnish farmers

- ▶ Seed companies decides what kind of varieties are available.
 - ▶ Farmers are do not have access to the varieties they need.
 - ▶ Varieties suitable for organic farming needed
 - ▶ Farmers, gardeners and conservation networks are legally prohibited to sell and exchange seed.
 - ▶ Marketing rules hinder development of genetic diversity in crops.
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Biodiversity products & sustainable agriculture possibility for Finnish farmers to survive

- ▶ Production cost weakness of Finnish agriculture
 - ▶ Focus on quality instead of quantity
 - ▶ Strength is in organic production
 - ▶ Potential in biodiversity products
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Thank you!

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