

PÕLLU-  
MAJANDUSES  
ON TULEVIK

 Põllumajanduskoda  
Eesti Põllumajandus-Kaubanduskoda

**SUSTAINABLE SILAGE  
PO3/PO4 ONLINE EVENT**

**16.12.2025**

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ESTONIAN CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

**Interreg**



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**Sustainable Silage**

# OUR MISSION

We help farmers to learn, plan, and implement environmentally friendly silage management practices that reduce nutrient leaching from fields, grasslands, and silage storages into surface waters—and ultimately into the Baltic Sea

Regions: Estonia, Latvia, South-West Finland (Satakunta, Varsinais-Suomi)



# MAIN PROBLEMS

Lack of information and practical knowledge how to:

- avoid nutrient (N/P) leaching from every stage of silage production cycle starting from the establishment of grasslands until to recycling of plastic
- avoid silage effluents runoff from silage storages, piles and bales
- handle silage effluents in most safest and feasible way
- handle used silage and nets in most feasible way
- improve the silage quality in order to avoid problems caused by the rotten silage
- minimize effluent production by using different silage management practices

Lacking of holistic approach focusing to the whole chain of silage production



# SOLUTIONS / OUTPUTS

Testing different practices and methods in cooperation of silage experts, researchers and 26 pilot farms during 2 seasons in format of mini field trials and trying new practices:

- optimal fertilization of grasslands (manure, slurry, minerals)
- optimization of silage making processes (harvesting time and hight, wilting, silo filling and covering, bale and face management, bird damage prevention etc)
- minimizing effluents in silage management- dry matter higher than 30%!
- nutrient efficient grass seed mixtures
- recycling silage plastics and nets
- maize growth and maize kernel quality

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# SOLUTIONS / OUTPUTS

- Practical manual for farmers and students
- Analysing the effects of management factors on silage effluent production and nutritional losses (raw material, additive) as a result of laboratory experiment - wilting and biorefining as recommendations
- Analysing the potential of using silage effluents as fertilizer as a result of field trials
- 3 exchange visits of pilot farms and silage experts/researchers, 15 practical seminars for farmers, 8 popular field days
- 324 SME's participated in these events
- More than 150 participants in closing conference!



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# MAIN IMPACTS

- Making farmers aware of environmental risks related to the silage production
- Active involvement of farmers via useful and practical events
- Up-to-date information and recommendations available for farmers, students, experts, advisers, researchers
- Better awareness of real challenges farmers are facing
- Experts network sharing the working methods, tools etc
- Results published in more than 10 articles, incl. In scientific publications, agricultural magazines
- Active involvement of policy makers to the Steering Group
- Recognition from Joint Secretariat- Operation of Strategic Importance



# PARTNERSHIP

- **Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce**
- **Estonian University of Life Sciences**
- **Estonian Centre of Rural Research and Knowledge (METK)**
- **Latvian Farmers' Parliament**
- **Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies**
- **ProAgria (Finland)**
- **Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)**

