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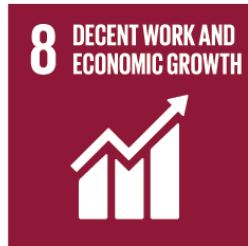


Sustainable Development Goals

Liisa Pietola/MTK
NBC Presidium
Aarhus, 17 August 2018



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

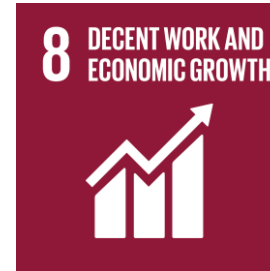


Policy briefs

- Published at the summer 2018 for goals



- Planned to be published also for goals



Abundant and clean water reserves vital

to Finnish agriculture and forestry

Our climate stands in the background of sustainable water consumption in agriculture and forestry. Approximately only half of precipitation evaporates, which maintains water reserves. Fields form 7,5% of land area, and in majority of them, ditching is needed to remove excessive water and to intensify nutrient utilization. Irrigation is mostly not needed. Forests cover 86% of land area, and they are essential in water circulation and maintenance of water balance.



The aim of goal 6.1 is safe and affordable drinking water. Over 60% of water used in Finland is groundwater. Using nutrients and pesticides, harmful to groundwater, is strictly regulated in our country.

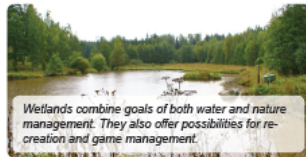
Improving water quality is part of the goal 6.3. Approximately 9 farms out of 10 have committed to agri-environment schemes, containing water protection measures. Water protection interests farmers. For instance, nitrogen balance of fields was reduced 42% and phosphorus balance 86%, in years 1990 - 2016.

In forestry, several voluntary measures for water protection are used, for instance buffer zones, different constructions slowing discharge, and wetlands. Many of them also contribute to the goal 6.6., concerning protection of ecosystems related to water bodies.

Goal 6.3 contains also safe re-use of waste water. In Finland it mainly means utilizing nutrients and organic matter in waste water. By developing and utilizing ever better waste water treatment technologies, it must be verified that final products, created during recycling, are without harmful substances.

Climate change brings many challenges. Increasing rains raise risk of loads in waters, and the early summer dryness increases need of irrigation. Agriculture and forestry are essential in mitigating climate change, but adaptation measures are needed, as well.

Goal 6.4 concerns water-use efficiency. In Finland, irrigation is barely needed and there is enough drinking water for animals. Domestic food lessens water import with food from countries, where they have shortage of water. Food production consumes 80% of fresh water in the world.



Wetlands combine goals of both water and nature management. They also offer possibilities for recreation and game management.

Environmental sustainability

MTK has drawn up environmental promises as a part of responsible agricultural and forestry production. MTK encourages to take care of waters, land, air, and biodiversity.

Economical sustainability

The goal of MTK is to improve profitability of Finnish agriculture and forestry. This way farms also have better possibilities to focus on more demanding water protection measures.

Social sustainability

By taking care of cleanliness of soils and waters, we create basis for safe food production. Finnish food does not increase water shortage which is actual in many countries.

Main issues

- 9/10 farms have committed to **agri-environment schemes** containing water protection measures
- In forestry, several **voluntary measures** for water protection are used, e.g. buffer zones, different constructions slowing discharge, and wetlands
- Many measures also contribute protection of ecosystems related to water bodies
- **Using nutrients and pesticides**, harmful to groundwater, **is strictly regulated** → water quality
- **Safe re-use of waste water** → to utilize nutrients and organic matter in waste water ever better waste water treatment technologies are needed
- **Climate change** brings many challenges: heavy rains, floods but the need of irrigation will also be increased
- **Domestic food** lessens water import with food from countries, where they have shortage of water

6 WATER



Affordable and clean energy

As Finland is one of the most northern nations in the world and facing four seasons in a year, this provides us a unique challenge to supply renewable energy all year round. Despite of the natural restrictions we are facing, we have had an opportunity to convert our energy supply to one of the cleanest and most reliable ones in the world, by securing to local sources.



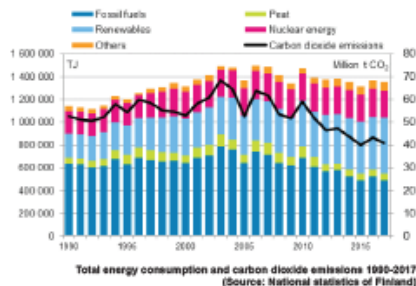
We in MTK welcome the targets on SDG 7! We see the decentralized renewable energy supply as a provider of clean and secure growth.

In Finland we are facing an energy transition, where renewables and a decentralized supply is challenging the fossil imports. We have decreased Finnish net-emissions by 50% since 1990 and Finland decreased its emissions last year most in EU28.

We promote efficient utilization of rural bioenergy and other renewable energy in electricity and heat production, as well as low-emission traffic fuels. The most significant source of rural bioenergy is forest biomass. Agricultural bioenergy sources include livestock manure, other animal by-products and field biomass, such as grass. Their utilization requires investment subsidies at the farm level, and favorable industrial and environmental legislation.

To exploit rural bioenergy resources, a decentralized power and heat production system is a fundament. Energy plants using fossil fuels need to be converted into ones using bioenergy and other renewables. We encourage using solar, wind and hydropower in energy production. We recognize the importance of peat as a fuel improving domestic energy security of supply, for as long as coal and other fossils are imported to Finland.

We encourage emissions from agricultural production to be reduced by improving the energy efficiency and energy self-sufficiency of farms, and by increasing individual production of renewable energy. We develop MTK member services to support the members' ability to provide sustainable renewable energy services to the society.



Environmental sustainability

MTK has created environmental promises as part of responsible agriculture and forestry. MTK encourages to take care of water, land, air and biodiversity.

Economic sustainability

MTK's target is to enhance the profitability of Finnish agriculture and forestry. This enables farms to meet better the requirements of more demanding environmental operations.

Social sustainability

By taking care of sustainability and increasing renewable energy production, we enhance the energy security and wellbeing of local communities.

Main issues

- **Decentralized renewable energy supply** is a provider of clean and secure growth
- Promotion of efficient utilization of rural bioenergy and other renewable energy in electricity and heat **production and low-emission traffic fuels**
- **Forest biomass** is the most significant source of rural bioenergy
- Utilization of **agricultural bioenergy sources**, e.g. livestock manure, other animal by-products and field biomass, requires investment subsidies and favorable industrial and environmental legislation
- Energy plants using **fossil fuels need to be converted into ones using renewables**
- Using solar, wind and hydropower is encouraged
- Emissions from agriculture can be reduced by improving the energy efficiency and energy self-sufficiency of farms.



7 ENERGY



In Finland,

safe food and certified wood are produced for responsible consumers

Clean and safe food with no salmonella bacterium is produced in Finland. Antibiotics are used only for curing sick animals. Domestic animals have enough space and their wellbeing is taken care of. In agri-environmental programs biodiversity is on focus. Production is traceable. Forests are managed sustainably and responsibly, according to the requirements of the PEFC certification.



United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 12 is challenging our consumption and production habits. Agriculture and forestry are regulated by many norms concerning foodstuff, production, environment and nature protection. Production is also regularly controlled. Safety and traceability of foodstuff are secured from fields up to tables. Appreciation of food that is produced in Finland from Finnish raw materials, as well as directing consumption to domestic products, is increasing sustainability of production.



Environmental sustainability of production has been highlighted more vigorously than economical or social sustainability. Strict regulatory bureaucracy exhausts farmers and weakens social

sustainability of production.

Food and wood producers are advised to use methods, in which natural resources are utilized ever more effectively, and emissions are reduced. For instance, fertilizer placement, common here, is in many countries still rare, although it reduces emissions to water and air. Using pesticides is strictly controlled in Finland. Finnish fields are also liked by pollinators. Due to sustainable forestry, our agriculture and forestry are carbon neutral.

By consuming Finnish products we are watery responsible. For instance, potato needs 1/20 of water compared to rice, and we use only 2/5 of water per kilogram of beef, compared to beef produced in South-America.

In Finland, antibiotics are given to domestic animals clearly less per kilogram of livestock body weight than in most European countries (ESVAC 2017 report). Farm animal health care prevents diseases, which also reduces the need of medication. MTK supports farmers in contributing to animal wellbeing.

Environmental sustainability

MTK has drawn up environmental promises as a part of responsible agricultural and forestry production. MTK is a pioneer in working for production ways paying attention to animal wellbeing and in developing farm animal health care.

Economical sustainability

Production must be profitable, so that a farm can invest on sustainability. A responsible consumer verifies the product origin and favors domestic products, and is willing to pay for quality.

Social sustainability

MTK works for contributing to farmers' and forest owners' wellbeing at work. By appreciating the quality of Finnish products, we also appreciate producers.

Main issues

- Goal 12 challenge consumption and **production** habits.
- Agriculture and forestry are regulated by many norms and controls
- **Safety and traceability** of foodstuff are secured from fields up to tables
- **Strict regulatory** bureaucracy exhausts farmers and weakens **social sustainability** of production
- Due to sustainable forestry, our agriculture and forestry **are carbon neutral**
- By consuming Finnish products we are **watery responsible**
- Farm **animal health care** prevents diseases → **antibiotics** are given to domestic animals clearly less per kg of livestock body weight than in most European countries
- **Production must be profitable**, so that a farm can invest on sustainability

12 PRODUCTION



Finland is enlivened by

diverse forests and fields with their headlands

Biodiversity in forests and agricultural environments helps our livelihoods to survive climate change. Richness of species and biotopes, as well as genetic diversity inside species, maintains essential ecosystem services. In agreements and strategies widely acknowledged goal to halt biodiversity loss encourages us to take measures for nature.



The aim of goal 15 is to protect terrestrial ecosystems and to promote their sustainable use, as well as to stop soil depletion and loss of biodiversity. Agriculture and forestry are essentially significant in achieving these goals.



Goal 15.2 encourages to sustainable forest management. Good practices are essential also in agriculture. In Finland, methods have been developed during centuries to pay ever more attention to various elements of ecological sustainability. In

forest management valuable nature areas are secured, and vital structural elements important to biodiversity, like decayed wood, are enhanced by nature management. In agricultural environments we ensure diverse crop rotation on the fields, and enrich nature with cattle grazing and with management of traditional rural biotopes and wetlands.

Goal 15.3 is implemented by taking care of productivity and cleanliness of soil, with help of agriculture and forestry. Finnish soils are clean, as fertilizers and soil amendments are well examined and controlled. Pollutants have not ended up to our soil from the air, either.

Goal 15.5 focuses on reducing habitat degradation and protection of threatened species. In Finland biodiversity is safeguarded with combination of conservation and nature management. Forest conservation, based on the principle of voluntariness and full reimbursement, has proved to be a useful method in safeguarding biodiversity without confrontations. Possibilities are also offered by restoring, which supports the good status of waters, for instance on peat lands.

Environmental sustainability

MTK tells its members about the importance of biodiversity, and increases awareness of good practices. With voluntary activities, based on landowners' goals, good results are achieved.

Economical sustainability

MTK strives to contribute to landowners' and farmers' possibilities for sustainable business in the countryside. It is possible to create markets for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Social sustainability

MTK supports landowners' efforts in biodiversity and productive land management in a way which contributes to appreciation of ecosystem services, and their well-balanced consideration.

Main issues

- Agriculture and forestry essential in protection of terrestrial ecosystems and promotion of their sustainable use, and in halting of soil depletion and loss of BD
- In forest management **valuable nature areas are secured**, and vital structural elements important to biodiversity, e.g. **decayed wood**, are enhanced by nature management
- In **agricultural environments diverse crop rotation** is ensured and nature is enriched with cattle **grazing** and with management of traditional **rural biotopes** and wetlands, **field margins**
- Finnish **soils are clean** (control of fertilizers and soil amendments), only low atmospheric deposition
- Biodiversity is safeguarded with combination of conservation and nature management
- **Voluntariness** and full reimbursement in forest conservation

15 BIODIVERSITY

Greetings from high-level Political Forum 2018

- HLPF in New York on 9-18 July 2018
- Theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies
- Focused on goals **6, 7, 11, 12, 15**, and 17 for partnership

“No-one leaving behind ...but fossils yes!”

WFO / Farmers Major’s intervention on under SDG15



*“Healthy ecosystems are fundamental to achieve sustainable development. - **Farmers, as food producers, are those who rely the most on those ecosystems and among the most vulnerable facing challenges as land degradation, soil erosion, climate change, natural disasters which negatively affect our production and livelihoods.** - We are already implementing best practices to increase our resilience and continue to produce the food you all eat. ...”*



Responsible farm and forest management

- MTK's environmental promises



MTK's environmental promises

- The basis for the [environmental program](#) are the planetary boundaries and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030)
- Published at the end of 2017

MTK's environmental promises

- ✓ *We value our land*
- ✓ *We take care of our soil productivity*
- ✓ *We protect our waters*
- ✓ *We solve energy issues*
- ✓ *We apply climate actions*
- ✓ *We safeguard biodiversity*

