

Production of cereal and oilseed crops in Finland



Finland is the world's northernmost cereal-producing country, located in Northern Europe, on the coast of the Baltic Sea. Finland, that is located in between the 60th and 70th latitudes, is a part of the European Union.

Agricultural production in northern conditions

Annually, approximately four million metric tons (mton) of cereal and oilseed crops are produced as raw material for feeds, foodstuffs and other purposes.

The northern location sets some limits, for example with regard to what plants can be cultivated. Cereal crops are cultivated on roughly half of Finland's field area. Four different cereal crops are in wide-scale production in Finland: wheat, barley, oats, and rye. Barley is the most produced cereal crop followed by oats. Nearly all varieties are spring sown.

Although Finland's grain yield is rather small on a global scale, Finland is one of the world's largest producers and exporters

of oats. Annually, approximately 500,000 metric tons of grains are exported from Finland and exports consist of oats, feed and bread wheat and feed and malting barley. Baltic Sea provides a shipping route to Europe and onwards to other markets. Finland also has easy connections to Russia via road and rail.

On the other hand growing conditions can be beneficial – the cold winter reduces the occurrence of plant diseases and pests. In Finland, the cereal and oilseed crop yield is without exception dried at the farms after harvesting to a moisture content of less than 14 percent. This increases the homogeneity and retains high grain quality. ■

Strengths of the grain chain

The clean soil, air, and water in Finland form the prerequisites for the production of high-quality and safe raw materials for different purposes.

In particular, high technical and hygienic quality numbers among the strengths of Finnish agricultural products. Agricultural production takes place on family-owned farms and the logistics chain from the farms to the grain traders, industry, and the ports is short and efficient, which enhances the traceability.

In Finland, primary production and the entire foodstuffs chain are monitored closely at several different stages, in order to ensure the safety of the food on the consumers' plate.

This leaflet has been prepared by the Finnish Cereal Committee in co-operation with operators in the grain chain. It has been funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Further information about crop production in Finland can be found in more extensive brochure, see: http://www.vyr.fi/www/fi/in_english/ ■

