

WP3.1 Field Day report from Loue, Finland.

Date: 13th August 2024

Place: Lappia Loue, Kätkävaarantie 69, Tervola, Finland

Participants: 14 people



The field day in Loue was aimed at the Northern Finnish oat farmers, farm advisers and other operators in the agricultural sector. The OatFrontiers project was presented by the project coordinator Juho Hautsalo and the varieties that were grown in the yield trial were presented by oat breeder Hanna Haikka from Boreal. The Lappia field manager Martti Niva explained the management practices conducted in the field during the spring and summer. The participants had ample opportunities for questions and interaction with organizers and each other, both in the field and over coffee after the tour in the field.

Feedback was collected and 10/14 participants answered to the questionnaire. Below are the main results of the questionnaire:

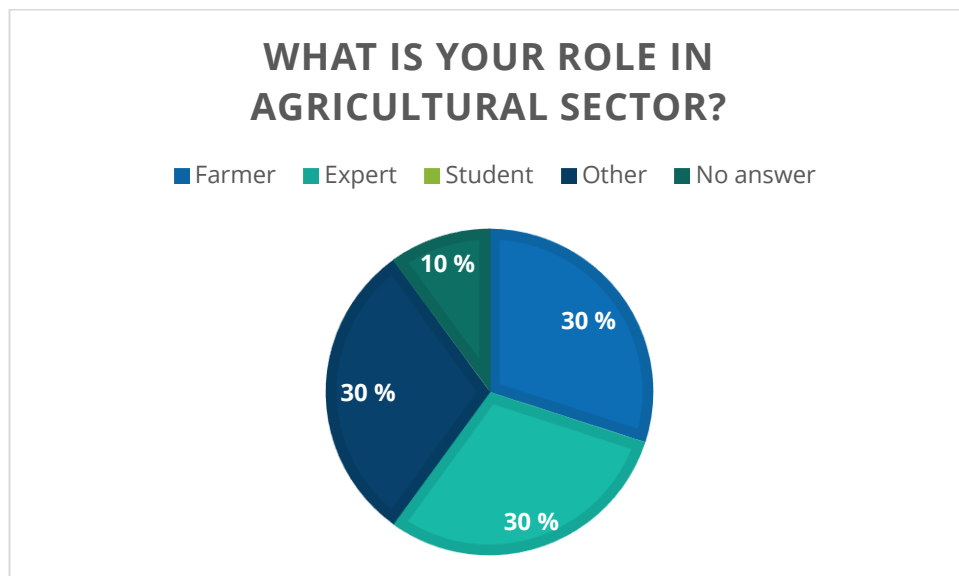


Fig. 1. Pie chart describing the participant profile.

Based on the questionnaire that participants were mostly farmers or other experts from the farming sector (Fig. 1). Other participants were mainly teachers (agriculture).

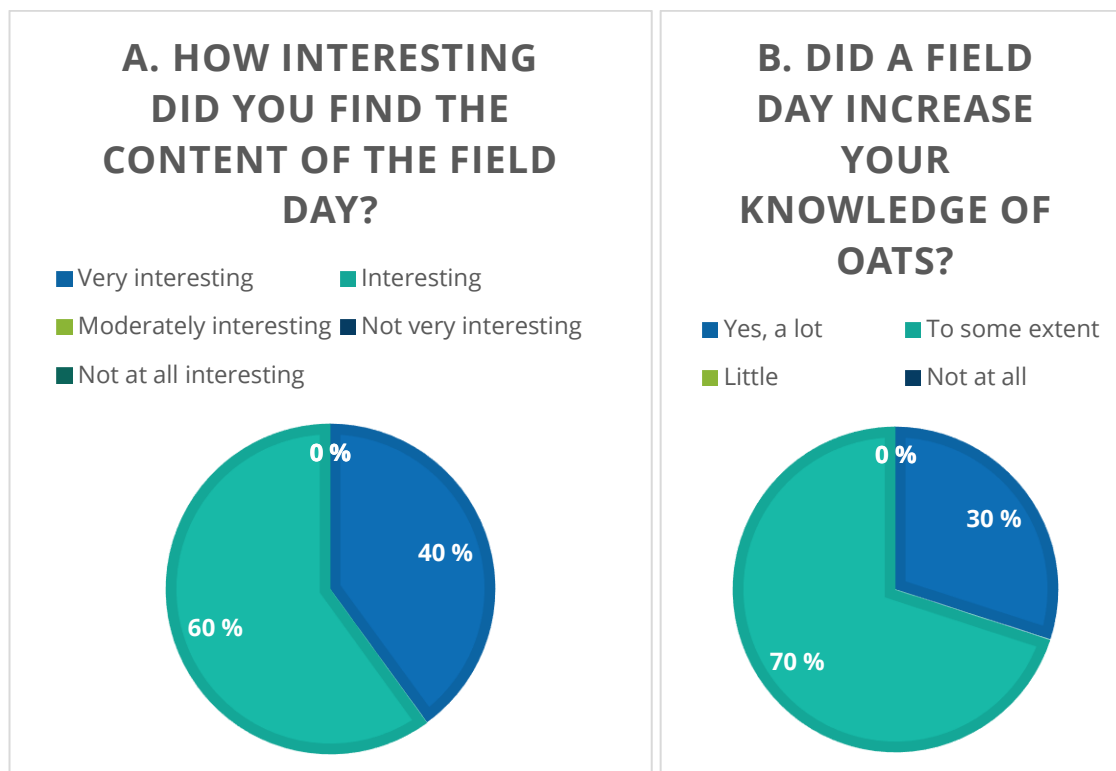


Fig. 2. A. Feedback on the content of the field day, B. Learning experience of the participants.

In general, the participants of the field day found the program interesting (Fig. 2A) and they learned new things about oats (Fig. 2B). The most useful thing about the field day, according to the responses: (direct quotes translated from Finnish to English from the open field responses):

the effect of conditions (day length) on plant development, on-site variety comparison, practical experiences from farmers, networking, characteristics and adaptability of oat varieties in northern Finland, presence of experts, discussion, presentation of oat varieties, comparison of different varieties of oats, experimental activities and oat varieties.

The practical arrangements (e.g. information provided beforehand, venue, catering) of the field day were found either good (80% of respondents) or very good (20%). All the respondents found the timing and place of the event suitable for themselves.

Networking opportunities were found to be plentiful (Fig. 3).

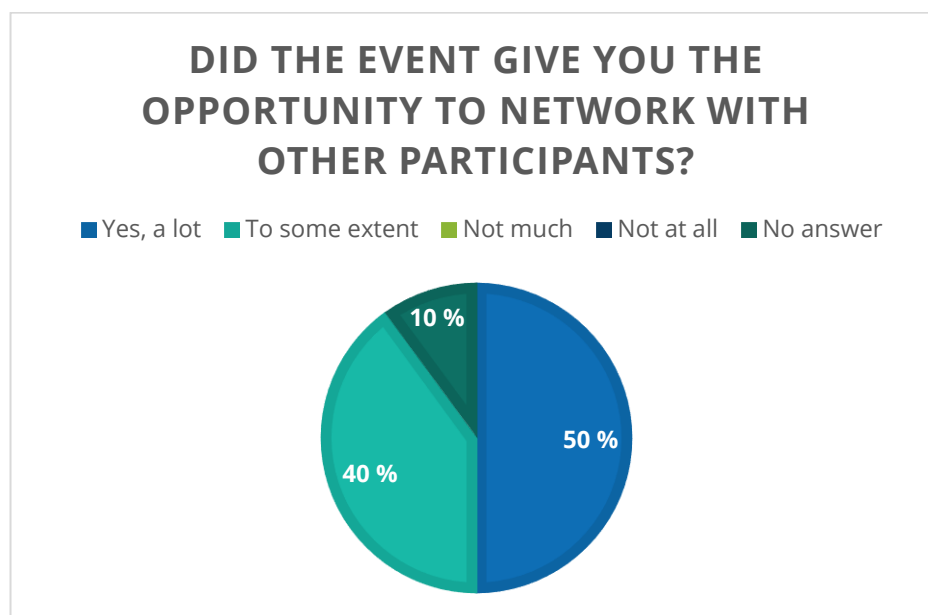


Fig. 3. Networking among participants of the field days.

Six respondents were interested to participate OatFrontiers study tour in 2025 and three respondents answered “maybe”. In the open field respondents suggested that the study tour could be held in Öjebyn, Sweden or somewhere in Sweden, Norway or Iceland. It was hoped that the study tour would take place in the summer, even though it is a busy time for farmers. It is the best time to observe oats.

4 respondents would be interested to grow the best oat varieties in their own fields in 2026.

Tips for next time: in the open field answers, there was a wish for something more than just varieties for the field day, i.e. farming techniques in general.

Link to the news story made during the field day by the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle):

<https://yle.fi/a/74-20104756>