

WP3.1 Field Day report from Loue and Ruukki, Finland.

OatFrontiers Field Day in Loue

Date: 12th August 2025

Place: Lappia Loue, Kätkävaarantie 69, Tervola, Finland

Participants: 12 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 and oat varieties were presented by the project coordinator Juho Hautsalo. The Lappia field manager Martti Niva explained the management practices conducted in the field during the spring and summer and Luke trainee Ainomaria Räisänen presented the phenotyping conducted in the field over the summer.

The experiments this year demonstrated besides existing varieties and conventional farming, also effects of use of organic fertilizer. The diversity of oats and how they may adapt to different environmental conditions was presented with the hill plot experiment. 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.



Experimental oat yield plot and field day participants.

Countryside Fair – Maaseudulta käsin messut

Date: 30th and 31st August 2025

Place: Lappia Loue, Kätkävaarantie 69, Tervola, Finland

Participants: over 7000 people

The traditional Countryside Fair was organized for the 29th time in the end of August 2025. The event was hosted at the Lappia vocational school next to the OatFrontiers field experiments. Fair is an advocate for rural areas and highlights livelihoods, services, and products related to agriculture, forestry, and the countryside. The exhibitors include companies, traditional market vendors, food producers, artisans, artists, as well as regional developers and some scientists. The fair visitors could visit the OatFrontiers field experiment site with a guided tour or by themselves reading about the project from a sign next to the oat experimental plots.

Field day –celebrating 100 years of research at Ruukki research station

Date: 14th August 2025

Place: Luke Ruukki Research Station, North Ostrobothnia

Participants: 130 people

OatFrontiers project participated the field day organized in Northern Ostrobothnia. North Ostrobothnia is the Northernmost region in Finland where oat is already actively cultivated for both food and feed purposes and used by local farms, mills and feed factories. The field day event gathered 20 different organizations including seed companies, agriculture service providers, food companies, educators etc. at Luke's research station at Ruukki to present their work and services. OatFrontiers had a stand close to the local oat trials that had several overlapping cultivars with the Loue cultivar experiment in Lapland. We had a tent and there also a poster presenting the project. Farmers and other stakeholders visited our stand and discussed many topics related to oat cultivars. The susceptibility of cultivars to mycotoxins was the most important topic in the discussions and we presented also some of the ongoing work related to that.