

Northern Periphery and Arctic

OatFrontiers – Adapting oats to Final Frontier

NEWSLETTER 3 - 2025

Next Season of Oats has started!

The project has analysed the first season's results and distributed seeds for the next season. Now we are preparing for the first field observations and forthcoming field events. Hope to see you there!

First view of oat quality variation

Last summer, OatFrontiers ran two kinds of oat trials to explore harvest quality, measuring yield, kernel size, protein, and more. One of the trials focused on a diverse set of oats (aimed for finding new variation for future cultivar improvement) grown in small plots at three European sites, and a bonus site in the US. The other tested 27–30 commercial oat cultivars in bigger plots across eight locations.

The yield varied drastically between locations. Ås, a control location outside NPA, had the highest average, while oats in Iceland struggled to mature. Notably, the cultivar Hurja performed consistently well, being among the five with highest yield across all sites. Protein content ranged from 9–16%, and hectoliter weight from 40.2 to 69.8 highlighting the diversity in oat quality across environments.



Many field events, a study tour and a stakeholder workshop

In addition to several local field days and demonstrations, the OatFrontiers project organizes a stakeholder study tour August 4th and 5th to Northern Osthrobothnia, Finland, and a stakeholder workshop (hybrid event) October 16th in Steinkjer, Norway. Check our website for further information.

OatFrontiers Project Video is Out!

Our team has prepared a video together with a Finnish company VideoVille introducing the OatFrontiers project. Feel free to share the link to Youtube. Note that there are subtitles available in all project languages. **https://youtu.be/Vo9QwU8bLBU**





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Introducing OatFrontiers



Espen Sørensen (Graminor) at the NIBIO Steinkjer Field Day

Field trial at NIBIO Tromsø

Sigridur Dalmannsdottir (NIBIO), Morten Lillemo (NMBU) and technician discussing cereal development

Meet the oat experts

OatFrontiers is a joint project of 10 partners representing universities, research, institutes and plant breeders. Here are our three project partners in Norway:

Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) leads the work to expand the genetic base for future North Atlantic oat breeding. Professor Morten Lillemo and his team, researcher Min Lin and PhD student Kai Ilves will coordinate the work on genetic studies, maintain and propagate seeds of diversity lines of oat for testing at the projects trial sites. Their work involves analyses of phenotype data from the other sites and use genotype data to identify genes behind the traits important for northern growing conditions. They will also conduct field trials in Ås.

Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy (NIBIO) is a a research institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Therese Birkeland Fossøy a cereal researcher from NIBIO Steinkjer and Sigridur Dalmannsdottir a plant physiologist researcher from NIBIO Tromsø will be responsible for the field trials at the research stations in Steinkjer and Tromsø. Hilde Halland, a social science researcher from NIBIO Tromsø leads the outreach part of the project, with activities for farmers and other stakeholders such as Field Days and workshops.

Graminor is the leading plant breeding company in Norway that develops new cultivars of all cereal crops including oat, and tests foreign material for the Norwegian market. In OatFrontiers plant breeder Espen Sørensen will do the quality analysis of seed samples for all field trials in Norway. Through the project Graminor will implement the knowledge gained into development of new cultivars for the NPA region through the Norwegian breeding program.

Follow us in social media and prepare to join our events locally or online

Please let us know if you are interested to receive further information about our events. <u>https://forms.office.com/e/yy6j5jMBVe</u>

Further information about the events can be found from our website and from our social media account: <u>https://www.interreg-npa.eu/projects/oatfrontiers/</u> <u>https://twitter.com/OatFrontiers</u>

