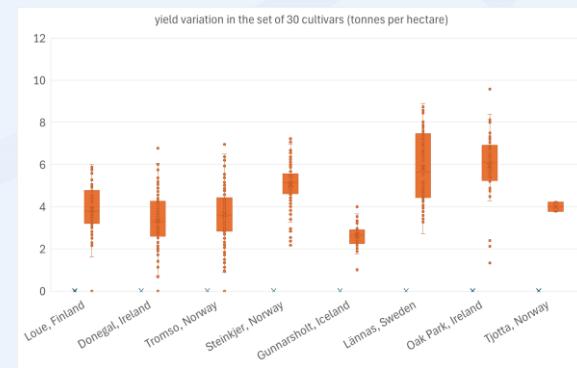
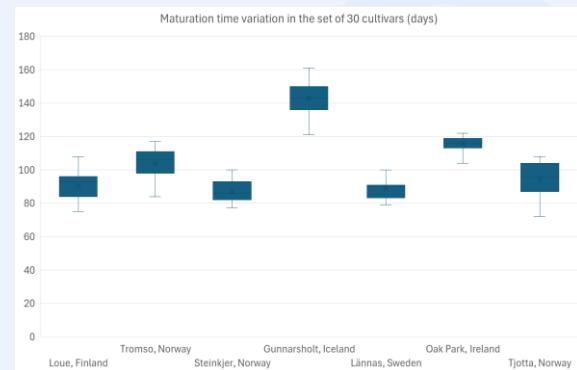


## NEWSLETTER 4 - 2025

# Second season successfully finished

OatFrontiers organized field trials at a total of 15 locations within the Northern Periphery Area (NPA) and other relevant sites. The figures below illustrate the variation measured across these locations over two years. Some cultivars showed very stable performance; for example, the Norwegian cultivar *Hurja* was frequently among the best performers in terms of yield, and the earliest-maturing cultivars consistently matured early. However, the considerable variation highlights the importance of cultivar testing to identify the most suitable varieties.

Ongoing quality and data analyses aim to reveal whether certain cultivars perform better in specific areas than others in terms of yield, harvest quality, or agronomic traits, and which management practices, characteristics, or environmental conditions may explain these differences. The analysis of the pre-breeding material of more than 400 oat lines is already uncovering promising variation that exceeds that of currently recommended cultivars. We will share more about these findings and the signatures of selection in our upcoming newsletters, so stay tuned!



## Many field events, a study tour and a stakeholder workshop

Outreach activities aimed at farmers and other stakeholders connected to the oat value chain are an important part of the project. In 2025, we have organized numerous field days at 10 locations, reaching hundreds of actors across the NPA region. Last summer, we also arranged a study tour for interested stakeholders in Northern Ostrobothnia, and on October 16th we held a workshop in Steinkjer, Norway. The event included presentations and a panel discussion with 65 participants from the region, both online and in person, where we explored the challenges and opportunities of northern oat production. You can read more about these events on our [website](#) and follow up for coming information of our June workshop in Ireland!

## We are seeking for local “madcaps”

Are you a cereal-farmer in the NPA area (the blue region on the map) and would like to try out the best performing cultivars from your local area? OatFrontiers aims to provide seeds to a few farmers from each country to test for cultivation in your own fields in 2027. If interested send an e-mail to: [hilde.halland@nibio.no](mailto:hilde.halland@nibio.no)



**NEWSLETTER 4 - 2025**

# Introducing OatFrontiers



Left Photo:  
Sofia Marmon from  
Lund University in front  
of the OatFrontiers  
fieldtrials in Ås.

Right Photo:  
Field-day at Lännäs.

## Meet the oat experts

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

### Lund University

At Lund University, Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry Sofia Marmon and her team are working on data analysis within the OatFrontiers project. This has included genotyping-by-sequencing analyses, carried out by bioinformatician Johan Bentzer, to select the best set of oats at the start of the project. Currently, Sofia is focusing on harvest quality analyses. This involves collecting and statistically analyzing data from field trials across all partners, including yield and protein content estimates, and more detailed quality assessments of selected cultivars, which are performed by Lantmännen.

### Lantmännen

At the breeding company Lantmännen, Johanna Holmblad and Pernilla Vallenback work as oat breeders. The project includes trial sites in several countries, and the Swedish site is Lantmännen's northernmost farm in Lännäs, located at approximately the same latitude as Trondheim (around 63°N). At Lännäs, both yield trials and observation plots are carried out. In Lantmännen's laboratory, comprehensive analyses are conducted on the varieties included in the yield trials. The analyses cover parameters such as hullability, kernel content, protein, fat, beta-glucan, and 17 different amino acids. Upon completion of the project, Lantmännen aims to have additional tools to develop new oat varieties tailored for the NPA region.

## 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. [Get email from OatFrontiers](#)

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

