



## **ENAJ LBPT to Southwest Finland – 31 May to 3 June 2026**



**Dear colleagues,**

The Finnish Guild of Agricultural Journalists warmly welcomes you to visit the Southwest Finland. During the trip, we will explore arable farming and animal husbandry in one of the country's most important agricultural provinces. You will hear about practical solutions on how this northern country is prepared for uncertain times. You learn about the Finnish concept of security of our food supply, animal welfare, forestry, and how farmers have developed their practices to protect the environment.

### **Key information**

- Dates: 31 May – 3 June 2026
- Participation fee: €295 for a single room and €200 for a shared double room at hotel Scandic Plaza, located in the city center of Turku.
- Included: hotel for three nights, meals, and bus transportation during the program.
- Not included: travel costs to Turku, drinks outside meals.
- Number of places: 25 journalists.
- Registration: Accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Please wait for confirmation of your registration before booking flights.
- The trip invoice must be paid to the Finnish Guild of Agricultural Journalists no later than the due date, 12 May. An unpaid invoice will result in the cancellation of your registration. After the due date, payments are non-refundable and the trip cannot be canceled. The trip may be transferred to another person.
- Registration link: <https://forms.gle/7AWxapfcMX92EzNF9>

### **Animal health regulations**

- Please note that anyone arriving in Finland from abroad who has been in contact with animals must observe a waiting period before visiting an animal farm in Finland. **At least 48 hours must pass after the last animal contact abroad**, and at least 24 of those hours must be spent in Finland before entering the farm. As we will visit a pig farm on July 1, please make sure your travel plans comply with this requirement if you have had contact with animals prior to arrival.

## **Program**

### **Sunday 31 May**

Arrival in Turku, hotel rooms available 4 pm onwards

17.45 Meeting at the hotel lobby and walk to the restaurant nearby

18:00 Dinner at the restaurant Suomalainen Pohja. During dinner, the Chair of the Finnish Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK), Tero Hemmilä, and MTK Southwest Finland Chair, Aarne Lehtonen, will present their views on the challenges and opportunities of Finnish agriculture in politics and in the marketplace.

## **Monday 1 June**

08:30 Departure from the hotel.

09:00 Visit to an arable farm that follows a six-year crop rotation and uses precision drilling as the sowing method. Crops grown include sugar beet, coriander, caraway, rye, oilseeds, winter wheat, peas, and oats. We will also learn about the operations of Trans Farm Oy, a company responsible for processing and exporting spice crops.

11:00–13:00 Visit to Raisio plc, an international Finnish listed food company known for healthy and responsibly produced food products. The company manufactures breakfast items, snacks, and baking products, as well as foods that support heart health. The main raw material used in Raisio's production is Finnish grain, especially oats. Lunch served during the visit.

13:30–15:00 Visit to a modern pig farm with 3,500 sows, the biggest in the world where pigs keep their long tails. Farm has developed its operations with focus on efficiency, animal welfare and environment. Two-thirds of the farms' pigs are grown with free farrowing. The farm has developed innovative ways to utilize manure and has built 11 kilometers of underground manure pumping lines. Pigs can be viewed behind a glass window in a "showroom".

16:00–18:00 Visit to Sarka Agricultural Museum in Loimaa. Presentations on Finnish agriculture and national food supply security by representatives of the Agronomy Association of Finland and the Maintenance and Supply Security Centre.

19:30 Dinner in Turku. Venue to be confirmed.

## **Tuesday 2 June**

08:00 Departure from the hotel.

08:45–10:00 Visit to an arable farm to explore an automatic double grain dryer powered by a biofurnace. The energy source is wood chips harvested from the farm's own forests. The visit also includes a look at the energy wood storage.

11:00–12:30 Visit to a farm in Loimaa, run by young agronomists, that cultivates and produces certified seeds for crop production. Its network includes 30 contract seed producers. The farm is part of the Tilasiemen chain, which sells seeds throughout Finland.

13:00–14:00 Lunch at Lounasbar Akseli in Koski TL.

15:00 Visit to Qvidja research farm in Parainen for nature-friendly agriculture and forestry. The Baltic Sea, climate, soil, and biodiversity are at the core of the research carried out with cattle, sheep, and horses. The farm is built around a 15th-century castle and promotes cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research of global significance. It is the flagship site of the Carbon Action platform, a Finnish project that develops methods to store carbon permanently in soil and scientifically verify the changes in carbon storage, including much-needed MRV for soil carbon.

17:00–19:00 Visit to the Nordkalk limestone quarry. During the visit we shall get information about agricultural liming in Finland, including its importance for soil, yields, and sustainability.

19:30 Dinner in Parainen and an opportunity to experience a Finnish sauna. Venue to be confirmed.

22:00 Bus transfer to the hotel.

## Wednesday 3 June

08:00 Departure from the hotel.

09:00 Visit to farm that produces a Finnish delicacies early potatoes as well as raspberries, grains, fava beans, oilseed crops, and peas. The farm also provides machinery contracting services and crayfish farming. Raspberries are grown in plastic tunnels, which are heated using the same heating plant as the grain dryer. Raspberries and early potatoes are also sold directly to consumers at the farm's own kiosk.

11:30 Visit to a dairy farm near Turku with about 200 dairy cows and 150 young cattle. The cows are managed with three robots. The farm uses a three-breed insemination system combining Ayrshire, Holstein, and Montbéliarde.

13:00 Lunch in Turku. Venue to be confirmed. After lunch, the charter bus will drive to the bus and railway stations and possibly Turku Airport or the harbor, as needed.

15:00 End of the trip.

### Please contact us if you have any questions:

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**Tervetuloa Suomeen – Welcome to Finland**

**The Finnish Guild of Agricultural Journalists – Maataloustoimittajat**

**Sponsors of the trip:** Agronomiliitto, Atria plc, Raisio plc, Tilasiemen, Trans Farm, Antti-teollisuus, MTK, MTK Varsinais-Suomi, SLC, and Nordkalk.