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Creation of small wetlands on the farms

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Restoring or constructing small (or large) wetlands on farms can help in creating attractive agroforestry landscapes so this can be an option when a farm has some rural tourism activities. In addition, creating wetlands would be beneficial for plant and animal biodiversity, they provide valuable habitat to a range of wildlife, e.g. dragonflies, birds and butterflies, and under appropriate management conditions wetlands can act as a carbon sink. In Finland, farmers can apply for subsidies if they create or restore a wetland on their farm. In the preparations of the draft of the New Finnish Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, creation of wetlands was recognised as an important climate change adaptation measure, improving water and nutrient retention capacity. Riparian buffer strips can be created around wetlands. In case of flooding or heavy rainfall, wetlands function as an extra reservoir and can help as a flood prevention measure. In addition, in times of drought wetlands can function as an additional drinking reservoir for livestock or for spraying the crops, increasing climate resilience of farms.

Constructed wetland at Qvidja farm, Finland. Photo by Michael den Herder

More info:

Finnish Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022: https://mmm.fi/documents/1410837/5120838/MMM-_193086-v1-Finland_s_National_climate_Change_Adaptation_Plan_2022.pdf/582041ee-3518-4a63-bf60-7133aed95a9c

Water and wildlife. WildCRU Wildlife & Farming handbook. URL: https://www.agricology.co.uk/resources/water-and-wildlife

Verhoeven, J., 2014. Wetlands in Europe: Perspectives for restoration of a lost paradise. Ecological Engineering. Volume 66, 6-9. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoleng.2013.03.006

Monivaikutteiset kosteikot - Multi-functional wetlands (information in Finnish) https://www.ymparisto.fi/fi-FI/Vesi/Vesien_kaytto/Maankuivatus_ja_ojitus/Luonnonmukainen_peruskuivatus/Monivaikutteiset_kosteikot

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