

The EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism: Bioforsk's approaches and experiences

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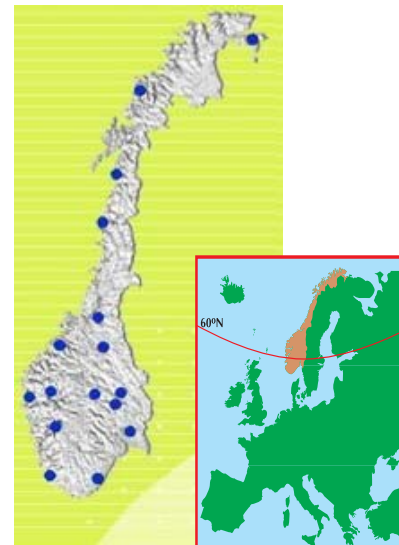
Established in 2006, by merging
three former institutes:
Jordforsk, Planteforsk and Norsøk

Three major fields of activities:

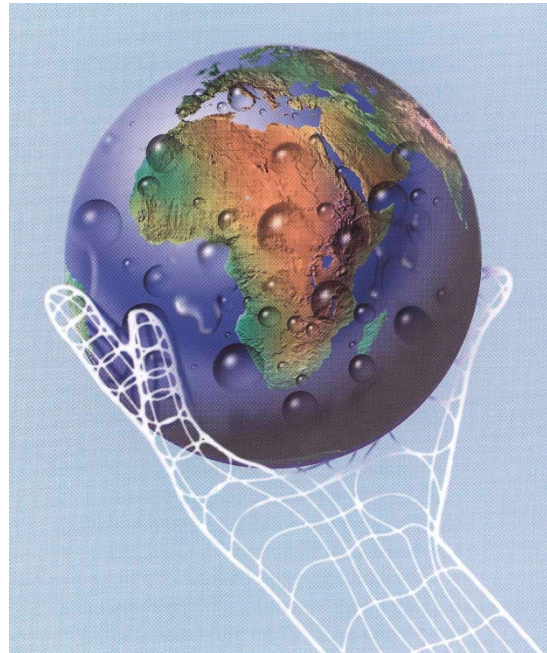
- *Environment protection and natural resources management*
- *Multifunctional and sustainable agriculture, and rural development*
- *Plant science, plant protection and biotechnology*

Organisation:

- 7 Research divisions
- Total staff about 450
- Annual turnover about EUR 50 mill



Our main focus:
Food, Agriculture and Environment
Bridging sustainability



Important fields of Bioforsk's activities

- Sustainable agricultural practices and production systems
- Food quality and safety
- Plant health
- Genetics and bio-technology
- Wastes, wastewater and sanitation
- Watershed management - integrated land and water resources management
- Soil quality and land degradation
- Climate change
- Methods and tools for decision support



Our strategic perspectives on the Financial Mechanisms

We have:

- A long-term perspective
- A tool for building strategic and long-term relations within the field of R&D,
- Subsequent networks for research in Europe



Increased international cooperation is a high priority issue at Bioforsk

- Researchers are strongly encouraged to take part in international cooperation
- Internal financial incentives at Bioforsk for international collaboration and network building
- Specific priority given to EU and the EEA/NFM

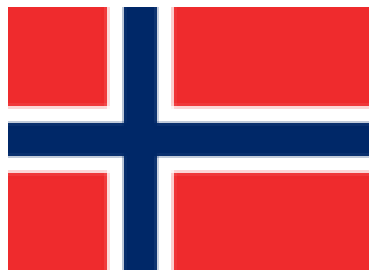
Within the EEA/NMF:

- Main focus so far were given on Poland
- Additionally, Romania and Bulgaria is going the be focused on ahead
- We are also involved in initiatives in several other countries



Example: Poland

- Established strong relations with the polish research institutions and universities
- Established joint Polish-Norwegian consortia based on Bioforsk and a several related institutions in Poland, e.g. VISA - Virtual Institute for Sustainable Agriculture.
- Joint workshops
- Good relations on Ministerial level, also contributing to necessary contacts between agriculture and environment; - ensured the involvement of appropriate representatives from the authorities (end-users) in preparatory discussion.

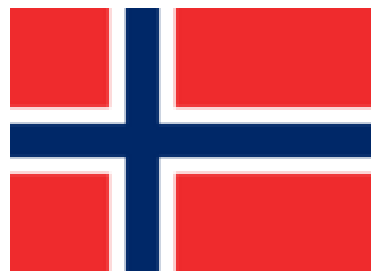


Some experiences

- Great opportunity to establish joint activities,- we have managed well so far
- Many of the priorities fit well to Bioforsk's key research areas
- There is a common interest for joint research activities

BUT

- Bureaucracy - formulas, reporting requirements, etc
- Practical aspects related to internal co-ordination of project proposals
- Co-financing - a great challenge



Overview on on-going projects under EEA/NFM



Three projects in Poland and one in Estonia approved so far:



- *Pilot implementation of the WFD and construction of tools for water management. Technical assistance, *acquis communautaire**



- *Modelling of biomass utilization for energy purposes. Academic research*



- *Biodiversity protection of Red Bog (Czerwone Bagno) - the relict of raised bogs in central Europe. Academic research*



- *Emission of nitrous oxide and methane from Estonian agricultural landscapes - variation among various ecosystems and possible mitigation strategies. Academic research*

Leading parties:

- IBMER - Institute for Building, Mechanization and Electrification of Agriculture (VISA - Virtual Institute for Sustainable Agriculture)
- Warsaw University of Life Sciences
- Institute of Geography, University of Tartu



Projects in "pipeline" waiting for the final decision



- Sanitation systems for rural areas in North Poland. University of Gdańsk
- Monitoring/modelling of ground water in water deficit areas. Warsaw University of Life Sciences
- Sustainable agricultural practise in NE Poland. Economic Research Institute in Olsztyn

Polish- Norwegian Research Fund

Four large projects focused on:

- Health/biotechnology/plants for production of vaccines
- Protection of Baltic sea and its drainage basin from pollution - nutrients and eutrophication
- Sustainable production systems through organic agriculture
- Irrigation water quality in water deficient areas

Final call projects - several invitations for Bioforsk



- Waste and wastewater management in rural areas 
- Implementation of natural purification systems 
- Treatment efficiencies under different climate conditions 
- Fate of pathogens, xenobiotics and toxic metals in on-site WWTS 
- Decentralised sanitation systems in remote areas 
- Management of industrial wastewater 
- Eco-sanitation in rural areas 



Contacts on cooperation under the EEA/NFM



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