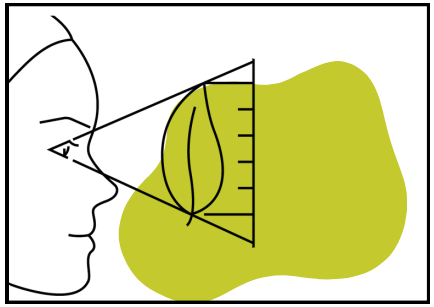
Laboratory services

+ The accredited laboratories are providing a wide range of laboratory services for the agricultural sector and high level analytical competence.

+ The laboratories offer analyses for soil and fertilizers, cereals and silage; test the quality of crops and seeds; perform microbiological analyses of plant products, feed, soil and compost; identify and confirm plant diseases and pests.

Teaduse 4, Saku, Harjumaa
Mon – Thu 8.30–16.00; Fri 8.30–14.00
+372 5342 9205; vastuvott@metk.agri.ee



Seed Centre services

+ Our mission is to grow quality seed. By doing so, we increase Estonian demand for domestic seed and ensure the continuity of Estonian varieties.

+372 5330 5922 (Cereal and Grass Varieties)
+372 513 4723 (Vegetable and Potato Varieties)

8 locations across Estonia

The plant breeding and research centre is in Jõgeva township, which also houses the institution's head office, while additional laboratories are in Saku.

Field trials are conducted in four counties: Rapla, Viljandi, Võru, and Jõgeva. METK also has offices in Tartu, Kuressaare and Jäneda.

METK's personnel

METK has more than 300 employees, of whom nearly 50% are active in variety breeding and research, and 30% work at laboratories. We currently have about 50 researchers.

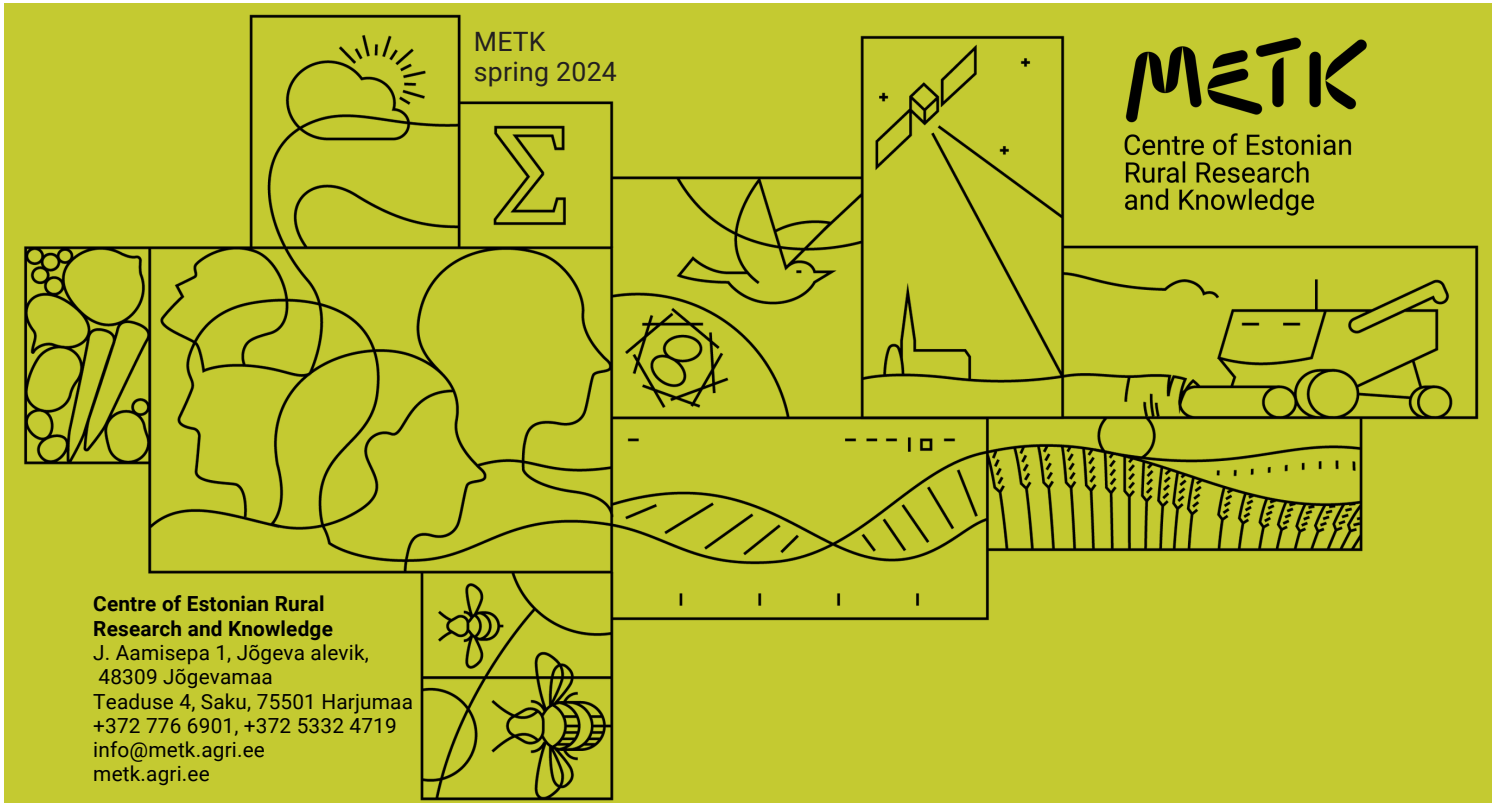
The Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge (METK)

+ METK's research and development expertise covers the fields of plant breeding and protection, soil, agrochemistry, environmental monitoring, socio-economic, and many other research areas.

+ METK's modern laboratories and variety testing centres are established partners in implementing the national control system.

+ METK provides knowledge transfer, training, advice, and innovation services for agricultural and rural development. It also carries out activities necessary to implement the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The institution started operating on the 1st of January 2023 and fulfills all the previous tasks of the Estonian Crop Research Institute and the Agricultural Research Centre.



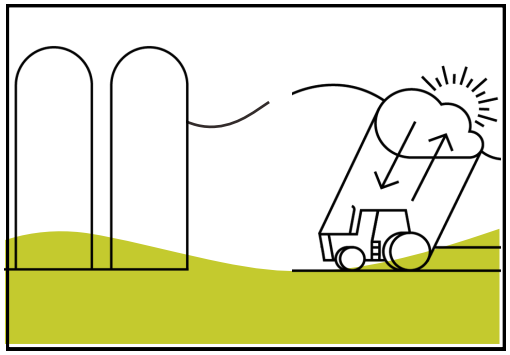
Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge
J. Aamisepa 1, Jõgeva alevik,
48309 Jõgevamaa
Teaduse 4, Saku, 75501 Harjumaa
+372 776 6901, +372 5332 4719
info@metk.agri.ee
metk.agri.ee

100 years of plant breeding and crop science

The varieties of cereals, oil crops, vegetables, grasses, and legumes bred in METK have been rigorously tested to grow successfully in Estonia's changing climate conditions.
So, no negative surprises are to be expected in terms of yield, winter hardiness, disease resistance, or other characteristics.

+ In total, more than 300 varieties of agricultural crops have been assigned to the the Estonian Variety List in our Jõgeva breeding center since 1920.
+ For example, the still popular potato variety 'Jõgeva kollane' has been around since 1942.
+ The first orange-fruited tomato varieties, 'Pille' and 'Siive' were released in 2023.
+ There are a total of 22 varieties of cereals, legumes, and oilseeds bred in Estonia.
+ Newer varieties are winter oilseed rape 'Aita' and winter wheat 'Perenaise.' In 2024, a newly cultivated plant species, *Festuca trachyphylla* 'Ruhnu,' was completed.

Other essential research activities include plant protection, plant biotechnology, gene bank, and several other areas of importance to agriculture.



METK in figures (2023)

2 **centres of excellence in research** where we act as a partner

36 **cooperation projects** in which we are involved

20 **international projects** we are participating in

105 **trainings, workshops, farminars** organized under knowledge transfer & networking

180 **varieties** for which economic tests were carried out

455 **batches of seeds** in follow-up tests

53000 **analyses of laboratory samples**, including

37000 **soil samples**

126000 **hectares of land**, for which fertilization and soil acidity maps were prepared

Knowledge transfer & networking

+ Rural Network Service carries out the tasks of the National CAP Network – organizing events on rural topics, collecting project examples collaborating with other networks within the EU and much more.
+ Innovation Support Service's goal is to assist and foster innovation by providing guidance and solutions to Agri-Food industry leaders, helping them make informed decisions.
+ Training and Advisory Service ensures that knowledge and expertise are effectively shared; acting also as a development body for agricultural advisory activities in Estonia, operating within the wider AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System) context.

Research

+ Through applied research and development, we increase Estonian agriculture's efficiency, competitiveness, and socio-economic sustainability while contributing to preserving biodiversity.
+ We explore the current condition of Estonia's agricultural land, soil health, biodiversity, and the well-being of farmers and rural economies. Additionally, we assess sustainable farming practices and technologies and analyze how agricultural and other sectoral policies can enhance the sustainability of Estonia's agriculture.
+ We assess the impact of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) measures, including monitoring environmental measures, analyzing the environmental effects of land use, etc.
+ We are the contact point for Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) in Estonia.
+ From 2024, we collect price data on agricultural and food products in Estonia and manage the processing, storage, transmission, and publication of this information to the European Commission.

Field testing

METK's field testing centers conduct the field trials for Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) tests necessary for Variety List compilation, variety registration (DUS) tests, and trials for ex-post control of certified seeds, all coordinated by the Agriculture and Food Board. In addition, they offer various types of field trials for private clients according to their specific needs.
The test centres have a standard accredited management system, ensuring complete reliability of the test results.