

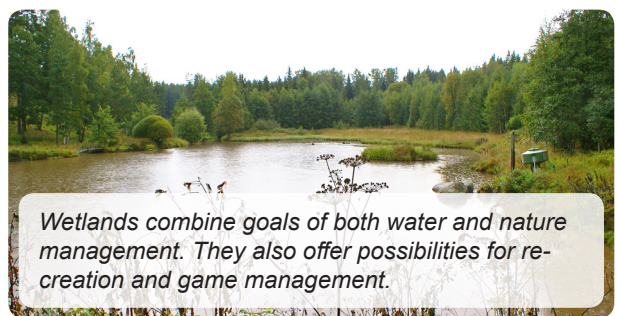
Abundant and clean water reserves vital

to Finnish agriculture and forestry

Our climate stands in the background of sustainable water consumption in agriculture and forestry. Approximately only half of precipitation evaporates, which maintains water reserves. Fields form 7,5% of land area, and in majority of them, ditching is needed to remove excessive water and to intensify nutrient utilization. Irrigation is mostly not needed. Forests cover 86% of land area, and they are essential in water circulation and maintenance of water balance.



The aim of goal 6.1 is safe and affordable drinking water. Over 60% of water used in Finland is groundwater. Using nutrients and pesticides, harmful to groundwater, is strictly regulated in our country.



Wetlands combine goals of both water and nature management. They also offer possibilities for recreation and game management.

Improving water quality is part of the goal 6.3. Approximately 9 farms out of 10 have committed to agri-environment schemes, containing water protection measures. Water protection interests farmers. For instance, nitrogen balance of fields was reduced 42% and phosphorus balance 86%, in years 1990 - 2016.

In forestry, several voluntary measures for water protection are used, for instance buffer zones, different constructions slowing discharge, and wetlands. Many of them also contribute to the goal 6.6., concerning protection of ecosystems related to water bodies.

Goal 6.3 contains also safe re-use of waste water. In Finland it mainly means utilizing nutrients and organic matter in waste water. By developing and utilizing ever better waste water treatment technologies, it must be verified that final products, created during recycling, are without harmful substances.

Climate change brings many challenges. Increasing rains raise risk of loads in waters, and the early summer dryness increases need of irrigation. Agriculture and forestry are essential in mitigating climate change, but adaptation measures are needed, as well.

Goal 6.4 concerns water-use efficiency. In Finland, irrigation is barely needed and there is enough drinking water for animals. Domestic food lessens water import with food from countries, where they have shortage of water. Food production consumes 80% of fresh water in the world.

Environmental sustainability

MTK has drawn up **environmental promises** as a part of responsible agricultural and forestry production. MTK encourages to take care of waters, land, air, and biodiversity.

Economical sustainability

The goal of MTK is to improve profitability of Finnish agriculture and forestry. This way farms also have better possibilities to focus on more demanding water protection measures.

Social sustainability

By taking care of cleanliness of soils and waters, we create basis for safe food production. Finnish food does not increase water shortage which is actual in many countries.