



It was a crowded field day that was held on September 2, at the SOLMACC farm Hånsta Östergårde in Sweden. Approximately 40 participants, comprising of farmers, agricultural advisors, academics and journalists, defied the bad weather and gathered for an interesting day on the theme 'Agroforestry'.

Hånsta Östergårde is a mixed organic farm located in Vattholma, 20 km north of the town Uppsala in the south east of Sweden. The farm is run by the farmers Ylwa and Kjell Sjelin. They have 170 ha of arable land, 10 ha grazing land and 100 ha of forest land. The animal production consists of 15 livestock, 30 ewes and 10 sows which are all kept outdoor throughout the whole year.

It was a successful day that offered interesting demonstrations of the farms trial cultivations, including perennial crops and alley cultivation of bushes and trees. Kjell and Ylwa have recently installed hedgerows and tree strips in their fields with apple and pear, saskatoon, sea buckthorn and hazelnut. The group also had a chance to familiarize with Hånsta's charming rooting forest pigs.

In the afternoon, a work shop was held on climate actions and agroforestry. Throughout the day there were many discussions on innovations and climate challenges and possible solutions in agriculture.

A journalist from the Swedish agriculture magazine ATL participated on the field day at Hånsta Östergårde and made two videos; one about agroforestry and another about the forest pigs (though in Swedish, the videos are a nice documentation of the day).

<http://atplay.nu/video/kjell-testar-agroforestry/>

<http://atplay.nu/video/grisarna-fixar-markberedningen/>



© Paula Cederberg



SOLMACC is supported by the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union. The sole responsibility for the content lies with the author and the communication reflects only the author's view. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.