Co-funded by the European Union

RegioFoodS

REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM
SOUTH OSTROBOTHNIA, FINLAND

South Ostrobothnia is transitioning its food system through strengthening innovation, competence and the use of new technologies in the food sector. One of the targets is the promotion of healthier, more sustainable products[1]. **The Food Province** [Fin. Ruoka Provinssi] is a network of regional food industry actors that aims to strengthen the food sector's success by improving the broader food business environment[2].


© 2026, MIKKO KANGAS

DEMOGRAPHICS IN 2025

TOTAL POPULATION
189.5 thousand
5,652.9

POPULATION DENSITY
13.7 persons/km²
18.6 PER./KM²

RURAL POPULATION
67.1 %
25.0 %

MEDIAN AGE
46.1 years old
43.7

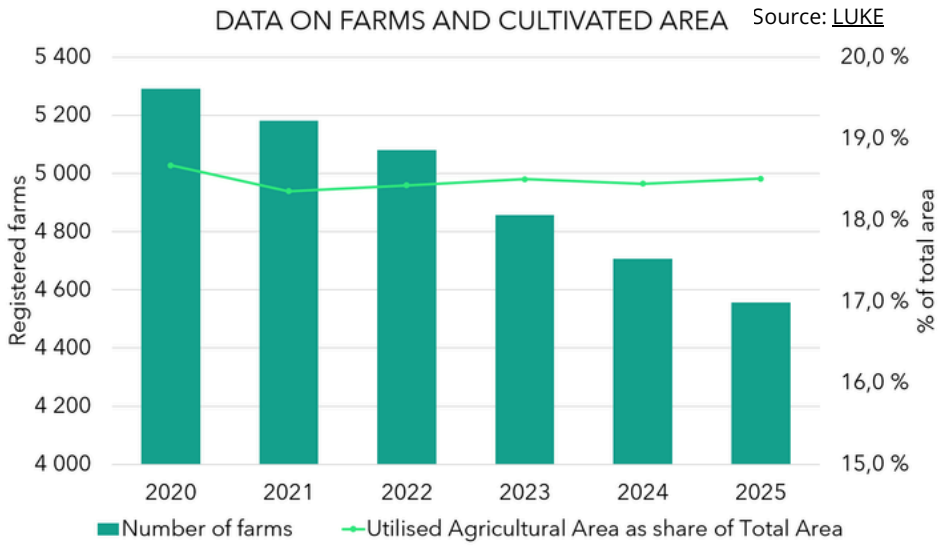
AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION

4,630
NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL ENTERPRISES (2025)

> 30 %
FOOD INDUSTRY'S SHARE OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL TURNOVER

44.5 %
AGRICULTURE SHARE OF REGIONAL GHG EMISSIONS IN 2023
average 22.3 %

DATA ON FARMS AND CULTIVATED AREA Source: LUKE



SHARE OF FINLAND'S LIVESTOCK (2024)

14 % **21 %** **28 %** **5 %** **17 %**

SELECTED SWOT FACTORS FOR THE REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM

STRENGTHS
Strong food-production cluster
Food Province collaboration network
Strong innovation and RDI capacity

WEAKNESSES
Dependence on livestock production
Environmental pressures from agriculture
Ageing farming population

SWOT

OPPORTUNITIES
Sustainable food-system diversification
Digitalisation and smart farming
Growing demand for local food

THREATS
Climate change impacts
Input and market volatility
Declining farm profitability

14 %
FINLAND'S CROP & ANIMAL PRODUCTION VALUE ADDED (2023)

The South Ostrobothnia food system combines **strong agri-food capacity** with a relatively **high degree of sectoral and production specialisation**, leaving the region highly exposed and **vulnerable to disruptions affecting livestock-based food systems** and the **sustainability transition**. (See 3, 4, 5, 6)


© 2026, MIKKO KANGAS

REGIOFOODS IS PART OF THE PROGRAMME OF FUTUREFOODS, CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION'S HORIZON EUROPE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 101136361.