

## **XXII EURAGRI members conference 2008**

### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN FINLAND**

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In Finland, agricultural research is carried out in governmental research institutes, universities and private research organizations. A substantial share of public research on agriculture is carried out in Agrifood Research Finland (MTT), which is one of the 20 governmental research institutes.

The whole research system in Finland is undergoing change. In 2010, universities will be changed from civil service departments into public corporations (juridical persons), which gives them more freedom of operation. The role and future perspectives of governmental research institutes have been clarified in several studies lately. In 2007, an Advisory Committee for Sectorial Research (ACSR) was established in the Ministry of Education. The latest study (august 2008) states that the Finnish sectorial research system is basically sound. No large mergers are recommended. However, a common research policy is urgently needed. A part of research institutes' work will be directed to common nationally important research programmes coordinated by ACSR. Increasing co-operation between institutes and with universities is emphasized.