

## **Projects funded in Towards a Sustainable, Healthy and Climate-Neutral Food System (FOOD) SRC Programme**

### **Multi-benefit solutions to climate-smart agriculture (MULTA)**

Consortium PI: Jari Liski, Finnish Meteorological Institute

Consortium composition: Laura Höijer, Baltic Sea Action Group; Jussi Heinonsalo, Annalea Lohila: University of Helsinki; Anna-Liisa Laine, University of Zürich; Tuomas Mattila, Finnish Environment Institute; Risto Uusitalo, Natural Resources Institute Finland

Food system is facing a huge challenge. It should contribute significantly to the mitigation of climate change while producing healthy food sustainably for a growing population. Farming causes the majority of climate impacts in the food system. Sequestering atmospheric carbon to the soil is a great opportunity for the food system to address the climate crisis. Climate-smart agriculture offers also many other benefits. It improves productivity, enhances soil health, and increases biodiversity, resiliency, food quality and retention of nutrients and water. To this end, we i) design climate-smart agricultural solutions beneficial to food system, ii) test their application in farm scale, iii) develop a verification system for the carbon sequestration and iv) develop economic measures and policies implement the solutions in Finland and abroad. We utilize co-design and interaction with farmers, companies and policymakers to drive systemic change in our food system.

<https://carbonaction.org/en-stn-multa/>

### **Legumes for sustainable food system and healthy life (LEG4LIFE)**

Consortium PI: Anne-Maria Pajari, University of Helsinki

Consortium composition: Toivo Antero Muilu, Natural Resources Institute Finland; Satu Männistö, Institute for Health and Welfare

Leg4Life, a project of University of Helsinki, National Institute for Health and Welfare, and Natural Resources Institute Finland, will establish a food system wide transition towards climate-neutrality with increased legume utilisation while taking the consequential environmental and health effects into account. To achieve this goal, the project focuses on grain legumes (pea, faba bean, and lupin) that are feasible to be cultivated in our climate. The project investigates and promotes legume-supported agriculture, develops tasty and healthy legume foods for food services and individual consumers, and studies the effects of increased legume production and use on human nutrition and health, society, economy, and environment. All the information obtained in the project regarding changes in primary production, food processing and health assessments will be used to produce different scenarios of the overall impact on sustainability.

<http://www.leg4life.fi/en/project-info/>

**Just transition: Tackling inequalities on the way to a sustainable, healthy and climate-neutral food system (JUST-FOOD)**

Consortium PI: Minna Kaljonen, Finnish Environment Institute

Consortium composition: Kaisa Karttunen, e2 Research; Teea Kortetmäki, University of Jyväskylä; Merja Saarinen, Natural Resources Institute Finland; Theresa Tribaldos, University of Bern; Maria Valavuo, Institute for Health and Welfare

JUST-FOOD explores and develops means for making the transition to a sustainable, healthy and climate-neutral food system just and socially acceptable. It conceptualises and operationalises just transition and supports policy making by producing knowledge about the conditions for just transition and tools for evaluating and fostering it. The transdisciplinary project combines theoretical food justice scholarship with environmental research, economics, and social and nutrition sciences. The existing sustainability transition research has focused on examining the means, not social impacts, of transitions. This creates a risk that the food system transition solves some problems but creates many others: social inequalities, health disparities, and outsourced environmental harms. JUST-FOOD brings the ethical aspects to the forefront of food system and transition studies. It engages stakeholders in the knowledge co-creation and in practical interventions that foster just transition.

<https://www.justfood.fi/en-US>