CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING IN REINDEER HUSBANDRY A joint workshop by three Nordic Centres of Excellence

Élise Lépy¹, Tim Horstkotte², Camilla Risvoll³, Svein Morten Eilertsen³ & Hannu I. Heikkinen¹

¹University of Oulu, ²Umeå University, ³Nordland Research Institute

Supplementary feeding of reindeer has become a increasingly common necessity across Fennoscandia to cope with unfavorable grazing conditions, fragmented pastures and competing land use. The application of and experience with supplementary feeding varies considerably in the Fennoscandian reindeer husbandry area: while already practiced for several decades in southern reindeer herding districts of Finland, supplementary feeding is not yet as common in Northern Sweden, Norway and Finland.









For exchanging knowledge and experiences and for collaborative learning, three Nordic Centres of Excellence arranged a workshop on supplementary feeding in Kiruna, 22-23 March 2018. Central discussion topics included:

- How do reindeer herders decide on practices and application of supplementary feeding?
- What are the potential consequences of supplementary feeding practices on the future of reindeer husbandry?
- What are the lessons learnt from the international comparison?

Reindeer herding districts of workshop participants

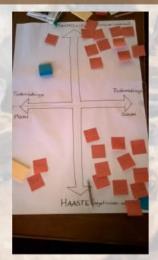
A collaborative approach between 24 reindeer herders and 20 researchers from Norway, Sweden and Finland

Herder's presentation on the current situation of supplementary feeding in their home country Group work session guided by open questions and herders' own priorities

3 Round-table discussions Sum up discussions on challenges and opportunities of supplementary feeding across Fennoscandia



Reindeer herder giving a talk about his own experiences in his herding district



Group work session



Reindeer herders and researchers summarizing group work discussions



Reindeer herders presenting their evaluation diagram of certainties and criticalities

Though our initiative facilitated the exchange of these experiences between herders, more interaction between countries will be necessary in the future to enable the exchange of detailed knowledge and experiences of the complexities and challenges of supplementary feeding





