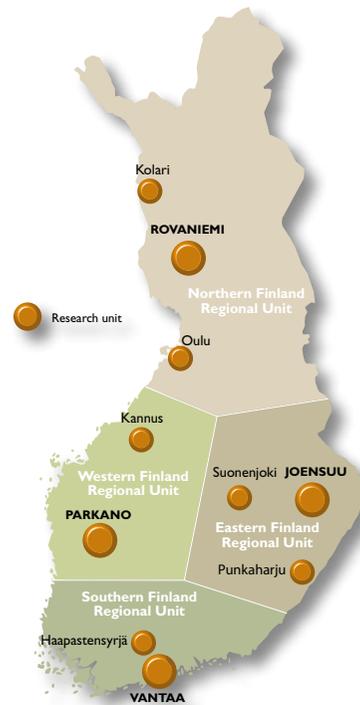


National services

Experts at the Vantaa Unit work with the following services (for further information in English, see also www.metla.fi/palvelut/index-en.htm and www.metla.fi/palvelut/tietopalvelut-en.htm):

- The Forest Statistical Information Service prepares most of Finland's official forest statistics
- The National Forest Inventory (NFI) provides information on forest resources and forest wildlife – see www.metla.fi/ohjelma/vmi/info-en.htm.
- MELA and forest calculations the MELA software, is also available as a commercial product.
- Metla is responsible for practical forest tree breeding.
- The forest genetics register includes information on the material used for forest-tree breeding and forest related genetic research.
- The Forest Damage Information Service manages service and advisory activities related to forest damage.
- The Metinfo forest information services provide information on forests, forest condition, and forest resources as well as on silviculture, forest management, and forest use. See www.metla.fi/metinfo/index-en.htm.
- The monitoring system for Finnish forests delivers the required information for European monitoring of the condition of forests.
- Paths and routes created in research forests show research and its results in practice. See www.metla.fi/metsat/index-en.htm.
- Commissioned research is performed, and expert, training, and advisory services are provided as customer needs demand.

There are four Regional Units in Metla
Southern, Western, Eastern, and Northern



Further Information

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Forest information for future needs



METLA'S VANTAA UNIT

forms part of its Southern Finland Regional Unit. It is situated in the town of Vantaa, not far from Tikkurila railway station. The Vantaa Unit carries out research on the development of the forest sector's operating environment and on methods of forest cultivation.

The use of forests is under increasing economic and social pressures. The effects and integration of different forms of forest use are therefore central research topics, as are also policy instruments and their effects that relate to forests and forestry. The aim is to develop innovative products and services.

The research centred on the Vantaa Unit permits a thorough understanding of the structure and functioning of the forest ecosystem. This provides a basis for the development of forest cultivation measures, the monitoring of the state of the forest environment, and research aimed at safeguarding forest biodiversity.

Metla has access to more than 5,000 hectares of research forest in southern Finland. Samples collected from forests are examined carefully in the laboratories of the Vantaa Unit. High-quality laboratory activities are essential to many areas of forest research.

Entrepreneurial and business activity based on forests

The Vantaa Unit studies the structure and properties of wood and how they come about, as well as the utilisation of the chemical components of wood in new and innovative products. The structure and development of tree stands, as well as how they are affected by forest management, are modelled and simulated. Methods for wood production and support systems for decision-making are also topics of research and development. Other research topics include changes in the forest sector's operating environment and the development of product markets, as well as the economy and profitability of the production of forest products and services.

Forests and the community

The Vantaa Unit studies the acceptability of forestry, the forest-owner and organisational structure, policy instruments targeting the forest sector, and the social and economic impact of forest use, among other things. In recent years, the guidance, measures, and social effects of safeguarding forest biodiversity have been a central research topic.

Sustainable silvicultural chains

The Vantaa Unit studies and develops models for describing the effects of natural factors and of human activity

on the structure and functioning of forest ecosystems. In addition, the unit conducts research into the biology, prevention, and control of pests and diseases affecting forest trees. Research subjects also include the genetic structure of forests, and forest-tree breeding.

Information databanks on forestry and the forest environment

The Vantaa Unit develops inventory, remote sensing, and measurement methods, as well as other techniques for monitoring of the forest environment. The Forest Statistical Information Service produces statistics on the Finnish forest sector.

Public-authority services

The Vantaa Unit is principally responsible for the following public-authority services:

- practical forest-tree breeding and seed cultivation programmes
- forest-tree genetic resources
- the forest statistical information service
- greenhouse gas calculations and reporting

In addition, the unit participates in the provision of Metla's other public-authority services, such as the national forest inventory, the monitoring of forest health, and the forest damage information service.

