

# Finnish Forest Research Institute Joensuu Unit

*Enhancing forest and wood expertise in Eastern Finland*



**METLA**

forest • knowledge • know-how • well-being

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## Eastern Finland Regional Unit

The Joensuu Unit constitutes the centre of the Eastern Regional Unit, comprising also the Punkaharju and Suonenjoki Units. The research and development activity of the Eastern Regional Unit seeks to promote forest-based commercial and industrial operations focused on wood products manufacture, raw timber production, harvesting technology and forest energy, particularly in rural areas, through the provision of up-to-date information on forest resources.

The Eastern Regional Unit also discharges various public office duties, such as carrying out the national forest inventory, timber scaling and inspection of plant protection products.

## Joensuu Unit

The Finnish Forest Research Institute has been operating out of Joensuu since its establishment in 1981. Today, the Joensuu Unit employs 135 people including 85 research scientists. The Metla House, completed in 2004, is the unit's research HQ. Located in the university campus area, the Metla House is the first large-scale wooden office building constructed in Finland.

## Research and services

Research is organised as problem-centred research programmes and projects. The programmes are comprehensive national entities composed of multiple research projects. The Joensuu Unit co-ordinates two research programmes:

- Renewable wood product value chains and timber procurement solutions
- Bioenergy from forests

*The research profile of the Joensuu Unit incorporates six focus areas of applied research.*

**Forestry planning** is designed to support decision making on the use and management of forests. The results are exploited in national and regional plans, both at corporate and forest holding levels.

Research topics in **silviculture and the environmental impacts** of forestry include, for example, young stand improvement methods and forest damages, multiple use of forests, and diversity and occurrence of forest and peatland vegetation.

**Environmental impact** studies investigate compound flows in forest ecosystems and develop tools and methods for the management of environmental loads on water and soil caused by forestry practices.

Studies in **forest technology** focus on harvesting and procurement, work organisation, management and logistics. Competence in forest technology provides innovative support for the development of harvesting methods and equipment for industrial timber and forest biomass procurement.

Research in **wood science** focuses on wood's raw material properties, the use of wood in manufacturing and raw material production and associated value chains, measurement and quality classification of timber and energy wood, and on applications relating to the production of high-quality wood. The objective is to promote use of domestic timber and technological and product development in the wood product and energy sectors, particularly in small and medium-sized undertakings.

Business studies in **forestry and wood industry** focus on entrepreneurship, corporate and other enterprise forms, business operation in value chains and comparative business advantages. The regional and local operating environment for business activities is viewed from the perspective of competition and the enhancement of competitiveness.

Studies in **international forestry** focus on forestry in Russia and the emerging Eastern European countries, the development trends of which are studied from the viewpoint of Finnish forestry.

In addition to the statutory tasks and duties and key focus areas, the Joensuu Unit's areas of expertise include, for example, the interaction between forestry and elk populations, insect damage in forests, forest berry and mushroom crop forecasts, indicators for sustainable forestry, international forest conservation issues and issues relating to carbon absorption and capture by forests and trees.

## Further information

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