

The Ministry of the Environment has allocated EUR 398 252 to the project from the Programme to promote the recycling of nutrients and to improve the status of the Archipelago Sea. The project also implements the Government key programme 'Breakthrough to a circular economy and adoption of clean solutions'. Building an AES-network –project's partners are University of Helsinki Department of Agricultural Sciences and UH Ruralia Institute, and Natural Resources Institute LUKE, in co-operation with Mäntsälä Municipality, Nivos Energy Oy, Envitecpolis Oy, and local producers. The project is planned to contribute to development of a Finnish network of sustainable regional food systems, which consists of altogether five regional projects.

In co-operation:



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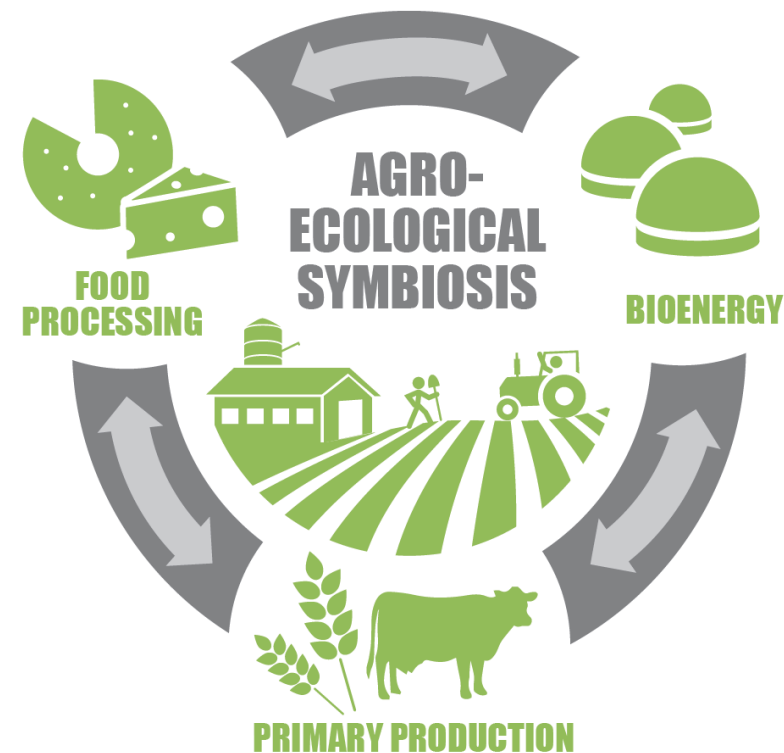


<https://blogs.helsinki.fi/agroecologicalsymbiosis/>

GOVERNMENT
KEY PROJECTS

Building an AES network

Nutrient and energy self-sufficient regional food system



Vision

This project aims to scale the concept of Agroecological Symbiosis (AES) from a single site to larger scale by building a network of AES projects where local food and biogas production are integrated. Through implementation of AES it is possible to gain economic benefits on the regional level.



“AES is a food production system wherein farms, food processors, and energy producers co-operate based on their spatial proximity. AES produces raw and processed food in addition to its own energy from local biomasses which serves both the energy needs of the AES and the region. AES brings crucial environmental benefits which are lost in conventional agricultural production. AES generates a local food culture and enhance local rural livelihoods and economy.”

Objectives:

- To enhance local nutrient recycling and increase the nutrient neutrality at regional level
- Produce information about the environmental benefits of nutrient and energy self-sufficient localized food systems
- Produce information about the regional economic benefits of a network of AES production systems
- Gain information about the energy production and the nutrient recirculation of the Palopuro AES –pilot project
- To raise public conversation about sustainable food production which utilizes nutrient recycling, and is suitable for implementation of a bioeconomy

Actions:

- Mapping of food system material flows suitable to biogas production in the area of Nivos Energia Oy
- Finding local operators interested in biogas production
- Draft four biogasplant plans for the area
- Plan a model for public acquisition that makes local nutrient recirculation possible
- Find food system actors that are interested in processing and producing local food
- Figure out the local environmental and economic effects of localizing the food system
- Document the implementation of Palopuron biokaasu Oy—a biogasplant in Hyvinkää.
- Write newspaper articles, organize workshops, and seminars to raise public awareness of AES and bioeconomy