

# Food System in Finland

## Introduction

- Family farms are the main foundation of Finnish agricultural production.
- Advance machinery, automated systems and digital technologies.
- Milk and other dairy products, meats, oats, potatoes and barley are main agricultural products.

## Food industry & Retail

- The Finnish food industry process local raw materials to products customers can buy.
- Processing industry in Finland is controlled by major food companies Valio, Atria and Fazer while S Group and Kesko hold most of the share in food distribution.
- Finnish retailers strongly promote domestic foods and consumers generally prefer local products.
- Finland sustain on domestic foods but still needs to import specific food production and essential production materials.

## Primary production

- Family farms carry out agricultural production throughout Finland, but today farmers work on larger fields to meet the efficient operation of modern farming.
- Using automated systems and digital technologies for efficient production even in harsh climatic condition.
- Finnish primary production enables complete product traceability because food items can be tracked from their origin on farms to their final consumption by customers.

## Consumer and public food services

Consumers in Finland have a strong affinity for local safe and sustainable foods. In addition, there is a great level of trust in food authorities and safety. In last few years, there has been a strong demand for plant-based diets and alternative diets. In Finland, there have been seen food services that contribute significantly to health, which are referred to as food services. It comprises the free food-for-school program available in all areas, providing dietary needs met in a balanced manner for all children equally.

## Export and Import

### Export

processed food products such as dairy products and meat products and oats with most trade taking place within the European Union.

Sima Budha

### Imports

Finland imports products which climatic conditions make impossible to produce within its borders, such as fruits and vegetables and coffee and animal feed.

Sima Budha

International trade exists as a basic requirement for essential production inputs, which need to enter the country through imports, thus supporting a complete and operational food production system.

## Self sufficiency

Finland attains high levels of self-sufficiency of various food stuffs that are considered important and normally utilized for developing basic food requirements of Finland.

It has low levels of self-sufficiency of fruits and vegetables, as well as protein-rich animal feeds, because of environmental and climatic challenges that affect their production.

The country views developing and sustaining local production of basic food stuffs as important to Finnish self-sufficiency and independence.

## Challenges facing the Finnish food system

- High cost of production
- price fluctuations of materials and products
- rising cost of energy
- materials threaten the profitability of farms
- Global warming causes unpredictable climatic conditions.
- New pest and disease outbreaks also affect crop production.
- Aging population of farmers and the need to import materials like fertilizers

## Future in Finnish Cooperations

- Relies heavily on effective collaboration between different players such as farmers, the industry, retailers, and the government.
- Innovation, digitalization, education, and skill development
- Cooperation with the EU shaping the future of agriculture in Finland.