

NEWSLETTER 2/2024

First year of OatFrontiers project

After completing the first year of the OatFrontiers project we've tested 373 lines of oats at ten trial-locations for their adaptability for northern condition. In addition, we've tested 30 current cultivars in eight locations where we also had field events for local farmers, with this year's highlight being our stakeholders' workshop in Iceland. Currently, we are busy analysing all this summer's data, but some of our preliminary results are shown below.

First year of piloting oat adaptation and cultivars

2024 has been a very good year for Oats in Carlow, Ireland trial with well-distributed rainfall during spring. Whereas warmer conditions in Scandinavia but a Cold Atlantic windy environment were prevalent in other trial locations, including Donegal, Ireland creating a clear environmental contrast. Thus our diverse oat materials were challenged by different weathers and both the differences in earliness and bigger potential of later maturing cultivars can be seen from the harvests. This year, we got excellent data for improving lodging and also interesting information about disease resistance. Based on our first years results we can find cultivars that mature early enough also in the demanding growing conditions and it seems that early maturity is a stabile trait so in other words an early genotype is early maturing in all tested conditions. However, the variation between the tested sites is large. Our next newsletter will give you the first insights to yield and quality data that we are currently analyzing so stay tuned!

Many field events and a stakeholder workshop

A main objective for the OatFrontiers project is knowledge exchange regarding adapted oat varieties and good oat cultivation practices, and to form networks to tackle challenges of local cereal production. This summer we held more than 10 different field days across the NPA region at our trial locations and interacted with several hundreds of people.

Our Icelandic oat workshop was held at Soil Restoration Centre in Gunnarsholt, South Iceland by Icelandic Agricultural University. We had more than 30 participants at site and more than 20 online and excellent discussion about local obstacles of oat production and inspiring presentations from different project partners and associates. The workshop materials will be made available at OatFrontiers [website](#).

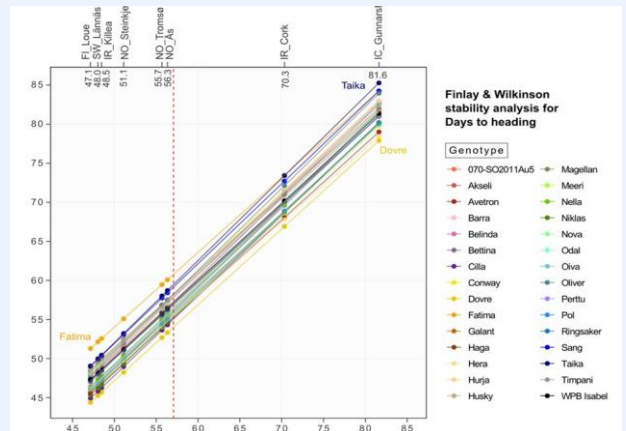


Fig 1. Stability of cultivar heading date across trial sites



Fig 2. Oat leaf spot symptoms

NEWSLETTER 2/2024**Meet the oat experts**

OatFrontiers is a joint project of 10 partners representing universities, research, institutes and plant breeders. In this newsletter we introduce our project partners in Iceland. The agricultural university of Iceland (AUI) is where testing and breeding of cereals happens for harsh conditions all around Iceland. Hrannar Smari Hilmarrsson is the head of agronomy within AUI and he is managing the project activities in Iceland that include field testing, quality analyses and knowledge transfer. The idea of OatFrontiers was originally born from Hrannar's need to find suitable cultivars for Iceland. AUI's associate partner in Iceland is one of the few already existing oat farmers in Iceland, Örn Karlsson from Sandhóll farm sells his locally grown oat products in Icelandic markets. Hrannar and Örn are both local pioneers of cereal production. Hrannar focusing on finding solutions for agriculture through research and development and Örn applying the research in his practical farming and seeking all the time new solutions and products. You can see Örn's presentation slides within our stakeholder workshop materials and read more about AUI' work in their website. <https://www.lbhi.is/en>

Join our Study tour 4th and 5th of August 2025

Natural Resources Institute Finland, Boreal Plant Breeding Ltd and 65Oats Mill are organizing a Oat Study Tour for farmers and stakeholders from the NPA countries to Oulu. Together we will visit the local oat mill and oat farmers and learn more about their unique collaboration. The tour is free of charge, but travel costs are not covered. Please fill in this questionnaire if you are interested to participate (only a few spots available from each country!). <https://forms.office.com/e/E0ZiTiW2H4>

In addition to study tour, in 2025 the OatFrontiers project organizes field days in different countries and a workshop in Steinkjer, Norway (also available for online-participation). Please let us know if you are interested to receive further information about our events. <https://forms.office.com/e/yy6j5jMBVe>