

An aerial photograph of a vast forest. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by a dense stand of tall, dark green coniferous trees. In the upper-middle section, a prominent, light-colored rocky outcrop or small hill rises above the forest canopy. The background shows a continuation of the forest stretching towards a distant horizon under a clear sky. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed forest landscape.

**METSÄNTUTKIMUSLAITOS –
THE FINNISH FOREST RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

METSÄNTUTKIMUSLAITOS – THE FINNISH FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(administration, information, research areas,
forest technology, adp, statistics, forest
inventory)

Address: Unioninkatu 40 A
SF-00170 Helsinki, Finland

Phone: +358-0-661 401
Telefax: +358-0-625 308
Telex: 121286 metla sf

(economics, growth and yield)

Address: Valimotie 13
SF-00380 Helsinki, Finland

Phone: +358-0-556 276
Telefax: +358-0-5061 484
Telex: 121296 metlb sf

(biological sections)

Address: Rillitie 4–12
SF-01300 Vantaa, Finland

Phone: +358-0-831 941
Telefax: +358-0-8572 575
Telex: 121298 metli sf

Finnish Forest Research Institute/Information
Photo: Erkki Oksanen

Hämeen Kirjapaino Oy
Tampere 1989

THE FINNISH FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Finnish Forest Research Institute, which comes under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, is Finland's central forest research organisation. The Institute began its activities in 1918. Its duty is to furnish research results for use by forestry policy decision-makers, those engaged in forestry and the forest industry, and Finns utilizing the forests in various ways.

The Institute's central unit is located in the Helsinki area. Research stations and research areas are located in various parts of Finland. The Institute employs a permanent staff of more than 800, of whom a quarter are researchers. Over half of the staff are employed in the regional units.

Research and service duties

The duties of the Finnish Forest Research Institute are:

- to carry out research in order to promote forestry and the uses of forests in Finland
- to monitor the state of the forests from the environmental standpoint, and to develop methods of preventing forest damage
- to issue statements within its sphere of interest
- to participate in cooperation in the forest sector both in Finland and abroad.

Aside from its actual research work, the Institute is also charged with national data service duties, the most important of these being:

- national forest inventory
- compilation of forest statistics
- calculation of forest taxation bases and costs of silvicultural work
- data system for monitoring the wood product market
- pesticide control
- maintenance of registers of tree breeding and nursery stock



ORGANISATION

The Institute comprises nine research departments, an administration department, and eight research stations. Many research topics call for cooperation between several departments. For instance, the impact of air pollutants on forests is a combined project of five different departments.

Research departments

The Department of Soil Science studies the characteristics of mineral soils, the classification of forest sites, and ways to increase tree growth through soil improvement.

The Department of Peatland Forestry studies the characteristics, classification and hydrology of peatlands, drainage and improvement of peat soil fertility, and the management of peatland forests.

The Department of Silviculture studies natural regeneration on mineral soils, the seed crops of forest trees, raising of seedlings, artificial regeneration, forest ecology and silvicultural methods, and the physiology of forest trees.

The Department of Forest Genetics studies the inheritance of forest tree characteristics, the genetic structure of forests, and tree breeding methods. The department also breeds forest trees and maintains a national register of nursery stock.

The Department of Forest Protection studies insects and animals harmful to forestry, the damage caused by them, and ways of controlling them. The department also studies diseases of forest trees, damage caused to forests by abiotic agencies, the use of forest mushrooms, and it tests pesticides used in forestry.

The Department of Forest Inventory and Yield is responsible for the national forest inventory. The department studies and develops methods of forest mensuration and management. It also investigates tree structure, growth and yield of forests, and the effect of different stand regimes on these.

The Department of Forest Technology studies and develops harvesting and silvicultural operations, ergonomics of forest work and wage systems. This department also studies the structure, characteristics and quality of wood, wood as a raw material, and roundwood measurement.

The Department of Forest Economics studies national economic and sociological matters applying to forestry, the forest industry and the multiple use of forests, wood consumption and timber balance, business economics of forestry and wood economics, and forest product markets.

The Department of Mathematics studies and develops mathematical research methods, maintains the Institute's ADP system, trains and assists staff in the use of methods and systems, and compiles forest statistics.



Research stations

The task of the Institute's eight research stations is regional and national research. The research stations also take care of information exchange between practical forestry and the Institute by arranging trips and seminars, so-called "research days". About a half of the Institute's total staff and one third of its researchers are employed at research stations.

The forest research stations are located in various parts of Finland: at Kolari, Rovaniemi, Muhos, Kannus, Parkano, Suonenjoki, Joensuu and Punkaharju.

Research forests

To ensure the continuity of long-term studies, the Finnish Forest Research Institute has some 140.000 hectares of state forests at its disposal. 80.000 hectares are commercially managed forests; on these there are 20.000 experiment plots. Additionally, large numbers of field tests are carried out on land owned by the National Board of Forestry, forest industry enterprises, and private forest owners.

The Institute's research forests also include 60.000 hectares in areas set aside for nature conservation purposes. The oldest of these areas are Pallas-Ounastunturi and Pyhätunturi National Parks, and Pisavaara and Malla Strict Nature Reserves, all of which were established in 1938. The Finnish Forest Research Institute also manages the Häädetkeidas, Vesijako and Karkali Strict Nature Reserves and the Aulanko Park Forest, as well as the Kilpisjärvi, Koli, Punkaharju and Laanila areas.

Nature conservation areas also serve the needs of research. In them the development of unmanaged forests and timberline forests is studied, and the impact of recreation on the natural environment investigated. The protected areas also provide a vital control with which to compare results obtained in managed forests.

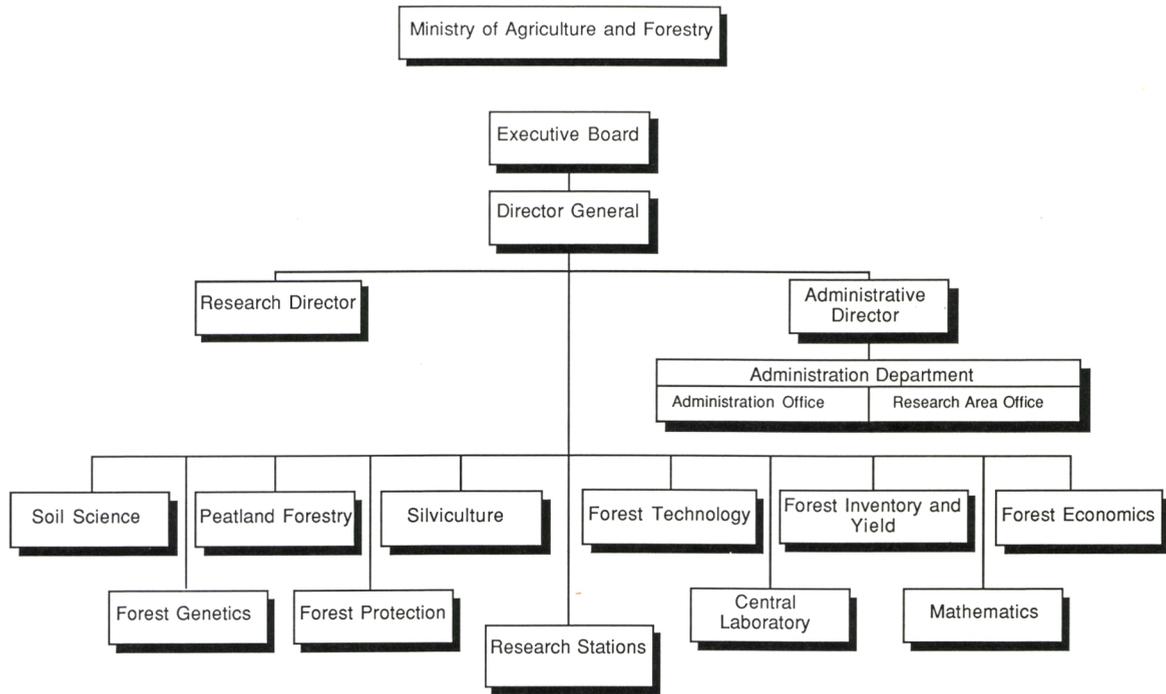


PUBLISHING AND INFORMATION

Research results are published in scientific and trade journals as well as being disseminated at training sessions and in lectures, on field trips to research areas, and at the annual "research days" held by the research stations. Information about the work of the Finnish Forest Research Institute and topical forestry matters is regularly conveyed to the media and other interested parties.

Research results from the Finnish Forest Research Institute are published in three series of journals: *Acta Forestalia Fennica*, published jointly with the Society of Forestry in Finland, contains mainly research articles,

e.g. theses, intended for scientists. This journal was started by the Society in 1913. It has been a major channel for the Institute's researchers since January 1989, when *Communications Instituti Forestalis Fenniae* was merged with it. Since 1963 *Folia Forestalia* has been publishing research articles and interim reports on longer term studies intended mainly for those engaged in the practical side of forestry. The *Metsäntutkimuslaitoksen tiedonantoja* journal was established in 1981. In it preliminary study results, condensed reports and seminar papers are published.

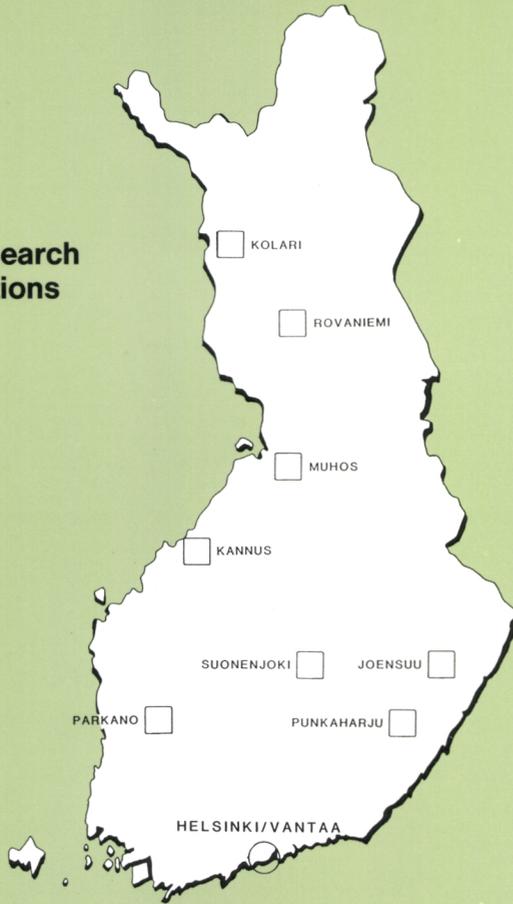


The Institute's decision-making body is the Executive Board, the chairman of which is the Institute's director; the members are the research director and the administrative director, and two of the Institute's professors, a research station

manager, and the researchers' representative, together with a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The Board is nominated for a three-year period by the Council of State.

THE FINNISH FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Research stations



Founded: 1918

Staff,
of which
researchers: 800
220

Research
departments: 9

Research stations: 8

Research forests: 140 000 ha

Research topics: 300

Director General: Professor Eljas Pohtila

Head of
Information Office: Ms Marja Ruutu

Information
leaflets:

- "Who is who (English, Finnish)
- Pallas-Ounastunturi National Park (English, Finnish, Swedish, German)
- Pyhätunturi National Park (English, Finnish, Swedish, German)
- Aulanko Park Forest (English, Finnish, Swedish)
- The Punkaharju Nature Trail (English, Finnish, Swedish, German)
- Karkali Nature Reserve (Finnish, Swedish)

