

Holistic Water management in Agricultural Areas, Improvements of implementation on national level



16.04.2016

NUTRINFLOW River Loviisa - Project



02.05.2017

Mikko Ortamala, 09.11.2018
Drainage Centre of Southern Finland

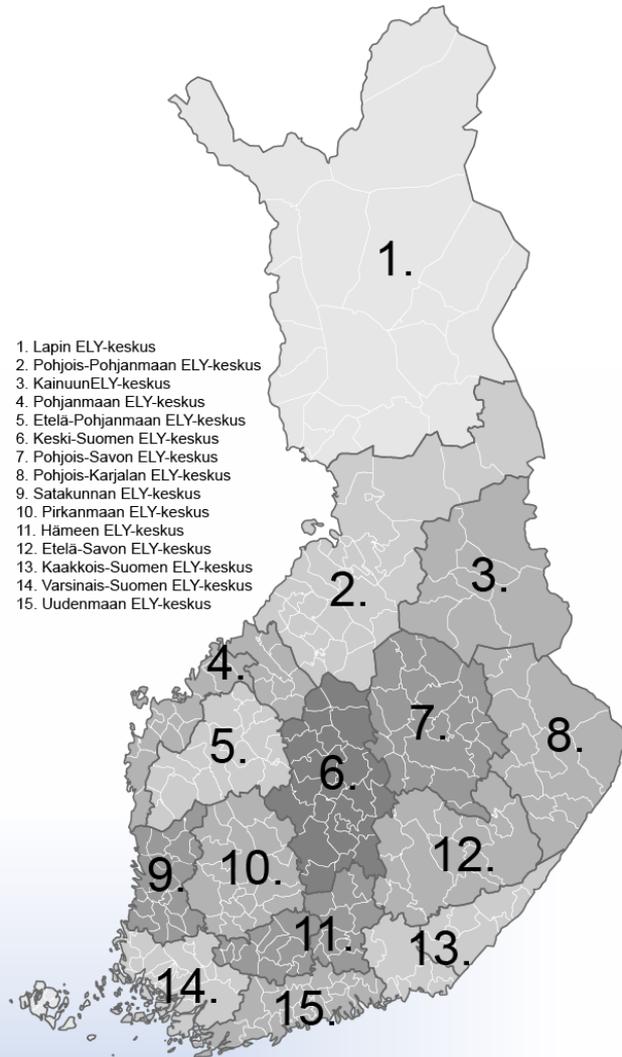
Drainage basin activity model



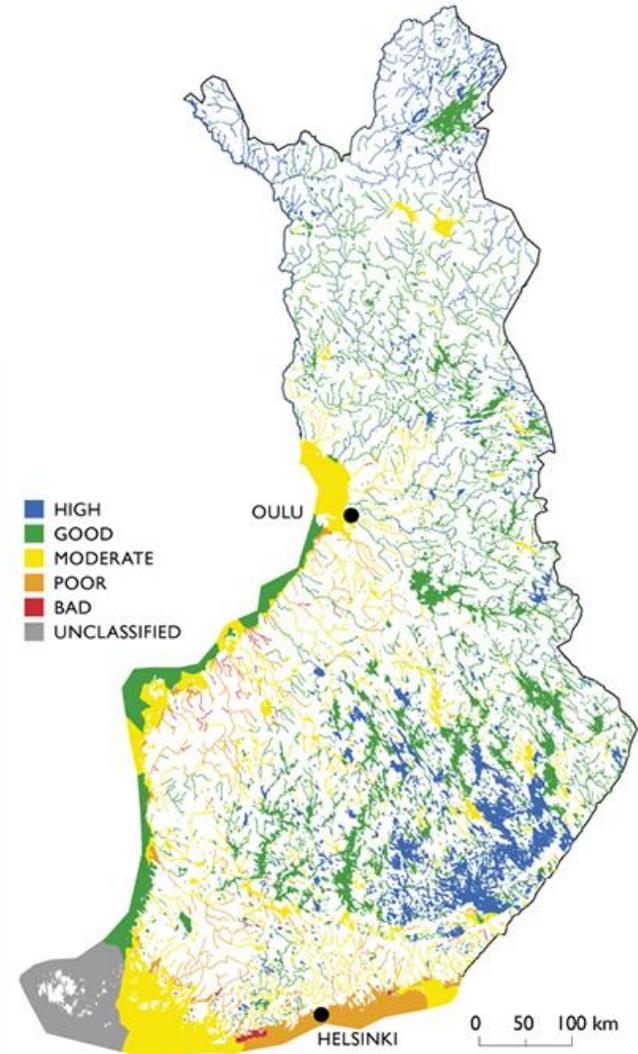
Productive agriculture, clear water and clean environment



Drainage corporate bodies are organizations which consist of those land owners that get benefit or profit of the drainage. Drainage corporate bodies have been established since 1883 to maintain the ditches.



Elinkeino, liikenne ja ympäristökeskus



Suomen ympäristökeskus, SYKE

The number of drainage corporate bodies and drainage areas is not accurate, but it is estimated to be tens of thousands. Each year 70 to 100 projects will be funded for basic drainage in Finland. The need for maintenance for basic drainage can be remarkable.

Wetness and flooding in agricultural areas

The most of drainage corporate bodies are not active and maintenance of the ditches has been delayed. Many cases drainage corporate body has not been active in 50 years. Farmers are trying to excavate small shots of the ditch in their own lands with locally-based contractors and the results are largely qualitatively weak.



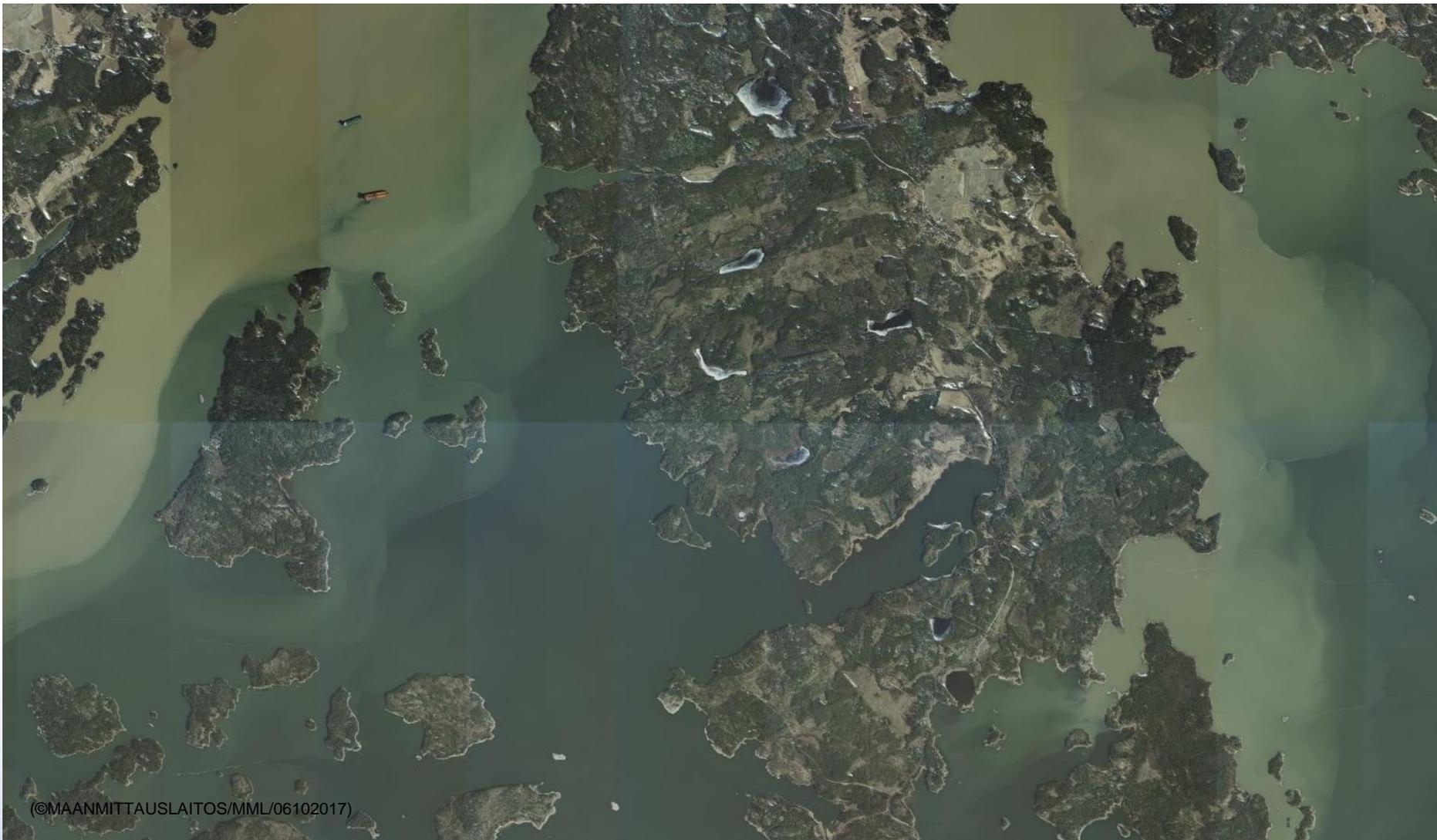


Problems in the catchment area consist of:

- Erosion
- Outflow and sedimentation of solid matter
- Increased drainage network on drainage basin – lower water retention
- Water capacity in the rivers and ditches
- Subsidence of soil

Floods → Effects on agricultural production
(crop, soil, working efficiency, land value) → GDP





Floods → Outflow of solid matter and nutrients →
Effects to rives, lakes and Baltic sea

Nutrient load is not born evenly from all the field plots



Pasi Valkama, The Water Protection Association of the River Vantaa and Helsinki Region

Important observations of RaHa-projects water research on agricultural areas

“Measurements showed the significance of vegetation cover for decreasing the outflow of solids and phosphorous. An important notice was also that a substantial proportion of the load could be formed from very small areas and during a very short period. The problems of these risk areas were thought to be culminated in **poor soil structure, drainage problems and lack of vegetation cover.**”

“Nutrient load is not born evenly from all the field plots. Focusing the actions to problematic areas gives relatively large decrease also to total load.” (RaHa-project, Pasi Valkama, The Water Protection Association of the River Vantaa and Helsinki Region)



Pasi Valkama, The Water Protection Association of the River Vantaa and Helsinki Region



Floods → Effects to value and upkeep of the infrastructure



Loviisan sanomat, Arto Henriksson



Holistic water management

- Holistic water management consist of the actions on the fields, ditches and the rivers, lakes and sea.
- Basic drainage, local drainage and environmental water management
- Our priority is to prevent flooding and surface flow and outflow of solid matter and nutrients.
- Good soil structure and workable water management are basic requirements for productive agriculture and on the other hand to reduce the outflow.



Practical actions for holistic water management

Actions in outflow area

- Basic and local drainage
- Management of the soil structure
- Suitable land use (plants, cultivation, fertilization)
- Constructions for control of the water levels at summertime



Environmental water management

- Artificial wetlands, sedimentation ponds
- Bottom thresholds and dams
- Flood protection (embankments, pumping, flood ledges)
- Buffer zones
- Water management on farm areas (wastewater, washing waters, waters coming from stables and cowsheds)



Actions in rivers, lakes and the sea

- Reed cuttings, oxidizations, fishery restorations, excavations, control of water the level, (chemical restorations)



Possible actions in drainage basin

Basic drainage

- Maintenance of the ditches
- Reorganizations of drainage corporate bodies
- Constructions for control of the water levels at summertime
- Two-stage ditches



Local drainage

- Subsurface drainage systems
- Improved management of surface flow (lime filtration drainage)
- Drainage flow management, controlled drainage (control wells)
- Possibilities to subsurface irrigation (water reservoirs, ponds, pumping of additional water)
- Service and maintenance of underground drainage (flushing)
- Field levelling
- Soil structure improvements (mechanical, substrate additions)
- Farm level flow control of production premises (storage sites, outdoor paddocks, washing sites, etc.)

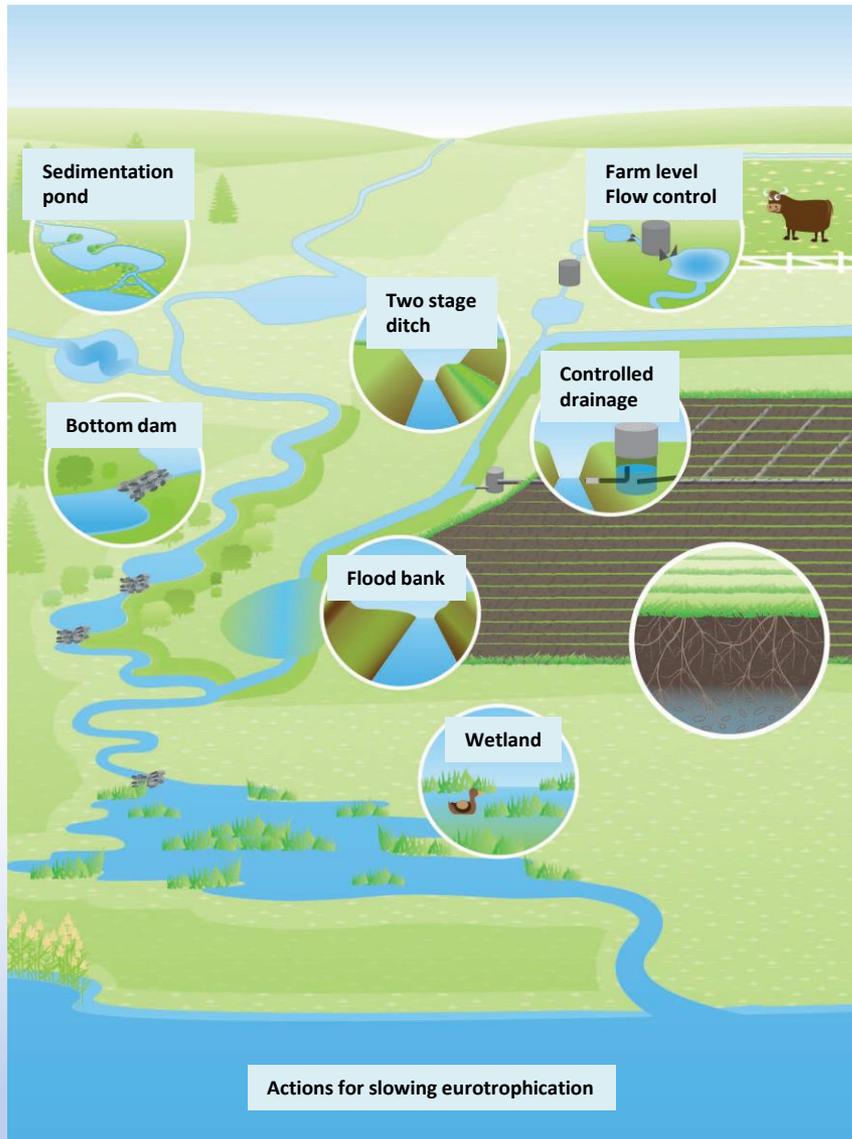


Environmental water management

- Artificial wetlands, sedimentation ponds (On field measurements and mapping, feasibility studies)
- Bottom thresholds, dams and adjustable dam constructions for controlled adjustment of summertime water level
- Flood protection (embankments, pumping, flood ledges)



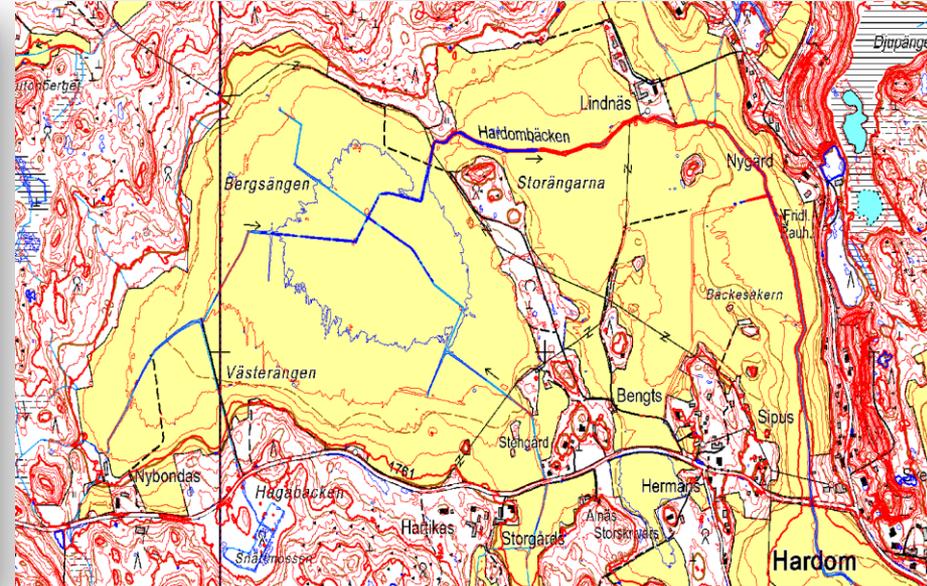
Drainage basin activity model



How to prevent the floods and outflow of solid matter and nutrients in drainage basin nationally:

- National implementation strategy / plan
- Risk and flood areas analysis and measurements
- Information system to farmers → **Focus the actions to problematic areas systematically**
- Reorganizations of drainage corporate bodies
- Holistic actions from field level to ditches, the rivers, lakes and sea **systematically** → Basic drainage, local drainage and environmental water management
- Implementation committees = Cooperation with authorities, municipalities, foundations, associations, designers, contractors, researchers, advisers, farmers and landowners.

Preliminary studies / local problems on drainage basin



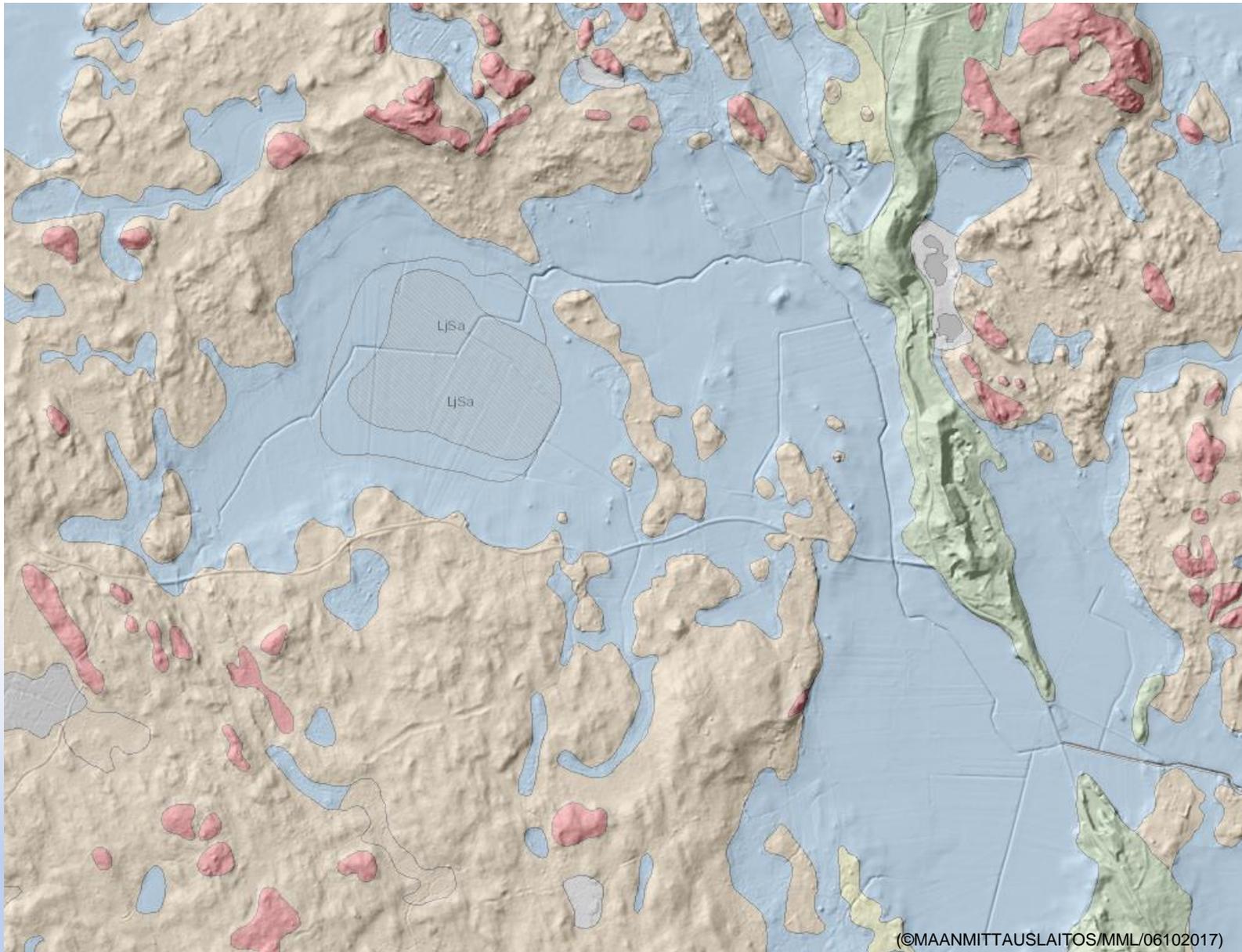
Kuormitus ei synny tasaisesti kaikilta pelloilta



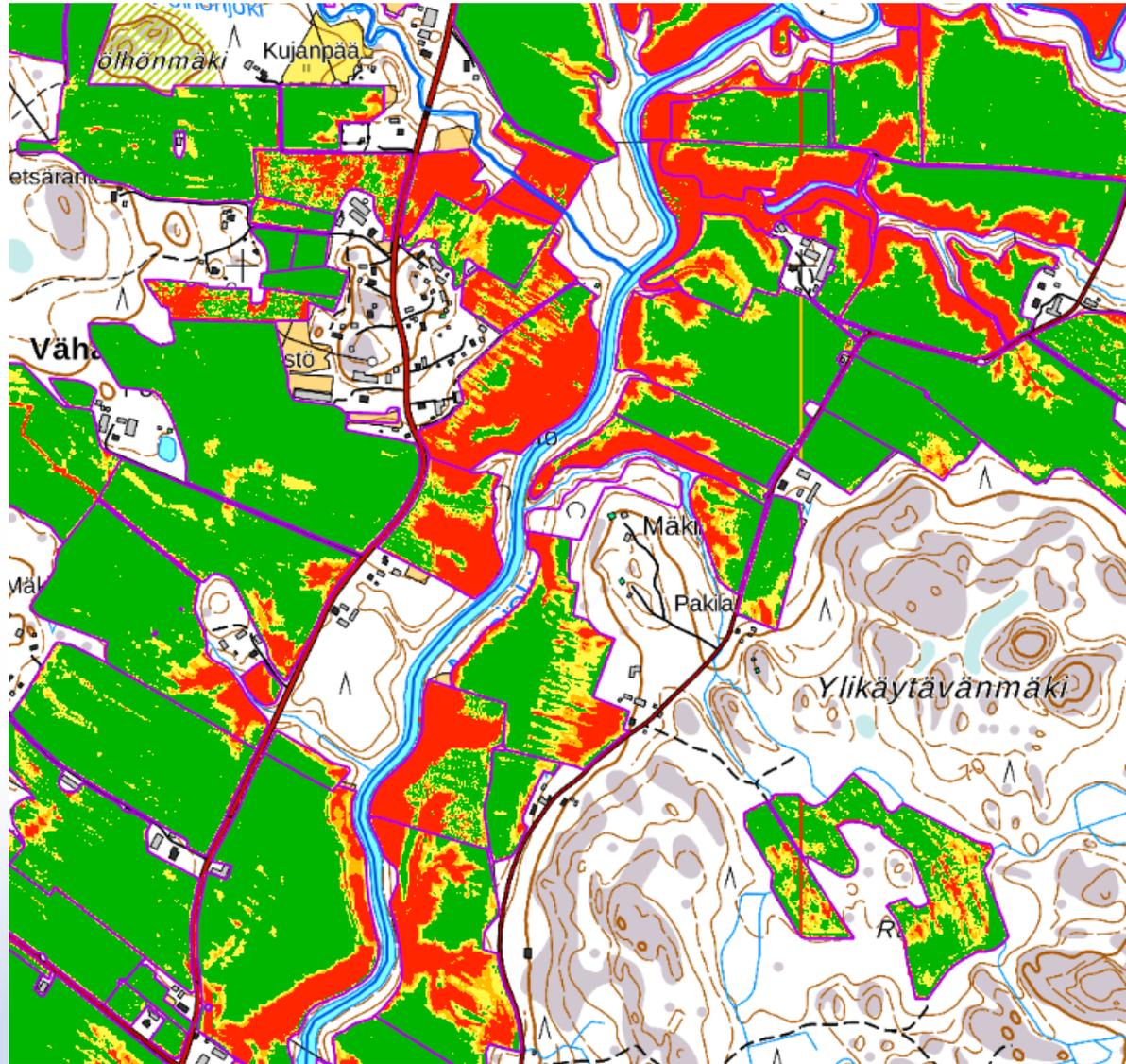
Photo: Pasi Valkama

With airphotos and altitude models we can find the problematic areas!

Soil type maps and altitude models



Erosion and outflow models



RUSLE 2015 - eroosiomallinnus, Lähde: Luonnonvarakeskus

Peltolohkorekisteri, Lähde: © Maaseutuvirasto

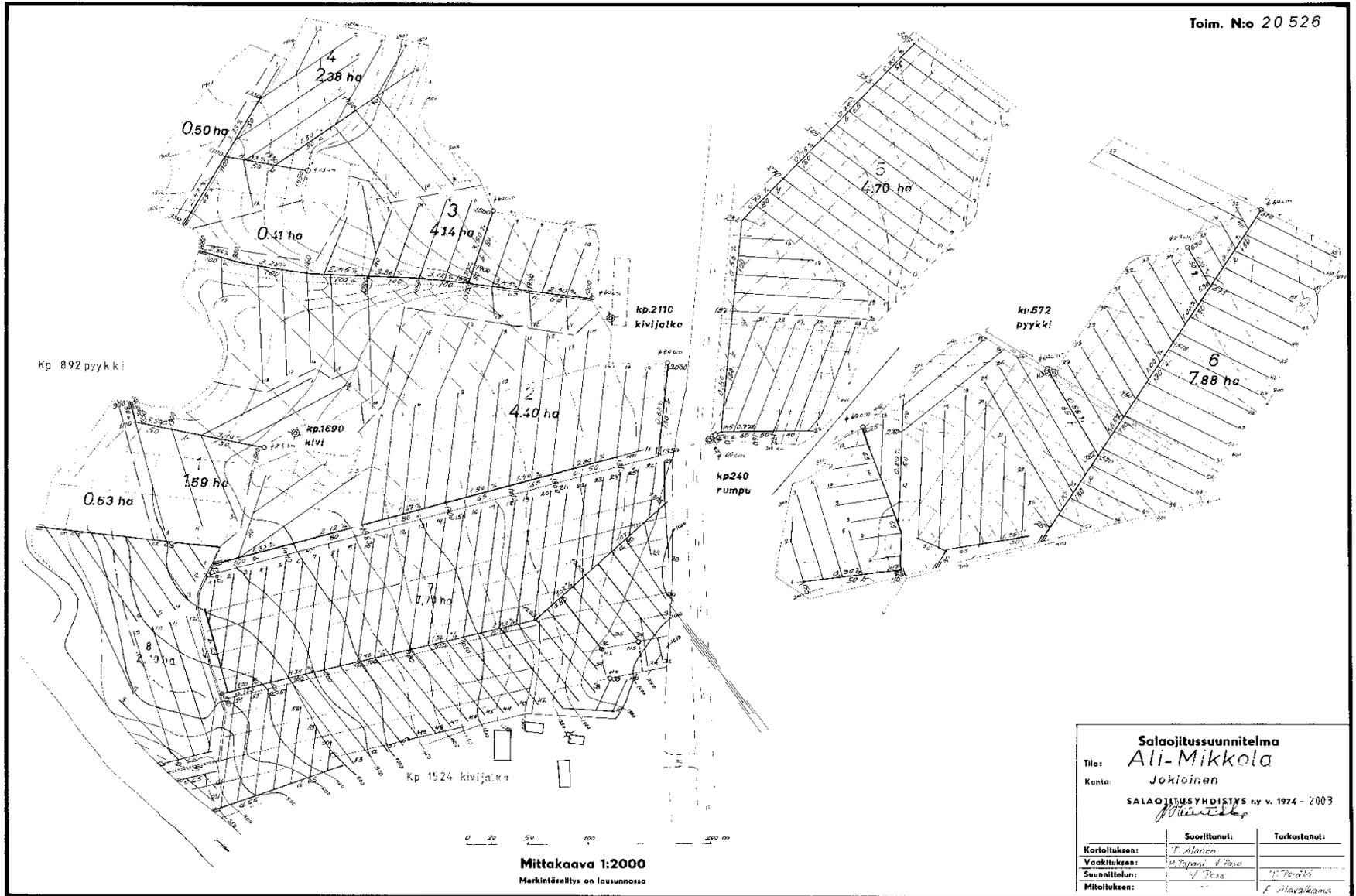
Vipu-vesistöt, Lähde: SYKE, MML

Vipu-vesistön uomat, Lähde: SYKE

Vipu-vesistön järvet, Lähde: MML

KUTOMA-hanke

Old drainage maps



Gradients, set up levels, soil types, altitudes



Field measurements identify the possibilities for implement the actions.

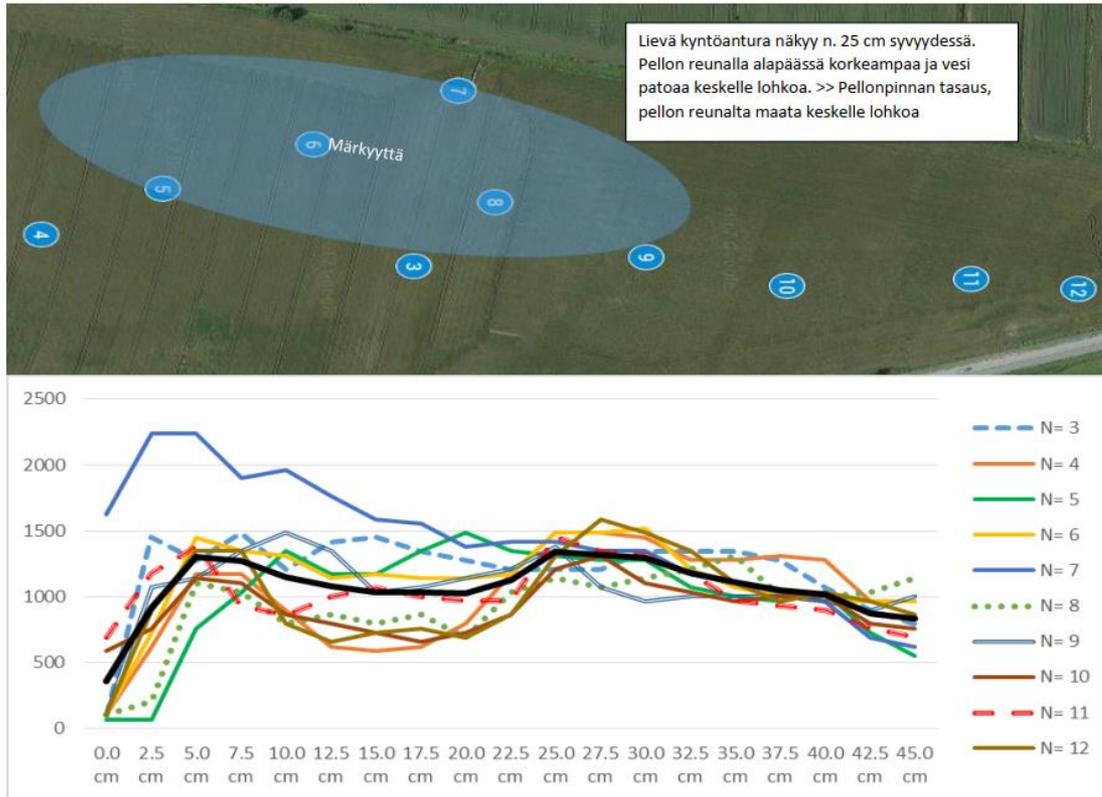
Studies for drainage (basic and local drainage)



Examinations:

- Difference between water level and field surface
- The discharges
- Wells
- Ditches
- Drums
- Difference between drainage pipes and field surface
- Distance between drainage pipes
- Gradients
- Maintenance (flushing)
- Possibilities for water protection structures

In some areas of the target area, a penetration test was performed to determine the structure





Focusing the actions to problematic areas and informing these areas drainage corporate bodies we can implement the holistic water management actions nationally.

Background for NUTRINFLOW- project in Hardombäcken ditches drainage basin

Hardombäckens water capacity was not enough for the waters from the drainage basin. The floods existed on area of 60 - 80 hectares round the year.

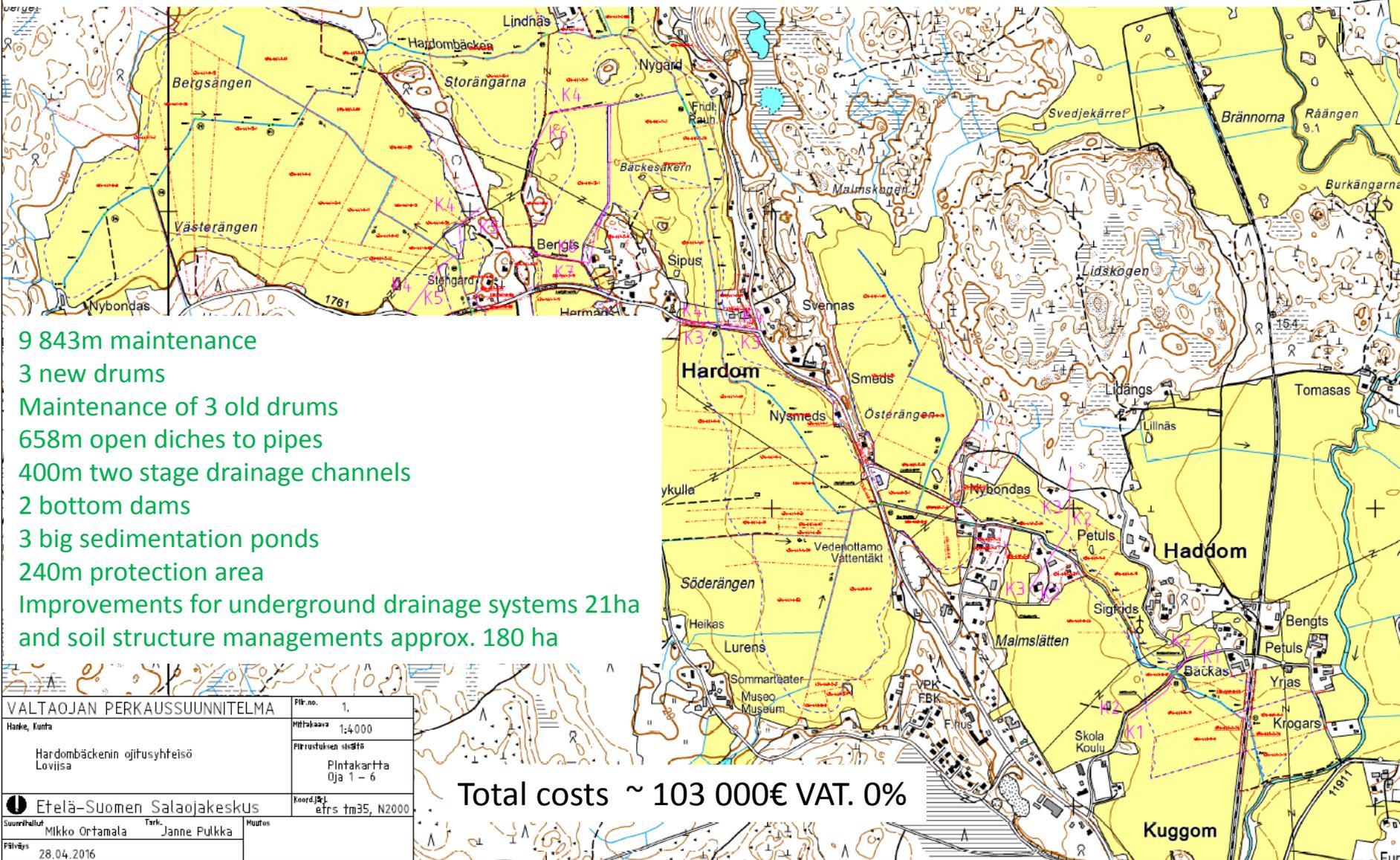
Problems consisted of:

- Erosion
- Outflow and sedimentation of solid matter
- Increased drainage network on drainage basin – lower water retention
- Water capacity of Hardombäcken ditch
- Subsidence of soil



Hardombäcken ditch, Loviisa, Holistic water management pilot area

Catchment area 12.3 km²



- 9 843m maintenance
- 3 new drums
- Maintenance of 3 old drums
- 658m open ditches to pipes
- 400m two stage drainage channels
- 2 bottom dams
- 3 big sedimentation ponds
- 240m protection area
- Improvements for underground drainage systems 21ha
- and soil structure managements approx. 180 ha

VALTAOJAN PERKAUSSUUNNITELMA		Piir.no. 1.
Hanke, Kunta	Hardombäckenin ojitusyhteisö Loviisa	Mittakaava 1:4 000
		Piirustuksen sisältö
		Piintakaratta Oja 1 - 6
Etelä-Suomen Salaojakeskus		Koordinaatiot etrs tm35, N2000
Suunnittelijat Mikko Ortamala	Tark. Janne Pulkka	Muutos
Päiväys 28.04.2016		

Total costs ~ 103 000€ VAT. 0%

300m two stage channels

drum

658m open ditch to pipes
Controller dam
Sedimentation pond

drum +
Controller dam

drum

drum

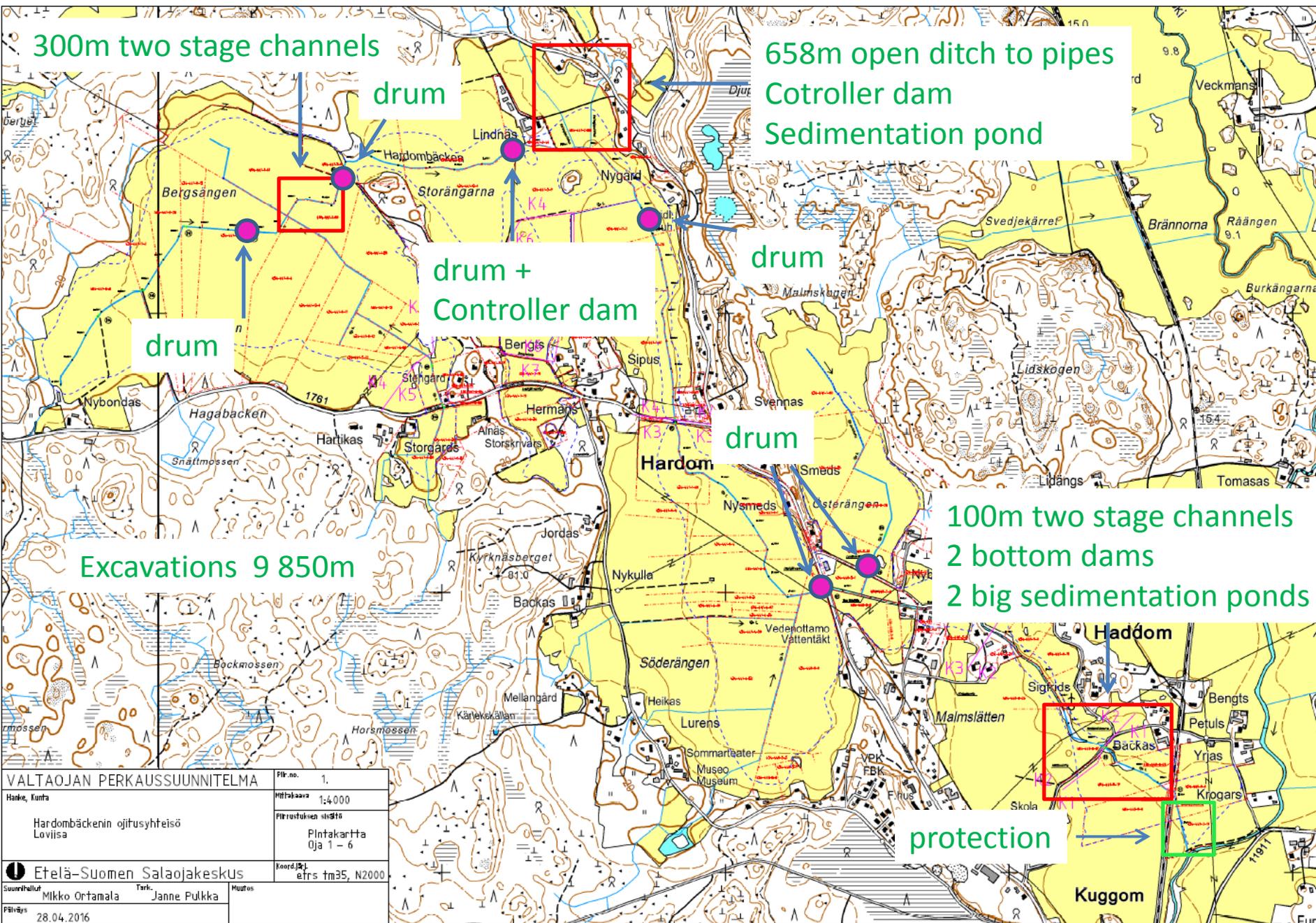
drum

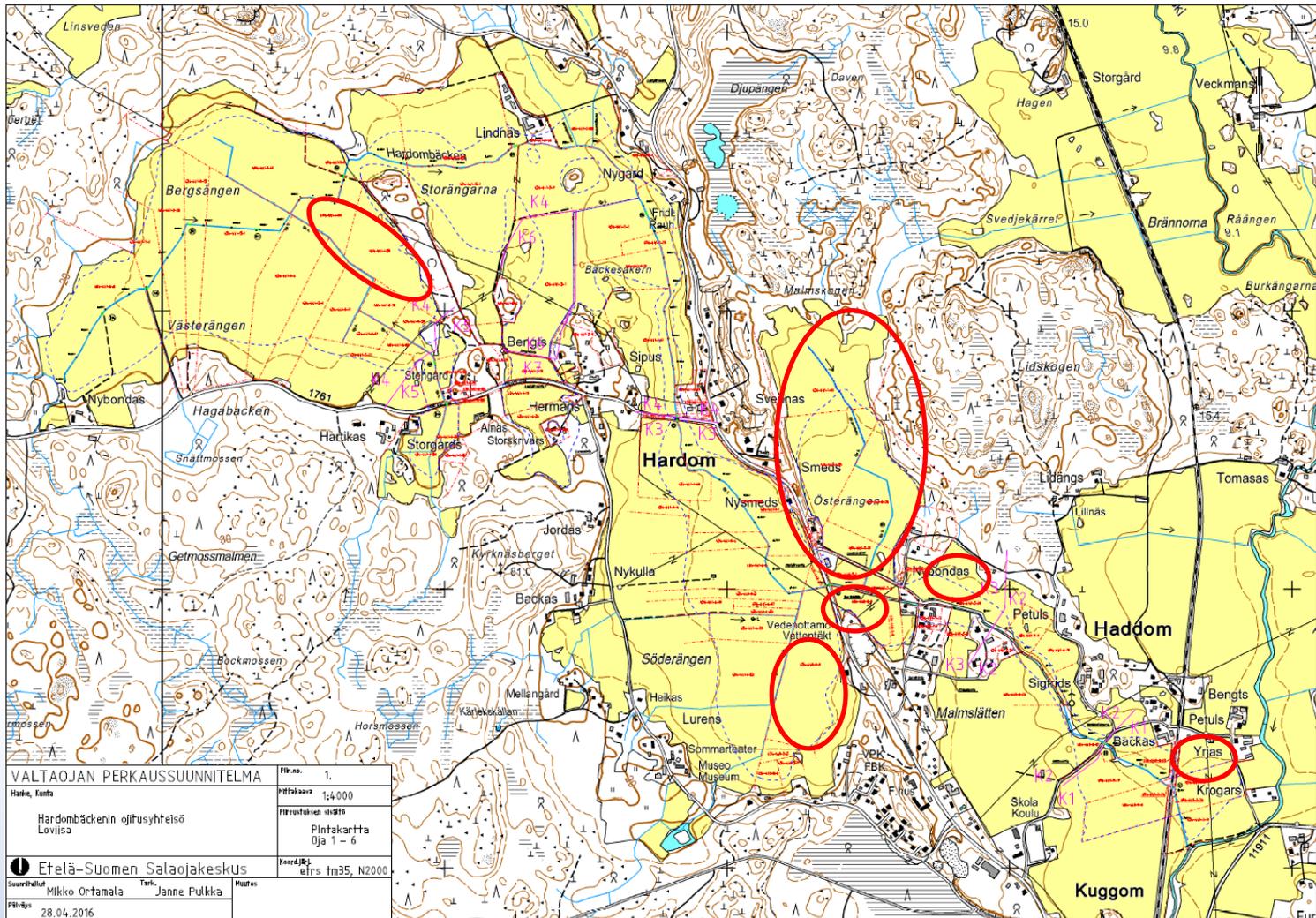
Excavations 9 850m

100m two stage channels
2 bottom dams
2 big sedimentation ponds

protection

VALTAOJAN PERKAUSSUUNNITELMA		Piir.no.	1.
Hanki, Kunta		Mittakaava	1:4 000
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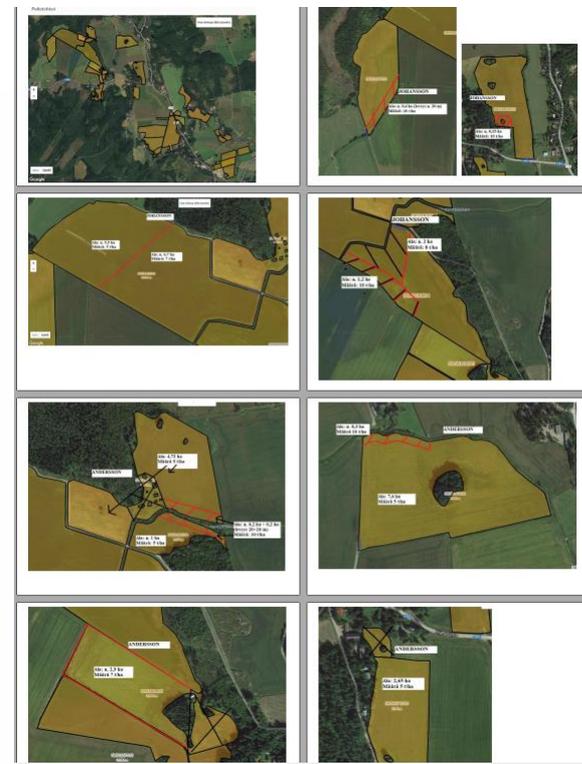
Total costs ~ 75 000€ VAT. 0%
 Underground drainage systems n. 17 000m
 New drainage 13ha
 Supplement drainage 8ha

Soil fertility observations based on soil fertility analyzes in the target area

Liming

The need was varying according to need

- About 4-10 tn/ha calcite
- About 5 tn/ha structural lime
- **Calcite (NORDKALK) in total 810 tn**
=approx. 115 ha
 - Spring/winter spreading 625 tn
 - Autumn spreading 185 tn
- **Structural lime (NORDKALK FOSTOP) in total 20 ha**
 - Autumn spreading 89 tn



Soil improvers

- fibers from paper industry (Soilfood)
 - Improvers can effectively increase the amount of organic matter in a low-content soils. The soil with high organic content has a good structure, a well-functioning water management and an active micro-organism, and is easy to cultivate.
 - In total 1635 tn was spread in the pilot area (35 tn/ha)



Tyynelän tila Rokua 20.2.2014



02.05.2016



16.08.2017

Traditional
excavation
3,5€/mtr VAT. 0%



15€/mtr VAT. 0%



70 €/h VAT. 0%

Price = soil type, which side?, excavation **mass m3**

Water level set down 1.2m (on average)
because the maintenance.



02.05.2016



12.10.2016

Water level set down 0.7m (on average)



Before



After



Constructions for control of the water levels at summertime

Fishery, landscape, recreational values, game management



Kaatuva rapid before and after renovation (River Kaatuvanjoki Hartola)



Before



After



Fishery Centre of Häme region



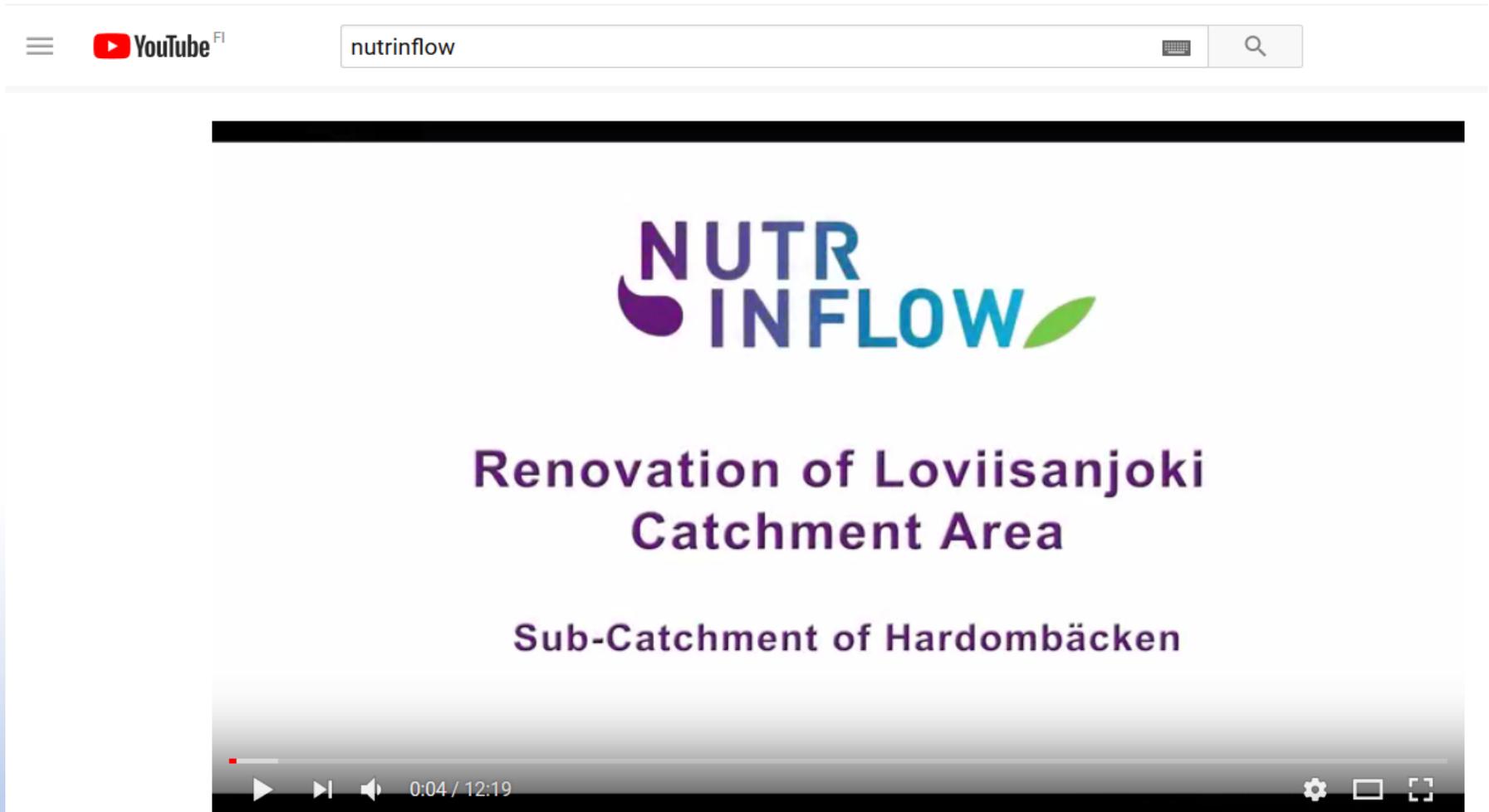
It is important to focus the actions on suitable areas with limited resources.

Results of NUTRINFLOW-project in Hardombäcken ditch, national exemplary pilot area of holistic water management:

- According to the landowners opinion sprouting and vegetation was more uniform in many fields. Year 2017 was not representative for comparison due to heavy rains and year 2018 due to exceptional drought. **Autumn flood 2017 were caught to control and water did not enter to the fields on the entire renovation area!**
- Operational basic drainage enables measures for soil structure and local drainage improvement. The renovation of the worst problematic objects has been continuing and renovation is almost completed.
- Turbidity of Hardombäcken waters has decreased, because the sediment on ditch bottom does not flush out. This decreases the solid matter loading of the river Loviisanjoki.
- Ensured the secure traffic on the road from Loviisa to Lapinjärvi.
- The water protection structures built have improved landscape values and solid matter retention. Along the channel has been several wild duck litters, thanks to the larger open water parts.
- Positive feedback from the landowners. Information has been disseminated both nationally and internationally. Hardombäcken is a reference object for holistic drainage management.



Check out our latest project video in Youtube!



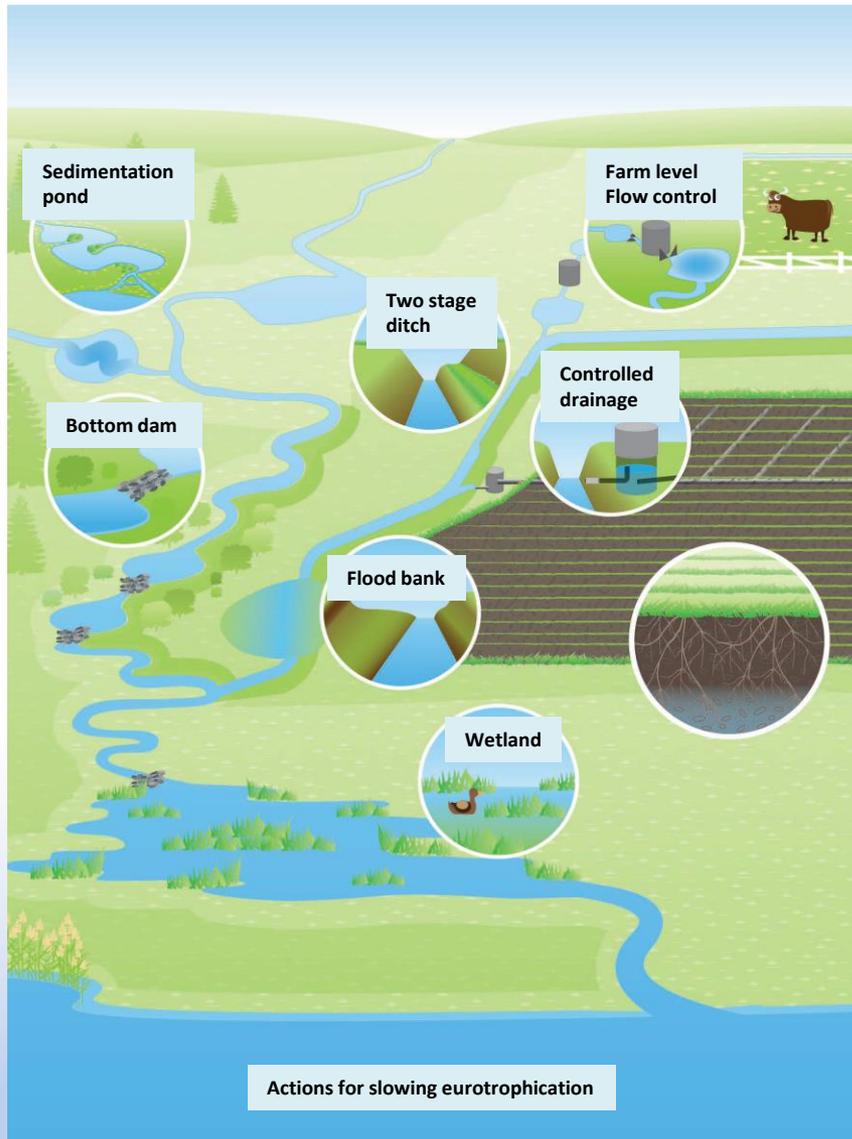
Renovation of Loviisanjoki Catchment Area - Hardombäcken (2018)

Waterdrive-project 2019-2021



Having national dialogue for creating a water management procedure. Practical development of **Drainage basin activity model** with the pilot area **River Porvoonjoki** drainage basin. Activity model improves the implementation of actions and methods of holistic water management (**the production of agriculture, fisheries and biodiversity**) in drainage basins of watersheds in agricultural areas (national level).

Drainage basin activity model



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NUTR INFLOW



EUROOPAN UNIONI
Euroopan
aluekehitysrahasto



Etelä-Suomen Salaojakeskus



Thank you!

