

# Landbrugssamarbedje

## Land Stewards in the North-Atlantic



Landbrugssamarbedje – Land Stewards in the North-Atlantic is a three-year agri-environmental project connecting farmers, agricultural advisors, and environmental experts in Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands. The project is designed as a preparatory step toward long-term collaboration, the initiative aims to develop scalable models for sustainable land use that can inspire similar partnerships across the Nordic region and beyond. It's ideality is to share ideas between countries and strengthen networks.

### Farmers Leading the Way: Climate-Smart and Nature-Friendly Solutions for the North Atlantic with Innovation Rooted in Tradition

The main objective of the project is to analyze how agriculture and nature can support each other in Nordic-Atlantic countries and how agricultural practices and traditional knowledge can lead to sustainable utilization of natural resources. By leveraging traditional knowledge and fostering grassroots innovation, LSNA creates learning areas where farmers exchange ideas on nature-based solutions and environmentally friendly farming and encourage farmers to actively participate in actions against climate problems and the decline of biodiversity. Activities include cross-country workshops, comparative analysis of agri-environmental schemes, and knowledge-sharing platforms.

### Empowering Rural Communities and Youth for a Greener Tomorrow

The project emphasizes grassroots innovation and youth engagement, fostering learning areas where farmers and young people exchange ideas on regenerative farming, circular resource use, and nature-based solutions. Cross-country workshops and knowledge-sharing platforms enable participants to compare agri-environmental schemes and adapt best practices to local contexts.

### Expected Outcomes and Further Utility

Expected outcomes include stronger farmer networks, new climate-friendly production methods, and innovative value-added products that boost rural economies. By integrating social innovation with environmental goals, LSNA contributes to SDGs 12, 13, 14, and 15 and supports the Nordic Council of Ministers' vision for climate neutrality, bio-based economies, and vibrant rural communities.

Ultimately, the project demonstrates how collaborative, farmer-led and youth-inclusive approaches can deliver practical solutions for sustainable land use and inspire scalable models across the Nordic region and beyond.

### Landbrugssamarbedje partners are:

Ráðgjafarmiðstöð landbúnaðarins / The Icelandic Agricultural Advisory Centre

Búnaðarstovan / Faroese Agricultural Agency

Nunalerinermut Siunnersorteqarfik / Greenland Agricultural Advisory Service

Vatnajökulsþjóðgarður / Vatnajökull National Park

Umhvørvisstovan / Faroese Environment Agency

UNESCO World Heritage Kujataa in South Greenland

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### Bullet Points of the Project's idea:

- Farmer-led innovation: Practical, nature-based solutions for climate-smart agriculture.
- Youth engagement: Empowering the next generation in rural development and sustainability.
- Cross-country collaboration: Sharing knowledge and adapting best practices across Iceland, Greenland, and Faroe Islands.
- Climate action & biodiversity: Tackling emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration, and protecting ecosystems.
- Scalable model: A framework for sustainable land use that can inspire other regions.

### Summary of Key Outcomes from the Landbrugssamarbedje Workshop

The workshop, held in Iceland summer 2025, brought together farmers from Iceland and the Faroe Islands to exchange ideas and explore collaborative approaches to sustainable agriculture. Later that summer farmers from Greenland came to Iceland for a visit and collaborated with Icelandic farmers. The discussions between the farmers highlighted several important themes:

#### 1. Grazing Management and Agricultural Practices

Participants examined alternative grazing strategies, including heavier grazing approaches inspired by holistic management concepts (e.g., Savory Institute). While these methods differ significantly from current practices in Iceland and the Faroe Islands, they were considered thought-provoking and worth monitoring for future relevance.

Concerns were raised about invasive species and the need for careful seed selection, as some introduced species require high fertilizer input.

#### 2. Regional Differences and Logistical Challenges

The geographical scale of Iceland poses unique challenges compared to the Faroe Islands, particularly regarding transportation and utilization of by-products such as fish farming waste.

Farmers noted differences in consumer behaviour, especially in lamb consumption, despite similarities in production systems. Direct-to-consumer sales were identified as an opportunity for added value.

#### 3. Climate and Environmental Considerations

Discussions addressed the global narrative on ruminants and climate change. In discussion, some farmers referenced holistic grazing management as a potential solution to desertification and carbon sequestration, and sustainable grazing could have positive environmental impacts under certain conditions.

There was a shared interest in conducting localized research on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as current data often rely on studies from other countries.

#### 4. Biogas and Circular Solutions

Biogas production emerged as a promising area, particularly in the Faroe Islands where integration of salmon waste and cow manure is already practiced. Benefits include renewable energy generation, improved manure quality, and reduced need for chemical fertilizers.

Icelandic participants expressed interest in exploring similar systems, though cost and infrastructure remain barriers.

#### 5. Soil Conservation and Land Improvement

Wind erosion was identified as a major challenge in all regions. Measures such as shelterbelts and land stabilization were discussed as potential solutions to reduce soil degradation.

#### 6. Policy and Economic Factors

Farmers emphasized the need for supportive government policies and funding to implement climate-friendly agricultural practices. Many innovative ideas remain unrealized due to high costs and limited financial incentives.

**This summary reflects the collaborative spirit of the farmers discussion and underscores the shared commitment to sustainable farming practices, while acknowledging regional differences and practical constraints.**

