

Summary

Dry and warm. Large parts of the Nordic region experienced extreme drought during the summer of 2018, causing a difficult situation for the agricultural industry. Most of the Nordic countries show a reduced harvest in 2018 compared with previous years and some effects are also seen in livestock production. In economic terms, the drought has caused Danish agriculture a severe loss, estimates vary between DKK 4 and 6 billion. In Norway, the drought has resulted in reduced revenues and increased costs in the order of NOK 3 billion. In Sweden, the value of the loss from the summer drought is estimated at just over SEK 6 billion, and in Finland it is noted that 2018 was the least profitable year in the agricultural sector since 2000.

In order to be better prepared for future extreme weather, it is important to further develop the exchange of experience and co-operation between the Nordic countries. The Nordic Council of Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MR-FJLS) therefore decided in September 2018 to set up a working group to systematize the Nordic countries' experiences from the drought in 2018, and to propose areas of Nordic co-operation contributing to a more resilient Nordic agriculture.

The proposals for Nordic co-operation presented are based on the IPCC's assessments of more extreme weather in the Nordics in the future, on experiences from the efforts made during the summer, and experts' assessment of what is required for a more resilient Nordic agriculture in the event of extreme weather. The working group presents the following five proposals for Nordic co-operation:

- Increase knowledge about sustainable water- and cultivation systems;
- Plants adapted for future Nordic conditions;
- Strategies for more efficient organization in the event of extreme weather;
- Nordic knowledge exchange between advisors;
- Nordic network for agriculture and extreme weather.