

Noltfox, Northern European Database of Long term Forest Experiments

The NOLTFOX database is a metadatabase containing basic information on existing forest experiments. The number of active experiments is now over 11.000 and currently the following countries are included in NOLTFOX: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom.

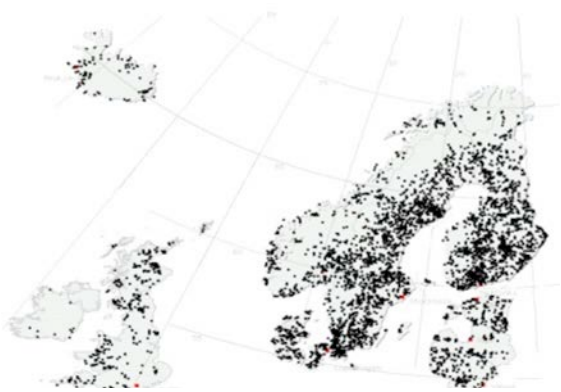


Figure 1. The number of active experiments is now over 11.000

Introduction

People from Nordic forest research organizations have been working on a common database with information on field experiments since 2001. The work was initiated by the Nordic Forest Research Cooperation Committee (SNS), which has been the main funding organization. Later on, Baltic countries joined this NOLTFOX network and during the last years it has started to expand to new countries, e.g. UK and Ireland.

The NOLTFOX database is a metadatabase containing basic information on existing forest experiments. No actual experiment data is provided.

ed. 12 variables describe experimental design and layout, 8 variables are for location and yet 6 variables contain organization and contact information. The number of active experiments is now over 11.000 (fig. 1).

Objectives

The objectives with NOLTFOX has been to develop a database with forest experiment information presented according to some common concepts and standards. The ultimate goals when doing this is to:

- increase cooperation between research organizations in different countries
- improve cost effectiveness by avoiding duplication of already existing experiments and encouraging the use of existing infrastructure and information
- achieve synergetic values by combining information from several locations, organizations and/or different research fields and approaches
- inform about the importance of experiments in general, and to describe the needs and benefits of these activities for funding and other supporting organizations in particular

Key variables identifying field experiments

- Location (country, coordinates, ID etc)
- Contact information (institution, department etc)
- Experimental information (species, objectives, time frame, size etc.)
- Search results can be displayed as maps or as lists for download

Currently the following countries are included in NOLTFOX:

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Visions for the future

- Increased use of the data underlying NOLTFOX
- Cooperation with other networks
- Increased visibility and usage of long term field experiments
- Activities to impact EU framework - incl. infrastructure funding for field experiments
- Benefit from the EFINORD cooperation - and other regional EFI offices



Challenges

- Enabling improved statistical design of experiments
- Reducing overall costs and increasing efficiency Climate change:
- Choice of species
- Expected productivity
- Vulnerability towards pests and diseases Meeting energy needs in Europe:
- Modeling expected biomass production
- Uncover possibilities for increasing forest biomass production



NB Forest Policy and Research Briefs

Ólafur Eggertsson, Icelandic Forest Service

Noltfox, Network no: N2014-03

Published (2 March 2015)

Nordic Forest Research (SNS) www.nordicforestresearch.org