

Agronomy Research and Field Trials in Iceland

NFTN 3rd Conference 2025

Jónína Svavarsdóttir and
Sunna Skeggjadóttir



Landbúnaðarháskóli Íslands
Agricultural University of Iceland





Sunna Skeggjadóttir,
Research Assistant and MSc student
BSc in Agricultural science from AUI, 2021
Working for AUI since 2021

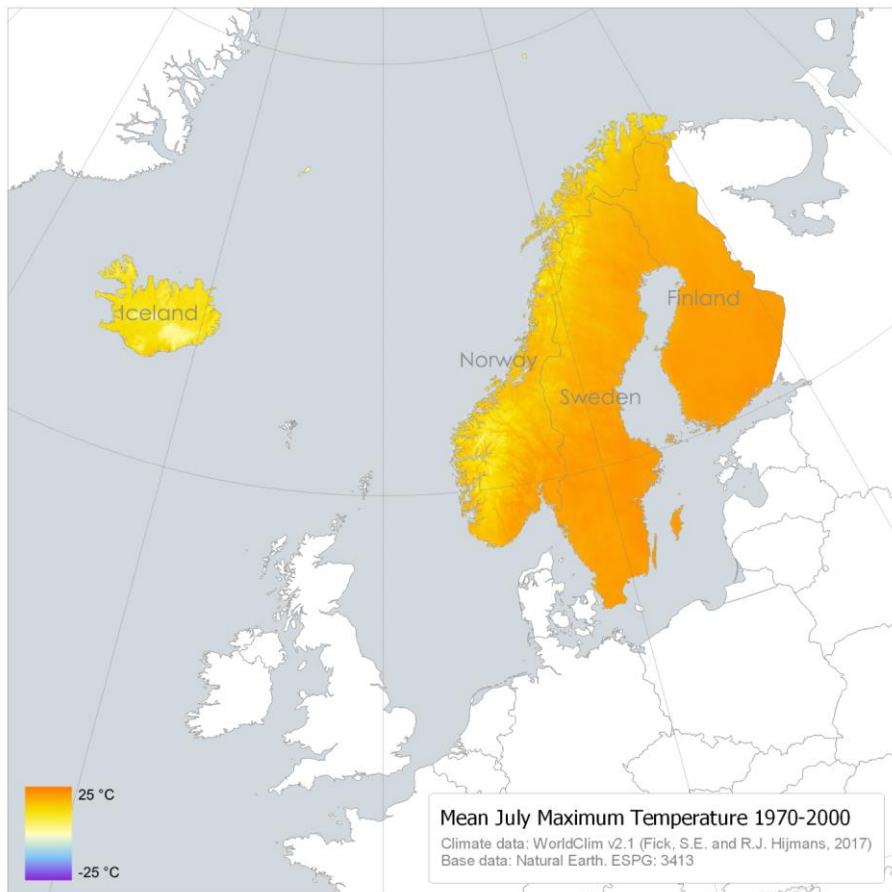


Jónína Svavarsdóttir,
Research Assistant and field trial manager
BSc in Environmental Science from AUI, 2009

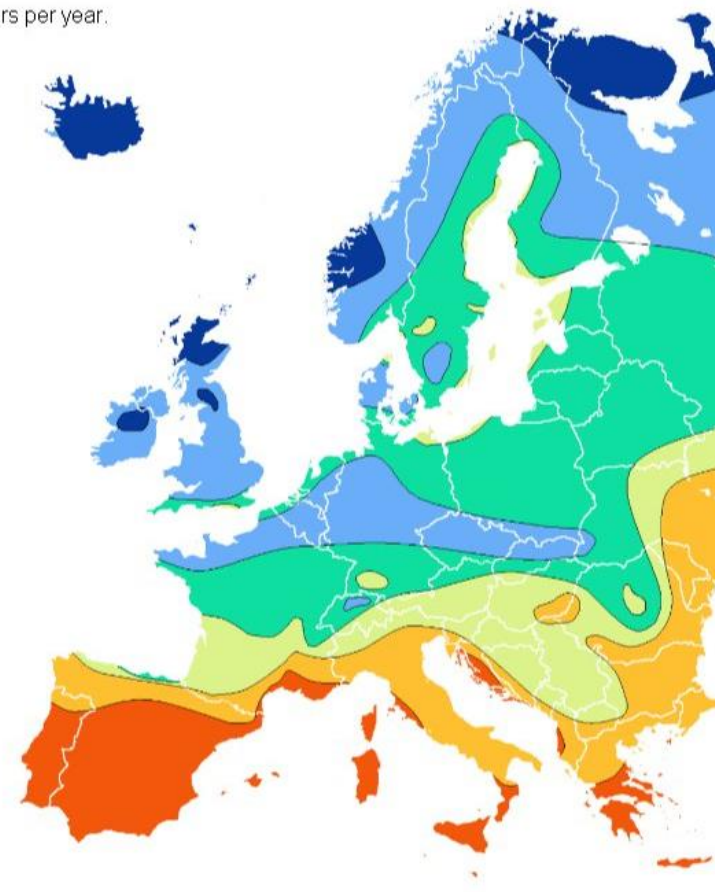
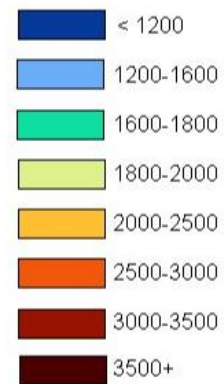
MLM in Project Management and Human
Resource Management from Bifröst University,
2024

Working for AUI since 2018



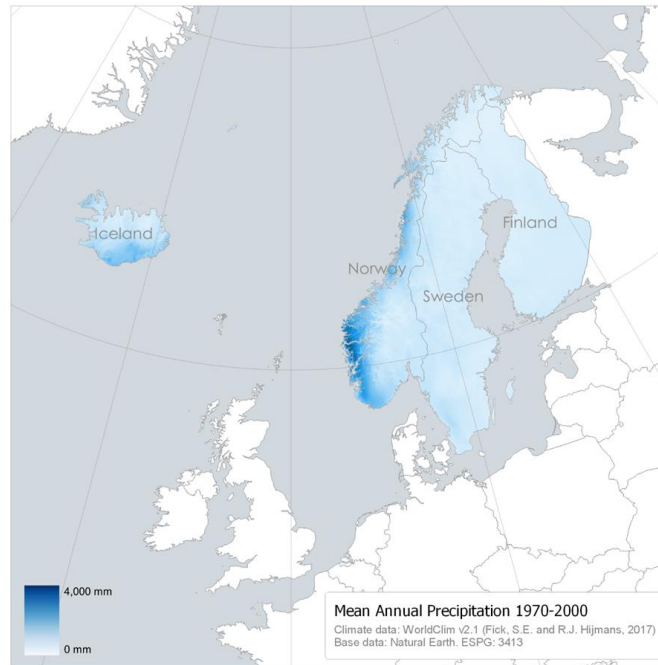


Sunshine duration in hours per year.



Icelandic weather conditions

Icelandic weather conditions



- Colder than nearby countries but warmer during the winter.
- Challenging weather conditions with frequent and unpredictable changes.
- Limited growing season



Agricultural University of Iceland (AUI)



Agronomy Research Center of AUI





Agronomy Research Center

3-4 employees that work full time in agronomy field trials.

Summer employees, interns and students (1-4)

Technicians, approx. (5-7)

Specialists that work mainly with the numbers/results we provide, around 2-4



Species in trials for the last years

Cereal Crops

Barley	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>
Oats	<i>Avena sativa</i>
Winter-Wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>
Spring-Wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>
Winter-Rye	<i>Secale cereale</i>

Perennial forages

Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Cocksfoot grass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Blue grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
Tall Fescue	<i>Festuca pratenses Huds.</i>
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Alpa-Alpha	<i>Medicago sativa</i>

Green fodder and whole crops

Faba bean	<i>Vicia faba</i>
Lupine	<i>Lupinus spp.</i>
Pea	<i>Pisum sativum</i>
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Kale	<i>Brassica oleracea var. acephala</i>
Annual ryegrass	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>

Oil crops and industrial hemp

Spring- Rapeseed	<i>Brassica napus var. oليفةira</i>
Winter- Turnip rape	<i>Brassica rapa var. oليفةira</i>
Industrial hemp	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>

Field trials in Iceland

Manage field trials from Hvanneyri

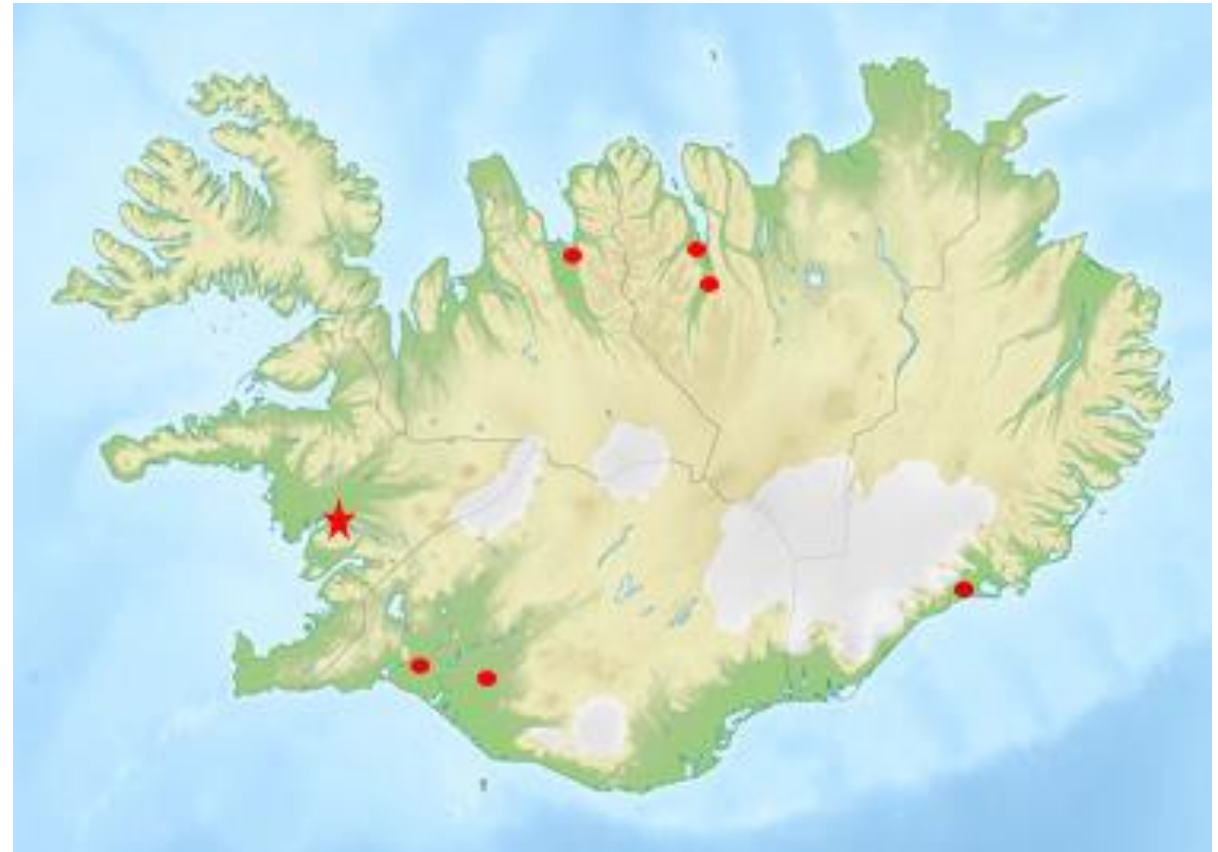
Travel the country for field research with cereals, mainly barley but also oats and winter wheat.

In 2024 we had 17 different trials in 7 location, approx. 3400 plots in total.

7.250 km drive

Seeding from 30th of April – 10th of May

Harvest from 20th September- 14th October





Finding the best locations

We work closely with farmers on our field locations.

The farmers assign to us a field and we choose a spot to sow our trials

Icelandic fields are homogeneous
Mostly andosol soil

Wind direction important in choosing a spot



Field work in spring

Short window for seeding

Long working days

The seeders:

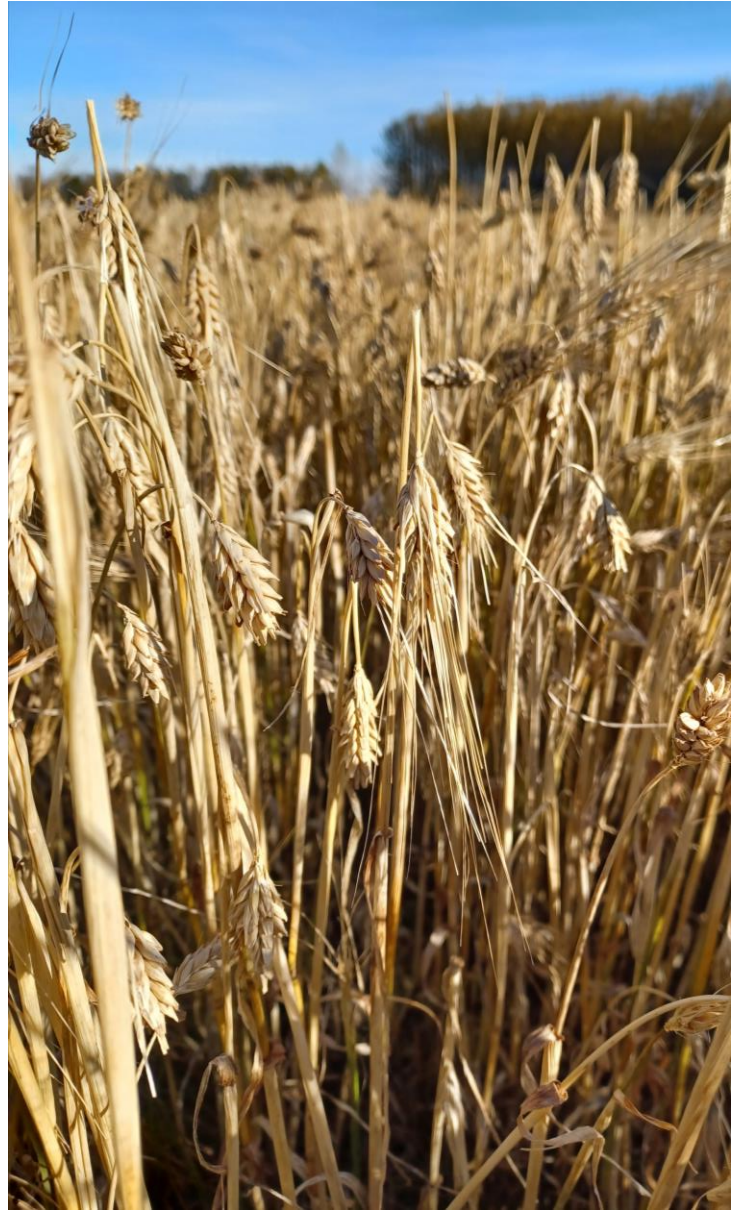
Haldrup SB-25

Haldrup SR-30





Phenotyping and data collecting



Birds

Swans and geese cause damage to crops by grazing (grass and cereal) and trampling in fields

Swans are protected

Geese are hunted, but there is a limit

Electric fences, scare crows, shelter belts (farmers crops)





Harvest

Two trial cereal combines. The older one from Wintersteiger A-4910 (1998), and then the new one (2020) is from Haldrup (C-70).

Both are in full use from mid September until end of October.





Rit Lbhf nr. 156

Akurhafri

Áburðartilraunir á höfnum til þroska á tveimur mismunandi jarðvegsgerðum á Hvanneyri 2020

Sunna Skeggjadóttir, Jónína Svavarsdóttir & Hrannar Smári Hilmarsson



Landbúnaðarháskóli Íslands
Agricultural University of Iceland

2022

Outcomes

Scientific articles

Results to farmers

Field days for farmers and researchers

International projects

Cereal Education

BSc., MSc. and Phd. students





Takk fyrir



Landbúnaðarháskóli Íslands
Agricultural University of Iceland