

Working group proposal for the FFRC summer conference 2014  
"SUSTAINABLE FUTURES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE"

Chairs: Vilja Varho & Pasi Rikkonen, MTT Agrifood Research Finland

[vilja.varho@utu.fi](mailto:vilja.varho@utu.fi) / [vilja.varho@mtt.fi](mailto:vilja.varho@mtt.fi) ja [pasi.rikkonen@mtt.fi](mailto:pasi.rikkonen@mtt.fi)

## **Climate change mitigation opportunities in rural futures**

Climate change is an important topic in the rural areas, not only because of its impacts to e.g. agriculture and forestry, but because rural areas can be a significant factor in climate change mitigation. Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture are significant, but there are various policies and processes that aim to reduce the climate impact of agriculture. These may cause changes in the established patterns of production and consumption, in technologies, in economic opportunities, etc. Some changes may be experienced as positive by the rural enterprises and population and even generate new opportunities, but others may cause resistance or negative impacts.

We invite to this working group papers addressing how climate change mitigation opportunities may develop in the agricultural and rural futures. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, mitigation measures in agricultural and food production, bioenergy, other renewable energy sources and technologies in the rural context, distributed energy systems in rural areas, and climate policy changes affecting rural development. Also critical views concerning the impacts of climate change mitigation efforts for the rural futures are welcomed.

We welcome particularly papers discussing the countries of the North, as the opportunities, policies, and circumstances of the rural areas are so different in Southern countries.