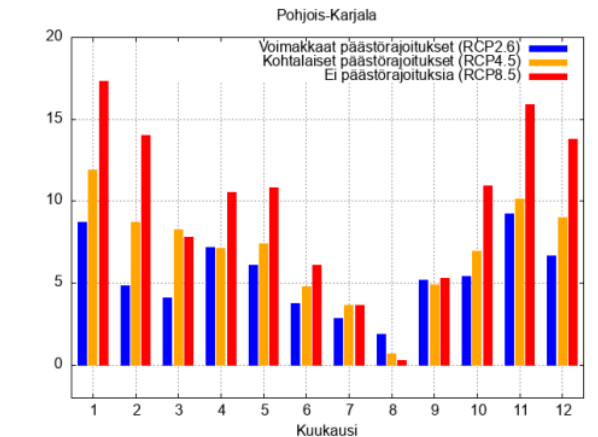
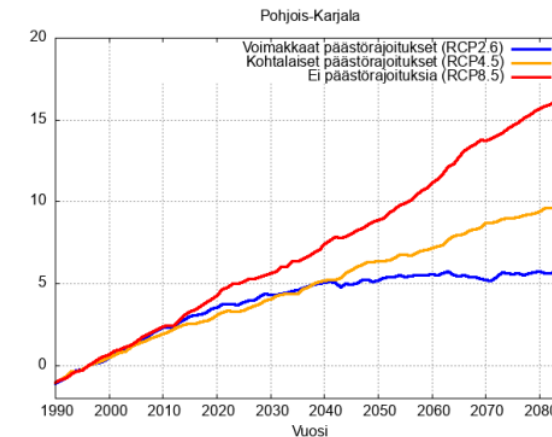
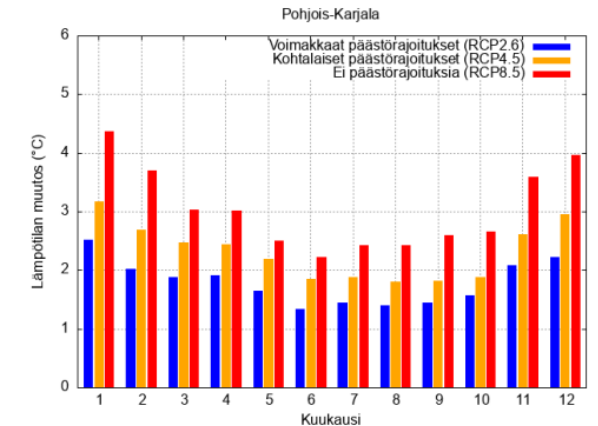
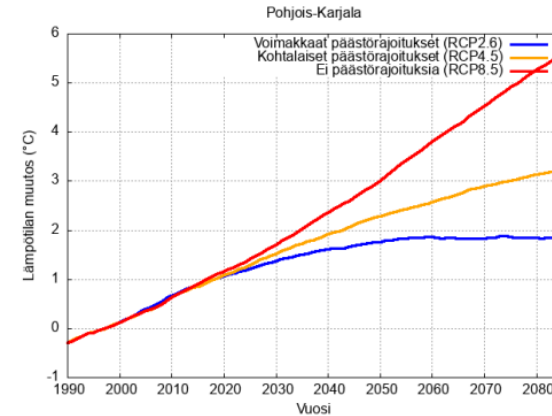
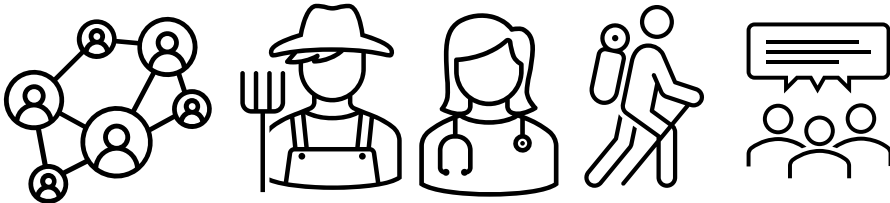


Climate and adaptation stories

Karoliina Rimhanen, Päivi Abernethy, Sami Ahonen, Stefan Fronzek, Tiina Jouppila, Kirsti Jylhä, Niina Kautto, Sanna Luhtala, Nina Pirttioja, Taru Palosuo, Reija Ruuhela, Kirsti Saarremaa and Timothy R. Carter

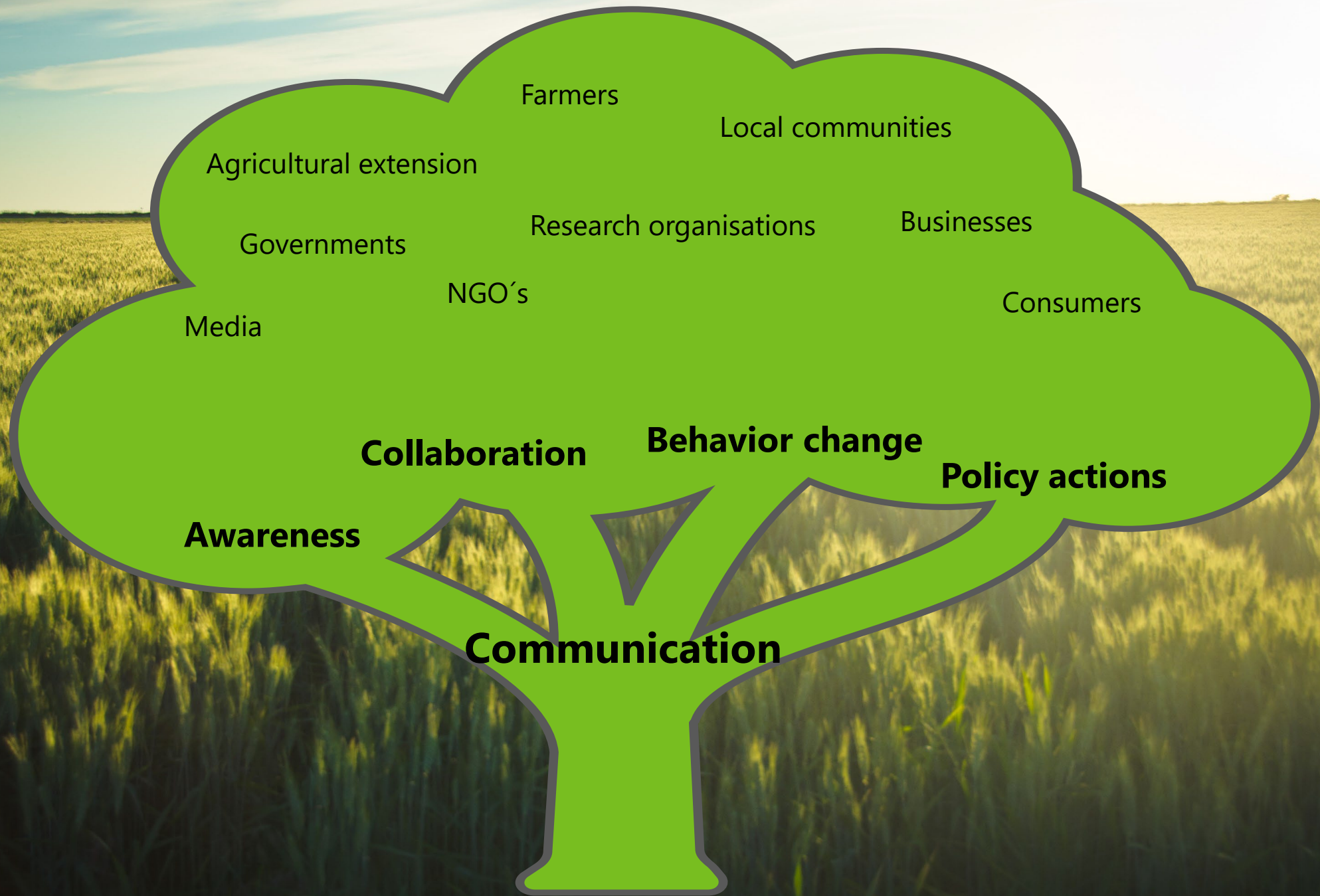
Introduction

- Climate change is rapidly transforming societies, different sectors and practices
- Need for adaptation
- Overwhelming amount, complexity and uncertainty of information make it challenging for stakeholders to take decisive actions

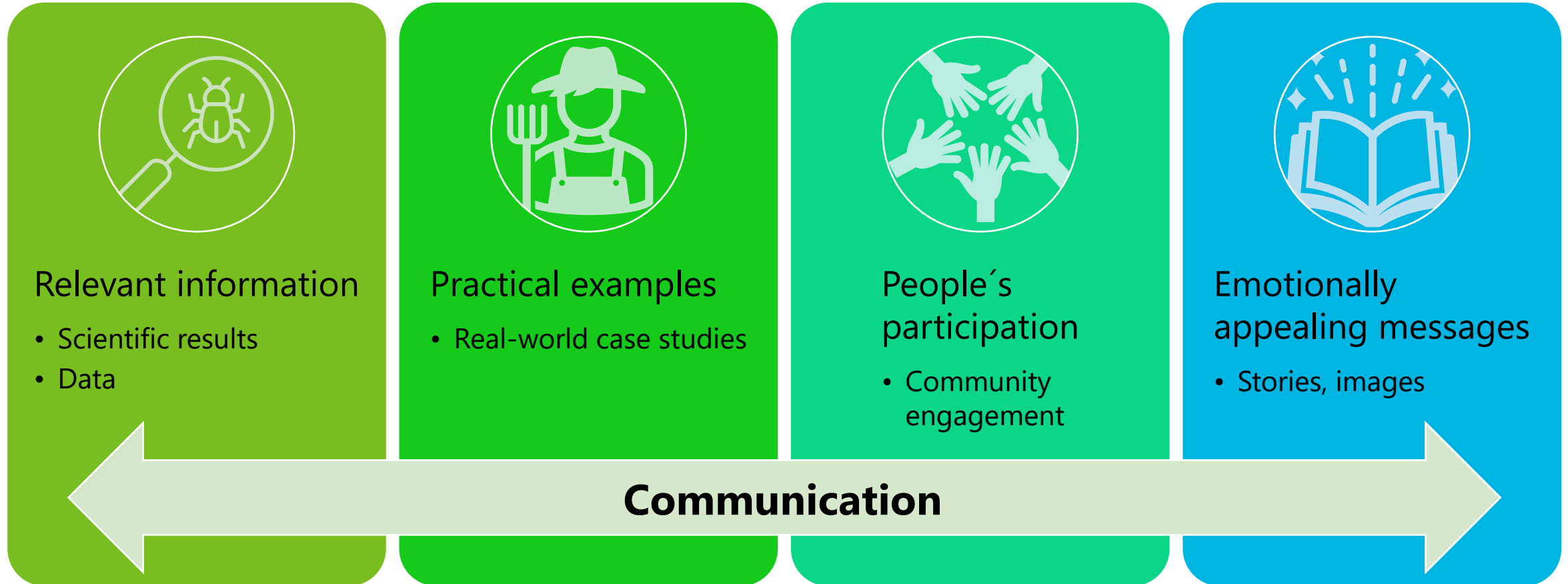


Estimated changes in annual average temperature (above) and precipitation (below) according to different greenhouse gas emission trajectories until 2100. Changes compared to the climate of the period 1981-2010.

Monthly changes in temperature (above) and precipitation (below) by 2050. Changes compared to the climate of the period 1981-2010.



How to promote commitment to climate change adaptation ?



Climate and adaptation stories

- Summarize projected impacts of climate change and capture viewpoints of local actors regarding potential adaptation measures
- Fictional accounts set in the 2040s/2050s, reflecting social, ecological and economic perspectives
- Co-created with local stakeholders
- Concrete and lively stories that are tailored to the values and interests of the target audience
- Aim is to increase understanding and spark thinking about adaptation solutions



Creating the stories – a participatory process

- **Surveys, interviews and discussions** to identify experiences, perspectives and reflections of key stakeholders concerning notable impacts of climate change, factors driving the impacts and current and future adaptation options.
- **Turning the data into stories.** Stories summarize quantitative data on projected changes to climate and the society and qualitative data from several interviews, with fictional personal and emotional elements.
- **Structure.** Each story consisted of introduction (underlying phenomena/hazards), challenges (impact, vulnerability factors, exposure), response (adaptation/preparedness measures), outcome, and conclusion – sections.
- **Stakeholder feedback.** Draft stories were returned to the interviewees for their feedback. Revision of stories.
- **Visualization.** Local artist illustrated the stories based on the narratives.



Image: Adobe Stock

Examples

Health and well-being

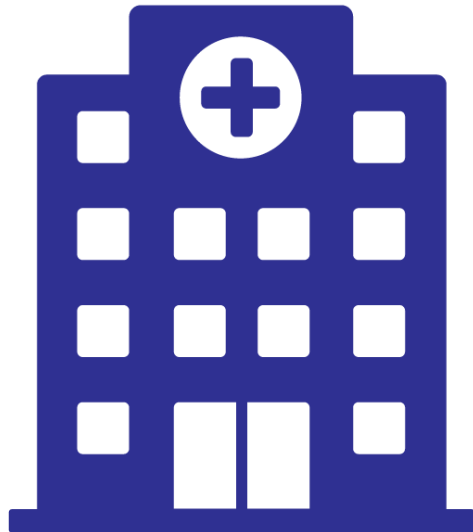
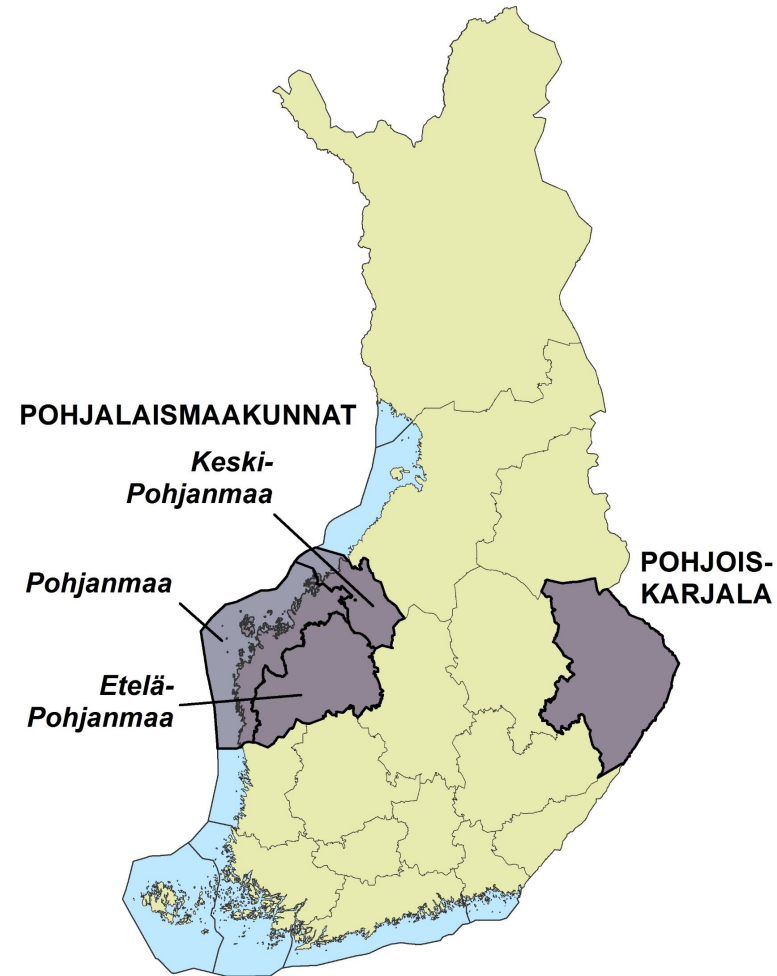


Image: Adobe Stock



Dairy production



Visualisation: Anne Stolt

Climate stories for South Ostrobothnia: health and well-being

- South Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County has a project (Sairaala 2040) to explore and compare options for **developing the site of the Seinäjoki central hospital** – either by renovating the existing buildings or by demolishing them and building new ones.
- To support the hospital development project FMI as part of FINSCAPES
 - produced **climate information** for the area in traditional form (as text and graphs)
 - **three fictional climate stories** to illustrate changing climate, its impacts and successful adaptation.



Image: Adobe Stock

Climate stories tell a fictional tale of the 2040s – from three perspectives



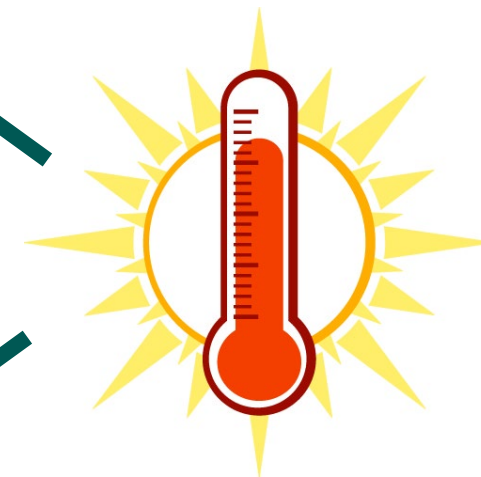
Sakari Sairaalainsinööri (hospital engineer)



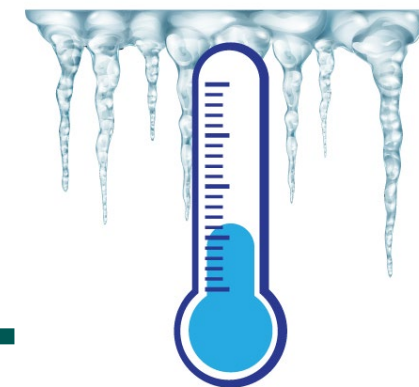
Saarni Sairaanhoitaja (nurse)



Taru Tapaturmapotilas (accident patient)



Kesäinen helleaalto
(heat wave in summer)



Talviliukkaat (icy and slippery
conditions in winter)

Regional adaptation stories for North Karelia: dairy production

- **Adapting to challenges:** *Locality is favored and self-sufficiency strengthened on a farm in Lieksa*
- **Adapting to opportunities:** *Bold experiments made Hillamäki Farm a pioneer*
- **Milk buyer's perspective:** *Farmers' long-term cooperation made North Karelia a model of sustainable dairy production*



Visualisation: Anne Stolt

Benefits and weaknesses of the adaptation stories for the climate change communication

Adaptation stories can be used to stimulate thinking and discussions on the future of agricultural and rural development, helping participants to envision possible future scenarios.

Useful for different target groups in seminars and workshops, also in social media and blogs, enriched by illustrations.

People who prefer concrete data and analytical approaches may not resonate with storytelling.

Useful as educational material, make complex topics easier to understand and more interesting. Provides practical examples and inspiring learning experiences.

Conclusion

- Climate and adaptation stories are imagined futures that can **help people make sense of existing information**, promote learning, and improve the effectiveness of communication
- The stories can be valuable in **sparking discussions** and helping participants imagine future scenarios
- Stories may **promote engagement with action** on climate change adaptation.
- Adaptation stories can be used in various settings, **seminars and workshops**, and for different target groups
- Stories are useful as **educational material**, simplifying complex topics and making them more engaging and accessible, especially for students



Visualisation: Anne Stolt

More information

<https://www.syke.fi/hankkeet/finscapes>

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