

Final Report – JordBygg Conference 2025

Overview

The **JordBygg Conference 2025** was held on 10 April 2025 at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Alnarp, Crafoord Hall. Organized in collaboration with Partnerskap Alnarp and HBSyd Association, the event attracted a diverse audience of architects, builders, researchers, students, policymakers, and material producers, both on-site and online.

Building on the momentum from last year's AgriBuild conference, JordBygg 2025 placed earth- and soil-based materials at the center of attention. The conference highlighted both the long tradition and the innovative potential of clay, rammed earth, and related natural building systems as sustainable alternatives in today's construction sector.

Key Highlights

The programme combined theoretical perspectives, case studies, policy discussions, and live demonstrations. Presentations ranged from **clay-based construction in Norway** (Frederika Miller, Gaia Oslo) and **clay as a climate-neutral building material** (Marwa Dabaieh, Malmö University), to **industrial-scale production of unfired earth materials** (Philip Peters, Conluto, Germany).

Practical sessions included hands-on demonstrations of clay boards, plastering, and rammed earth techniques, allowing participants to experience the tactile qualities of the materials. Additional talks covered **legal frameworks and standardization**, **earth pigments in natural paints**, and **renewable insulation solutions from small-scale builders**.

The day concluded with a workshop and panel discussion addressing the advantages, challenges, and opportunities of earth-based building materials in Sweden and beyond.

Value of Networking

As in AgriBuild 2024, networking proved central to JordBygg's success. The conference offered participants a unique meeting ground across disciplines and scales—from small craft-based enterprises to academic researchers and material suppliers. Informal exchanges during breaks and structured dialogues in the workshop session generated ideas for collaborations, new projects, and further research.

Lessons Learned

The conference underscored both the promise and the barriers to wider adoption of earth-based construction in Sweden:

- **Policy and regulation remain a bottleneck.** Current building codes do not fully accommodate earthen techniques, slowing down mainstream adoption.
- **Knowledge transfer must accelerate.** Stronger collaboration between academia, small companies, and authorities is needed to ensure research translates into practice.
- **Market interest is growing.** While large-scale construction companies are still hesitant, smaller firms and niche actors are pioneering real-world applications.
- **Materials show strong potential.** Clay and rammed earth have clear advantages in terms of climate impact, recyclability, and indoor climate, but require broader standardization and certification to scale.

Conference Summary

The JordBygg 2025 programme included:

- **International perspectives** on clay construction and theoretical frameworks.
- **Climate-neutral architecture** and clay's role in sustainable design.
- **Industrial-scale earth materials** and practical demonstrations by Conluto.
- **Policy, legal, and standardization frameworks** for natural materials.
- **Artistic and aesthetic dimensions** such as earth pigments in natural paints.
- **Entrepreneurial and practical perspectives** from eco-builders and small-scale innovators.
- **Hands-on sessions** with rammed fiber, clay plaster, and earth-based painting applications.
- **Final workshop and panel** discussing opportunities and barriers for scaling up.

Conclusion and Future Directions

The JordBygg 2025 conference successfully advanced the conversation on earthen building systems in Sweden. It provided new insights into both traditional and industrialized approaches, highlighted critical policy and research needs, and gave participants a chance to directly experience material properties through demonstrations.

Given the overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants, partners, and sponsors, we recommend continuing JordBygg as an annual event under the umbrella of Partnerskap Alnarp. A recurring conference would strengthen knowledge transfer, foster collaboration, and position SLU Alnarp as a leading hub for innovation in natural building materials.

Financing and Organizational Partners

- Partnerskap Alnarp (main financier)

<http://partnerskapalnarp.slu.se>

- Institutionen för Biosystem och teknologi (host)

<https://www.slu.se/institutioner/biosystem-teknologi/>

- Hållbart Byggnade i Syd Förening (secondary financier)

<https://hbsyd.se/>

Exhibitors

- *Ekolution*

- Naib Woldemariam, CEO (hemp insulation)

- *Ekoisolering*

- Pär Klyvner, CEO (cellulose and other ecological insulation)

- *Artekta*

- (Hempcrete building company)

- *Plan E*

- Torsten Lendt, (clay products, stuccos, etc.)

- *Ottossons Färgfabrik*

- Gunnar Ottosson, CEO (linseed oil paints and products)

Budget & Economy

Partnerskap Alnarp		
Ekonomisk slutrapportering i kr		
Projekt	Jordbygg - fokus på lera	
	Projekt PA 1589	
Projektledare	György Ängelkott Bocz	
	Institutionen för Biosystem och teknologi	
	Box 103	
	230 53 ALNARP	
Beviljat	Partnerskap Alnarp	50 000
	Total Summa	50 000
Ekonomisk redovisning		
Intäkter	Fakturering	28 000
	Summa intäkter	28 000
Kostnader		
	Resekostnader	4 718
	Föredragshållare	22 449
	Förbrukningsmaterial	495
	Annonsering	16 900
	Lokalhyra	8 050
	Catering	21 184
	Summa kostnader	73 796
Att fodra		45 796
Ekonom		
Nour Alhamidi		

Final Remarks and Future Considerations

The JordBygg conference fully achieved its goals, offered valuable perspectives on earth- and soil-based building materials, and created a solid foundation for future developments and collaborations in this growing field.

Given the highly positive feedback from partners, funders, and participants, we hope that Partnerskap Alnarp will also consider supporting and co-financing next year's event. The next conference is planned for a similar time period – around the first Wednesday after Easter – with a continued focus on natural and renewable building solutions, this coming year in 2026 on straw.

Med vänliga hälsningar

György Ángelkott Bocz

(Main organizer) Adjunkt

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