The European Alliance

on Agricultural Knowledge for Development

## AGRINATURA Association Board of Directors

## 16 September 2013

**Meeting place:**

University of Hohenheim

Centre for Agriculture in the Tropics and Subtropics

70599 Stuttgart, Germany

Seminarroom S10, Garbenstr. 13

**MINUTES**

**BD members:**

Michael HAUSER - President, BOKU Vienna

Didier PILLOT – Vice-President, SupAgro Montpellier

Timothy CHANCELLOR - Board of Directors member, NRI, University of Greenwich

Torsten Rødel BERG - Board of Directors member, Aarhus University

Günther MANSKE - Board of Directors member, ZEF, Bonn

**Joint Secretariat:**

Martina OPOČENSKÁ – Secretary General, CULS Prague

Paolo SARFATTI – AGRINATURA Director

**Apologies:**

Petra CHALOUPKOVÁ - Board of Directors member, CULS

Luisa BIONDI - Board of Directors member, University of Catania

Andreas DE NEERGAARD - Board of Directors member, Life Copenhagen

Nelida ALÉ – Business Manager (EEIG)

# Opening, Approval of Agenda and Minutes of former meetings

M. HAUSER, AGRINATURA President, welcomed all participants of the Board of Directors Meeting 2013.

* 1. **Approval of the Agenda**

The Internal organization was shifted to earlier time after the point of AGRINATURA workplan. The Budget is added to the Agenda.

The Agenda was changed accordingly and approved.

 *Related document: Agenda of BD meeting Hohenheim 2013 (At. 1)*

* 1. Approval of the Minutes of BD Meeting Vienna 2013

The Minutes were approved.

*Related document: Minutes of BD meeting Vienna 2013 (At. 2)*

#  Reporting session

Reporting session is devoted to information exchange and sharing of important points among BD members:

M. HAUSER summarizes his attendance at FARA week as politically important, it was confirmed that ARD would be a priority for african nations in the future. Since November 1 until April 30 he will be at World fish Center, Malaysia, on a research mission. For that time Maria Wurzinger will be an acting director of CDR

It is suggested to have more skype meetings between the physical meetings to discuss the most important issues. D. PILLOT suggests to address point by point the issues where physical presence is necessary.

EEIG had a meeting with New World Farmers Organization (WFO) which was held in July 22, 2013 to discuss potential collaboration. WFO is interested in trade, women and youth and risk management. AGRINATURA was invited to WFO Board meeting on September 28, 2013 to present FARMAF project.

AGRINATURA could become a partner in innovation, education and research There is a potential that this organization could take part in some AGRINATURA projects e.g. Edulink.

T. CHANCELLOR will become a scientific advisor to the McKnight Foundation's Collaborative Crops Research Programme since October 1st.

T. BERG: DANIDA has not approved the second phase of the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) programme which aims at building capacity in African Universities through collaboration with Danish universities. It appears that DANIDA will change the architecture of the programme in order to make it more south-driven. The implications for involvement of Danish Universities are not clear yet’.

# Membership

Currently AGRINATURA has 31 members. After the last General Assembly on April 2013, one member - University of Florence resigned. The reason related to their resignation was a reform of italian universities leading to replacement of faculties with departments. At the moment IAO is in close contact with Florence and will explore the possibility to bring Florence back to AGRINATURA.

D. PILLOT is in contact with ROMA 3 (Italy) which is close to be interested to become a member.

For the future a strategy should be developed for:

1. Maintenance of members: the “risky” members (less active ones, close to decision to leave) should be labeled and more attention paid to them. Such projects should be proposed, which would be accessible for all the members. For some specific project smaller members do not have a capacity; information flow is also one of the most important issues.
2. Expansion of membership: to fill the critical gap of universities in central Europe and expand to eastern Europe. ICA and CASIA could be helpful in this regard.

One member of Board of Directors should be a management officer responsible for membership (more in the point of Internal organization – allocation of tasks)

# Alliances and Networks

ERA NET: meeting planned in Denmark with ministries to get national support (A. NEERGAARD)

FARA: 6th Africa Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly was held in Accra, Ghana in July 2013. M. HAUSER was invited to represent AGRINATURA at Capacity Strengthening Side Event, where he had presentation on Networks and Partnerships of Universities in the European Union.

IntenseAfrica: original initiative of CIRAD and WUR. The idea is to establish research partnership between Europe and Africa on sustainable agriculture intensification. The policy document was launched in Montpellier (March 2013) and the initiative presented and discussed at side event at Africa Agricuture Science Week and FARA General Assembly in Accra (July, 2013). A Concerted Support Action (CSA) under Horizon 2020 should be launched – first draft programme to be published in November. T. CHANCELLOR: There is a planned meeting on 11 December (venue not confirmed) – all who are interested; and discussion with national SCAR representative – all who are interested.

Remarks : Next to research organizations it is important to have a support from national governments. For AGRINATURA this should be first priority in terms of research and furthermore it could bring members who are not involved yet.

*Related documents: Concept note on IntenseAfrica (At. 3), Minutes of meeting on Intense Africa in Accra (At. 4)*

RUFORUM: AGRINATURA was invited to attend the 11th African Crop Science Society Conference, 14-17 October 2013. RUFORUM, through Adipala Ekwamu, asked AGN. to recommend two senior experts to :

* review Europe's higher education quality insurance systems, credit transfer, but also ERASMUS Mundus experiences, etc.
* present the European crop science research landscape (including research priorities, partnership arrangements, etc.).

The second topic will be presented by T. CHANCELLOR, a speaker for the first topic is still being searched.

RUFORUM is planning a Rectors and Deans meeting in Bellagio with planned support from Rockefeller to which Agrinatura will be invited. There is another planned Rockefeller-supported meeting involving CTA, but more information has to be found out yet. There may be a large ACP Conference on an agricultural theme in which RUFORUM and Agrinatura can participate. The next RUFORUM Biennial Conference is in early July 2014 in Maputo.

AGRINATURA could, jointly with RUFORUM, organize conferences to get connected to partners and to support members (universities) which do not have own capacities to organize such events. (D. PILLOT will prepare a concept note).

TAP: AGRINATURA decided not to nominate a representative for Steering Committee. The focal point is N. ALÉ. It is discussed if it is important to be a part of it, as there is no progress since the last year. It is concluded that for the time being the TAP will be “observed”.

EFARD: the last meeting was held on August 27 – 28, 2013 in Brussels. AGRINATURA was not represented. The report of the meeting can be found in the attachment *(At. 5)*. A letter with official nomination will be sent by the President nominating T. BERG as a representative of AGN.

*Related document: Report of EFARD meeting 2013 (At. 5)*

CFS: AGRINATURA has been officially recognised as an observer of Committee of World Food Security and will be officially represented during the CFS week in Rome (October 7 – 11, 2013) by the Association President M. HAUSER.

GCHERA: GCHERA Annual meeting including GCHERA World Agriculture Prize Ceremony and International Seminar — GCHERA World Dialogue on Education and Innovation in Agriculture and Life Sciences ; and GCHERA Board Extraordinary General Assembly (new chair of Board will be elected) will be held in Beijing on October 20 – 22, 2013. T. BERG will represent AGRINATURA.

# AGRINATURA projects

CGIAR: For this year IFAD will use the remaining funds received by the EC (2012) to cover the present contract with AGRINATURA. They have formally decided to have the CGIAR Review 2013 and asked to use the roster of candidates received last year. The internal selection committee of AGN has made a selection process, which was validated by EC and IFAD. For this year, 4 experts were chosen among members of the Association which are not directly members of the EEIG. The 2013 Review Process will run into 2014, so it was agreed that there may not be a separate 2014 review process (although the option for some further reviews was kept open). The reason for delay this year is that new system of evaluation is not at place yet

Women and Youth: the proposal is being prepared. The members involved in the project are: for Women proposal – NRI, U-Ghent, IICT, SZIU; for Youth proposal – CIRAD, NRI.

T. CHANCELLOR stated that it would be necessary to find a team leader for the Indonesia/WB, someone with experience who is expected to be there for 1 year at least in full position, with short term inputs in year 2 and 3.

ASK Asia: new project accepted this year under Action 3 Erasmus Mundus call. The main objective is to evaluate performance of Asian Erasmus Mundus graduates on the professional market. The project should cover all Asian students that have been graduated for more than 12 months (it covers more than 200 graduates); assess what is the added value for employees, graduates, universities; AGRINATURA is a full partner of the project among 5 European partners, coordinator is Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. The kick-off meeting will be organized on November 26 – 27 in Prague.

# AGRINATURA Workplan

The Workplan is shortly presented by P. SARFATTI. After a discussion it is concluded that:

* The “bullet points” will be transformed into the matrix
* Longer (more narrative) and shorter version will be elaborated
* Rolling Workplan will become an annex of the document
* List of abbreviations will be prepared so that the document is intelligible for a broader audience
* The Workplan will be sent to the Board for final comments with deadline of the end of September

*Related document: AGRINATURA Workplan (At. 6)*

# Internal organization

Election of Vice-presidents

Following the decisions of the last GA in Bonn, a new organizational structure of governance should be adopted. It anticipates two vice-presidents, each of them representing one institution. This could be put in place at the end of the current mandate of Andrew Westby as the chair of the EEIG, in 2014.

We need:

- one Vice-president elected from 31 members of the Association

- one Vice-president elected from 6 EEIG members

The call for Vice-president should be launched by the end of January. It is suggested that first the Board members should be asked by President of the Association personally.

Regarding the EEIG, the change of Director next May was discussed and the plan to revive the thematic working groups. The call for Director will be circulated to all EEIG members, including all Association members with deadline of November 30, 2013. Preliminary decision should be made on February 1, 2014, formalized on May 9, with starting date of June 1, 2014.

Allocation of tasks

The responsibilities of individual Board members and management for specific tasks were allocated as follows:

1. Programmes and projects – D. PILLOT, P. CHALOUPKOVÁ, M.OPOČENSKÁ, N. ALÉ
2. Policy advocacy and partnerships – M. HAUSER, P. SARFATTI, T. R. BERG, N. ALÉ
3. Communication – M. OPOČENSKÁ, G. MANSKE, T. CHANCELLOR
4. Membership management – P. CHALOUPKOVÁ, D. PILLOT
5. EEIG – G. MANSKE, M. HAUSER
6. Financial management – Vice-president (D. PILLOT), Secretary General (M. OPOČENSKÁ)
7. General management (working procedures, workplans, BD, GA, Strategy) – Vice-president, Director, Secretary General
8. Evidence based policy thematic groups – A. DE NEERGAARD, L. BIONDI

The whole idea is to reach a unified management system with clear responsibilities and tasks. These responsibilities and tasks were derived from AGRIANTURA's specific objectives, three years work plan (and to some extent also the Rolling work plan). For each task we should have annual goals and terms. During Board meetings and General Assemblies people responsible for specific tasks would also report.

It is decided that Skype meetings will be organized every month to discuss the most pending issues. They will take about 1,5 hour, short Agenda will be prepared in advance.

The preliminary schedule of skype meetings is following:

October 23, 2013, 9 – 10; topic: communication

November 20, 2013, 9 – 10

December 18, 2013, 9 – 10

# Budget

Due to delay in CGIAR 2013 monitoring process, there will be no income for CGIAR in the budget of 2013. Thus expected income of 10 000 EUR, corresponding to the previous years should be deleted from the budget proposed for 2013.

Other items are revised and discussed, but budgeted amounts are left without changes for now.

The contribution for Tropentag 2014 will remain the same for the next year and further discussed during following meetings.

It is decided that the budget has to be revised together with the budget of EEIG.

Some part of savings at Association saving account (approx.65 000 EUR) should be used for specific items and actions in the Workplan.

*Related document: Agrinatura Budget 2013 (At. 7)*

# Tropentag 2014

Next Tropentag will be organized by Faculty of Tropical Agrisciences, Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, on September 17 – 19, 2014.

The motto for the next year is: *Bridging the gap between increasing knowledge and decreasing resources.*

For AGRINATURA this could be an opportunity to organize or co-organize some event within Tropentag to enhance the visibility.

Some of the suggestions are:

* Organizing a kind of conference with alumni of Agris Mundus before or after the conference which could be connected with some ASK Asia event or with CASIA
* New development agenda will have a shape by that time which could lead to allocation of a session (or side event) on a development agenda including MDG issues, sustainable agriculture, role of young people in ARD in cooperation with YPARD (Young Professionals Platform for Agricultural Research in Development) etc..
* The topics should be aimed more on eastern Europe to attract new members from the East as well

All the topics of parallel sessions have to be set up in advance, thus discussions regarding involvement of AGRINATURA in connection to Tropentag should be finished as soon as possible in cooperation with organizational team of CULS (by the end of November).

The kick off meeting is planned for the first week of February 2014 in Prague.

# Communication

Agrinatura does not have a communication strategy which has to be developed.

M. HAUSER suggests to pay a professional who would elaborate a strategy, but it is important to set up our requirements first, then instruments can be developed.

P. SARFATTI suggests contacting Jennie van der Mheen-Sluijer from WUR and Judith Francis from CTA first to discuss the communication issues. After their feedback it can be decided, if professional company or individuals will be chosen for evolving the communication strategy.

It is agreed that Paolo will contact WUR and CTA and then the decisions can be taken. The next skype meeting will be devoted to communication and after reactions further steps will be taken.

# General Assembly 2014

The next General Assembly is planned for May 7 – 9, 2014 in Vienna. The plan is to extend it to three days interaction – GA and European Science Days (together with MAM and MAC).

The motto could be: “The role of Europe regarding ARD”

The idea is to bring EFARD, GFAR, higher education and research.

The year 2014 is also a year of family farming and it could be an opportunity bring evidence in this regard.

**The list of attachments**

1. Agenda of BD meeting Hohenheim 2013
2. Minutes of BD meeting Vienna 2013
3. Concept note on IntenseAfrica
4. Minutes of meeting on Intense Africa in Accra
5. Report of EFARD meeting 2013
6. AGRINATURA Workplan
7. Agrinatura Budget 2013