



# MINUTES

## AGRINATURA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

April 25, 2018

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**Address:**

UNIVERSITÄT HOHENHEIM

Schloß Hohenheim 1

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**Members represented:**

Del DEBBIO Stefano (Agenzia italiana per la Cooperazione allo sviluppo, Italy), PELOSCHEK Florian (BOKU, Austria), MANSKE Günther (ZEF, Bonn University), MIRA da SILVA Luis (ULisboa - Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Portugal), PETITHUGUENIN Philippe (CIRAD, France), SERS Jean-Michel (CIRAD, France), PILLOT Didier (Montpellier SupAgro, France), HAWKINS Richard (ICRA, Netherlands), GLYNN Carolyn (SLU, Sweden), CHALOUPKOVÁ Petra (CULS Prague, Czech Republic), CHANCELLOR Timothy (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), WOPEREIS Myra (ICRA, Netherlands), ONAKUSE Stephen (University College Cork, Ireland), CALLENIUS Carolin (University of Hohenheim, Germany), SOR Joel (CIRAD), WINDMEIJER Pieter (WUR), Torsten Rodel Berg (Aarhus University), Laurent de POTTER (Gembloux/University of Liege), HUBER Beate (FIBL), PFEIFFER Simone (G. A. University of Goettingen), HALL Carsten Smith (University of Copenhagen), SPILLANE Charles (National University of Ireland Galway), STYLES David (Nat. Uni. Of Ireland Galway), van Damme Patrick (Ghent University), VANDERDRISSE Hilde (KU Leuven), Westby Andrew (University of Greenwich, NRI)

**Joint Secretariat:**

KROUTILOVÁ Anna (Agrinatura Association Secretary General), LAM Hanneke (Agrinatura-EEIG Director-Business Manager), GILLETT Sarah (Agrinatura-EEIG)

**Others:**

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## 1. Opening Session

The General Assembly 2018 started with the introduction speech of a host Mrs Carolin Callenius (Agrinatura BD member) welcoming all participants at Hohenheim Castle in Stuttgart (Germany). She launched the session with brief explanation of the history of University of Hohenheim (UHO) linked to hunger and nutrition issues in past and mentioning a year 1860 as a year so called without summer. At that time, 200 years ago, the king of Gottingen decided to educate farmers as a way of better nourishment of the people. Nowadays, we are talking about many contemporary issues as migration but these issues were relevant in the past too.

The Hohenheim Castle has a museum of zoology and veterinary where we might go during the day to see the expositions. There will be a live streaming during the whole event which all participants should be aware of. This GA decided to have five student reporters coming from our member universities that is why participants will be asked during the event to answer few questions or make an interview with them. Those students will help with social media too. Carolin Callenius highlighted a great appreciation to her few colleagues who contributed to make the GA smooth and vibrant.

After the host speech, Uta Dickhofer from Hans-Ruthenberg Institute (HRI) – Institute of Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics welcomed all participants in Hohenheim and introduced the HRI. The HRI has 10 specialized working groups that are focusing on improvement and innovation of agricultural production, land-use changes and climate change. She wished Agrinatura happy 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and fruitful discussions.

Carolyn Glynn, Agrinatura President, took a lead of the speech and the Agenda for the 2018 GA meeting was approved including the approved Minutes from the GA 2017 held in Uppsala last year (2017). She highlighted new vigorous mission statement creation and contribution to it during forthcoming working group session.

## 2. Activity and Financial Report 2017

Activity Report 2017 highlighted all activities in all projects which Agrinatura Association has including a little brief about the Agrinatura-EEIG projects (more in World café session). The Financial Report 2017 mentioned all the accounts which Agrinatura possesses and its spendings and incomes: Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Balance 2017 and Proposed Budget for 2018.

*The Financial Report 2017, the Balance 2017 and Proposed Budget for 2018 has been approved by GA 2018 meeting.*

## 3. Election of New GA Members and BD Members:

New Agrinatura members FIBL – Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (Belgium) and AUT – Agricultural University of Tirana (Albania) were introduced to all GA representatives and observers. The representatives from FIBL Huber Beate was present and she introduced her institution and her background. The representatives from AUT were not present but the letter from them was sent and read in front of the GA. Agrinatura has new BD members who are Frederic Francis from Gembloux (not present) – he has a colleague replacing him- Laurent de Potter, University of Liege and Carsten Smith Hall (present) from Copenhagen University. The GA also confirmed continuation of two current BD members Petra Chaloupková and Torsten Rodel Berg.

## 4. Closure of the General Assembly

There was suggested a date for the next GA 2019 24 – 25 April which might change in due time regarding to the circumstances of the venue and the availability of the host. Final decision with a date will be sent to all Agrinatura members before the summer time.

## 5. World Café Session

This session was dedicated to Agrinatura's ongoing projects and lessons learned. The aim of the session was to build up a picture of Agrinatura's current projects. We prepared four framing questions which all participants could follow. All participants were divided into few groups according to the projects and discussed the projects.



## Capacity Development for Agricultural Development Systems

<http://cdais.net/home/>

- Operates in 8 countries: [Angola](#), [Burkina Faso](#) (partnership between organic farmers), [Ethiopia](#), [Rwanda](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Laos](#), [Guatemala](#) and [Honduras](#)

### Mission of CDAIS:

- Contributing to more efficient and sustainable agricultural innovation systems, by identifying challenges and solutions together with farmers, agri-business and consumers.
- Making agriculture more productive and sustainable, improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and helping to increase food security and fight rural poverty.
- To make an impact, the CDAIS partnership will mobilize political support at global, regional and country level through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP)
- To receive technical support from AGRINATURA members and FAO,
- To respond to demands from governments, and to the needs of stakeholders.

### Lessons Learnt:

- We use our own General Selection Criteria
- There have been some challenges e.g. capacity building projects: bridge between Africa and Europe
- We have created real partnerships with country representatives, NGOs, and other stakeholders
- We have a whole concept how to work in these partner countries



## Value Chain Analysis for Development

<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/value-chain-analysis-for-development-vca4d->

- The project performs value chain analyses across a range of agricultural commodities and countries in order to appraise their contribution to growth and job creation, taking into account the sustainability and inclusiveness of these value chains (VC).
- We use a common methodological framework, with the aim of appraising the sustainability of a VC from an economic, social and environmental perspective. This is preceded by a functional analysis that provides with a general description of the VC, a technical diagnosis of its different stages and an analysis of its governance and power structure.
- There will be 4-years of extension
- We focus on the final beneficiary of the studies
- We rely on EU policies in developing countries
- We apply an interdisciplinary research practices

- There is a need of further networking - a demand for new members



## National Information Platform for Nutrition

<http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/?lang=en>

- We support Global Support Facility (GSF) - has been set up to support each country to develop a National Information Platform for Nutrition and to coordinate the technical support and capacity building required.
- An Expert Advisory Group has also been set up to provide technical guidance and advice throughout the project
- We focus on creating synergies between all stakeholders
- We support countries in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement to strengthen their capacity to bring together existing information on nutritional status with information on factors that influence nutritional outcomes, including policies, programmes and investments, in order to track progress towards international global targets; to analyse data to understand better how malnutrition can be prevented; and to inform national policies and improve programmes.



## Africa-Europe Partnership for Agricultural Research for Development

<https://paepard.org/?ProjectPaepard>

- We gather an expertise and it creates very broad legacy of the project
- We facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships between Africa and Europe in the field of agricultural research for development (ARD) with a view to contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- There will be no-extra-cost extension for a period of one year or appropriate to the remaining unused funds.
- There has been a progress of Farmers' Organization-Research dialogues at regional level – sustain a ULP concept

## 6. Working Groups Session

### **Communication Working Group**

We discussed a Position of Agrinatura in the field of communication. It has been concluded that we have to find a proper way of communication with public. We have to focus more on the evidence. We should mainly support communication via our website by more updates and improvements. The first thing which we should prepare is a general template for a report which will be already developed in line with our joint "house style/brand style" as we more than anything need increase our consistency of all material and documents we produce and share with our members and public. There is high need for website upgrade including the integration of VCA4D project and its outputs. Until now, the VCD project is part of the EC website and is only interconnected through the Agrinatura website via link.

Furthermore, we should establish a long-term targets including the alliance representing the best competences of Agrinatura members with contact person. Therefore, we should invest more in PR to increase public awareness what we do and share our legacy and experience. It has been recommended and it would be quite convenient to have an extra banner for Agrinatura members representing the organization during different occasions in the world. In regards of the website, we recommend to share names of our members on our website.

There should be two different channels of communication: internal and external which should be clearly distinguished. The role of the whole Agrinatura network/alliance should be "*connecting people*" with the common interests and expertise. Agrinatura has three main hubs in Europe: UK (Agrinatura-EEIG), Belgium (PMU) and Czech Republic (Agrinatura Association).

- Short term: prepare Report template, ISBN (in the process)
- Long term: establish and unite one big brand Agrinatura, diversify partnerships with new members
- Report Template: CDAIS – proposed budget by Nick P. who will work on that
- We should channel the information through Agrinatura to our members which is the main role of the organization 'connecting people'
- Promoting innovation in education for agriculture development

The Timeframe was set up: June 26, 2018, at 9:00 CET skype meeting (Anna, Sara, Stephen, J. Michel Sears, Joel Sor) and July 2018 Report Template.

### **Advocacy Working Group**

During the discussions it has been agreed that Agrinatura needs a clear message and clearly defined channels to communicate. Also, there is a need for to restraint too much messages which seems to be inefficient. We suggest 2 levels : one more open message + messages to emphasize each year. There has arisen an idea that a European association of life science universities has to do things differently than others. We should more focus on messages that give us influence for changing things. We should

identify a way how to access the institutions in proper way. How to access policymakers? We find out a difficulty for representatives of our institutions to represent Agrinatura at the same time. There is a need to find a good way how to deliver a clear joint message shared by all members which can be implemented by creating an Agrinatura ambassadors. There are 2 proposals for Agrinatura ambassadors: Carolyn as president and Olimpia Orlandini among VCA4D (advocacy to DevCo).

As the conclusion, the Advocacy(Policy Working Group shall keep close relation with with the communication working group. The idea would be to set up priorities and defend a position on a specific topics mostly 'hot topics' with papers that could be developed annually.

The timeframe follows:

Objective : present something for the next GA :

- Finalise an "advocacy group" by the end of May 2018
- Candidates within working group : Luis Mira da Silva (spy for the communication group), Carolin Callenius, Olimpia Orlandini, Jan Banout, Tim Chancellor => need for a coordinator
- Space open for max. 3 other members (for effective work) : Call to GA or to all members afterwards
- Idea of the advocacy group : 3 virtual meetings before the end of 2018 + 1 before the 2019 GA
- Overall work : 3 days (2 hours for virtual meeting + half a day of work between the meeting)
- 3 virtual meetings till the end of 2018 and a half day between meetings to gather messages for policy makers

Different possibilities doing advocacy job :

- More collaboration with ICA (Agrinatura is a standing committee)
- Similar structures in Africa (RUFORUM), Asia (SEARCA) and Latin America (to be found)
- Associations of farmers (Copa Cogepa / Agricord)
- Food industry in Europe (FoodDrink Europe)
- Links with SCAR (Standing Committee on Agricultural Research) and AKIS
- Bringing other areas of research in agriculture but not yet active in a devolving context
- Importance of being a focal points to gather messages to policymakers

### **Research Working Group**

Re-establishment and scoping of our common Agrinatura's vision: is a grouping of European universities and research organizations with a common interest in supporting agricultural development in a sustainable manner in order to improve people's lives. Agricultural research and education will underpin the innovations needed to increase production and productivity to feed rapidly expanding populations and help protect the natural resource base for future generations.

Agrinatura might bring a value added to its members. We should distinguish ourselves from the consultancy companies as well as include more young people to share our common vision. We create jointly owned research among our alliance.



## Project Working Group

The assumption is that the association has a role of implementing activities. We need a political support and use this support as a comparative advantage in building our future projects. There is a need to improve the way and means how to communicate the results of our common work. Our activities can be jointly implemented by the association of the members and leveraged by one member. There is a clear evidence that we have the capacity to contribute to different activities.

- brokerage + communication + activities + management of an action (in most cases implemented by EEIG)
- a role of response is quite low
- an external partners to develop a response – why the response is so low?
- LIMITATIONS: high transaction costs X return, project management work
- Peer to peer comparisons (sharing of expenses)
- The developed questionnaires were distributed during the session. Participants filled them and they will be evaluated and also circulated among members afterwards.

## 7. Final Speech and Closing of the Day

*Carolyn Glynn, Agrinatura President/SLU stressed Agrinatura' s strength to help to change the world meaning that all members of Agrinatura are well trained to work with complexities as most of them are researchers and educators of new generations. She says, "We believe in new era to produce an impact and we are the ones to do it."*

The 2018 GA meeting of Agrinatura members and its guests was declared as very successful and closed by then.

## Attachements

- Participation list of Agrinatura 2018 GA members and its guests

September 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Prague