

# MINUTES

## AGRINATURA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

15 May, 2019

### Official Representatives of Agrinatura Members:

Del DEBBIO Stefano (Agenzia italiana per la Cooperazione allo sviluppo, Italy), WURZINGER Maria (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), ODDIE Mellisa (SLU, Sweden), CHALOUPKOVÁ Petra (CULS Prague, Czech Republic), CHANCELLOR Timothy (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), WESTBY Andrew (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), WOPEREIS Myra (ICRA, Netherlands), ONAKUSE Stephen (University College Cork, Ireland), CALLENIUS Carolin (University of Hohenheim, Germany), WINDMEIJER Pieter (WUR), Laurent de POTTER (Gembloux/University of Liège), PORRAS ACUNA Miguel (FIBL), PFEIFFER Simone (G. A. University of Goettingen), HALL Carsten Smith (University of Copenhagen), van Damme Patrick (Ghent University), BOECKX Pascal (Ghent University), VANDERDRISSCHE Hilde (KU Leuven), PERI Iuri (University of Catania), NORRGROVE Lindsey (BHF, Bern), FRANCIS Frédéric (Gembloux/University of Liège), AINSLIE Andrew (University of Reading, UK), ANDRES Ludovic (ISTOM, France), ROKKA Susanna (LUKE, Finland), BONATI Guido (CREA, Italy), ARBANTES Maria da Graça (ULisboa, Portugal),

### Joint Secretariat:

SLÁMOVÁ Tereza (Agrinatura Association Secretary General), GILLETT Sarah (Agrinatura-EEIG)

### Others:

ORLANDONI Olimpia (VCA4D), DABAT Marie Helene (VCA4D), Marie Helene Dabat (VCA4D/CIRAD), JONES Sara (VCA4D), ADEYEYE Yemi (YPARD), BROOKE Matthew (DEVCO), IOANNIS Dimitriou (SLU), DURAND Claire (ISTOM), LAROSE Christophe (DEVCO), HUUB Löffler (WUR), NAKAYIWA Florence (RUFORUM), PERNEEL Maaïke (UGhent), TELES Maria (ULisboa), YILDIRIM Heval (VCA4D)

## Opening Session

The General Assembly 2019 started with the introduction speech of a President of Agrinatura Association Carolyn Glynn welcoming all participants and new faces at ULiège Gembloux AgroBio Tech (Belgium). She launched the session by asking for the approval of the Agenda for the 2019 GA meeting and for the approval of the Minutes from the GA 2018 held in Hohenheim (Germany) 2018. She highlighted the action plans that were established at the 2018 GA and encouraged involvement of each member of the Association in the working groups that were set up in Hohenheim. Because voting will be conducted on multiple issues (statutes, board of directors and new members) during the GA, the voting procedure was explained. All members were thanked for complying with the necessity to send official documentation from each organisation in order to vote on the official changes to the Agrinatura Statutes. General Secretary Tereza Slámová is recognized for determinedly facilitating this difficult task.

RESULT OF VOTING: *The agenda for the Agrinatura General Assembly 2019 was unanimously approved by the 27 present members. [Link to agenda here](#)*

RESULT OF VOTING: *The minutes from the Agrinatura General Assembly 2018 in Hohenheim were unanimously approved by the 27 present members. [Link to](#)*

## Welcoming word by Host

Professor Frédéric Francis, Dean of Gembloux AgroBio Tech and Head of the Department of Functional and Evolutionary Entomology, welcomed Agrinatura to Gembloux. He related that the history of the building housing the GA is closely related to agriculture as well as to innovations. He described the history of the University as it moved from the traditional agricultural to a multidisciplinary scientific approach. He kindly invited all participants to register for the planned historical visits of the Faculty and surrounding. The main interests and focus for research and education at the institution are FOOD – AGRICULTURE – FOREST. More than 1400 students and about 45 nationalities are studying at ULiège. He finished by encouraging mutual cooperation between all Agrinatura member organisations.

## Activity Report 2018

Didier Pillot (BD member) presented summarized presentation for Directors Activity Report where he highlighted workplan of the main activities of Agrinatura Association. Namely to play a pro-active policy advocacy role for agriculture for development as well as

to facilitate strategic alliances, partnerships and networks with and between stakeholders, both in the Northern countries and in the Global South. He sees a way forward is to organize joint programmes and projects for academic and research collaborations. Each of these points were then further explained with examples of the outcomes of ongoing Agrinatura Association and Agrinatura-EEIG projects for year 2018. [Link to presentation](#)

## Financial Report 2018 and Budget 2019

The Financial Report for 2018 present a summary of accounts for the Agrinatura Association including how they are managed was presented by General Secretary Tereza Slamova. The report included: Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, Real incomes/expenditures as compared with those budgeted, Balance 2018 and Proposed Budget for 2019. During the year 2018 due to the relocation of the official seat of the Association, a new Belgium account was opened and all money was transferred to this account from CZK account. By the end of year 2018, the Association had a surplus therefore provisions were established. Whole Financial Report for year 2018 and Budget for year 2019 was presented in advance to the members at Association official websites.

*RESULT OF VOTING: The Financial Report 2018 was unanimously approved by the 27 voting members present. See attached summary of the financial report 2018.*

*RESULT OF VOTING: The Proposed Budget for 2019 was unanimously approved by the 27 voting members present. See attached budget for 2019.*

## Election of New GA Members:

Within the period from GA 2018 till GA 2019 five institutions expressed interest to become Agrinatura Association members. Their representatives had an opportunity to present their organisation for all assembled Agrinatura members. In addition, a letter of intent for each organisation is published on the website. CREA - Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria (Italy) was represented by Guido Bonati, ISTOM – École Supérieure d'Agrodéveloppement International (France), was represented by Andres Ludovic, KIT - Royal Tropical Institute (Netherlands) represented by Richard Hawkins, LUKE - the Natural Resources Institute (Finland) was represented by Susanna Rokka, University of Reading (UK) represented by Andrew Ainslie. All new members are cordially welcome to Agrinatura.

*RESULT OF VOTING: Each of the five proposed new members were voted upon separately and each unanimously accepted by the 27 voting members present.*

## Election of the Board of Directors of the Agrinatura Association

Because the official seat of the Agrinatura Association was moved to Belgium, it is necessary to register the Board of Directors in accordance to the Belgium law. This was officially done in a process that was approved by the Notaries in advance. The process: The Board of Directors as of 2018 are to be officially dismissed and then to be replaced by new proposed board.

The present Board of Directors as of 14 May 2019:

BERG Torsten (University of Ås, Denmark), CALLENIUS Carolin (University of Hohenheim, Germany), CHALOUPKOVÁ Petra (CULS Prague, Czech Republic), CHANCELLOR Timothy (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), FRANCIS Frédéric (Gembloux/University of Liège), GLYNN Carolyn (SLU, Sweden), HALL Carsten Smith (University of Copenhagen), and MIRA da SILVA Luis (ULisboa - Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Portugal) **who after many years of dedicated service is leaving the Board of Directors due to other obligations.** ONAKUSE Stephen (University College Cork, Ireland), PILLOT Didier (Montpellier SupAgro, France).

The outgoing member of the Board Professor Luis Mira de Silva spoke to the GA about the reasons for leaving the Board and expressed his continued commitment to Agrinatura.

The proposed Board of Directors from 15 May 2019:

BERG Torsten (University of Ås, Denmark), BOECKX Pascal (Ghent University) **who is welcomed at the newest member of the Board of Directors**, CALLENIUS Carolin (University of Hohenheim, Germany), CHALOUPKOVÁ Petra (CULS Prague, Czech Republic), CHANCELLOR Timothy (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), FRANCIS Frédéric (Gembloux/University of Liège), GLYNN Carolyn (SLU, Sweden), HALL Carsten Smith (University of Copenhagen), ONAKUSE Stephen (University College Cork, Ireland), PILLOT Didier (Montpellier SupAgro, France).

The newest proposed member of the Board, Professor Pascal Boeckx presented himself and his reasons for wanting to join the Board of Directors for the Agrinatura Association. His letter of intent can be found on the Agrinatura website.

**RESULT OF VOTING:** *the 27 members present at the GA unanimously approved the dismiss the Board of Directors as of 14 May 2019 and approve the proposed Board of Directors as of 15 May 2019. ([overview of current board](#))*

We express great appreciation to Luis Mira de Silva for decades of dedication to Agrinatura and a warm welcome to Pascal Boeckx into the Agrinatura Board of Directors.

## Adoption of New Statutes of Agrinatura Association

Adoption of new Statutes of the Association was held by Notary Pierre Alexandre Debouche, accompanied by his wife Notary Martine Wynants. Prior the vote of the members of the GA, the adoption processes and all changes were explained. It was noted that detailed documentation was published at the Agrinatura official web site and was sent to each

Agrinatura member organisation earlier than 45 days prior to elections in accordance to the Statutes convocation.

According to the Belgian law, the process of the adoption of the Statutes was held in French. Each of the three proposed changes (articles 4, 10, and 21) in the Agrinatura Statutes were duly read by Notary Debouche.

RESULT OF THE VOTING: *The proposed changes to the Agrinatura Statutes were unanimously approved by the 27 official members present at the GA.* See attachment for the French version of the Statutes.

Because the official languages of Agrinatura are French and English a vote was held to accept the English translation of the official Agrinatura Statutes in French.

RESULT OF THE VOTING: *The English translation of the official French version of the Agrinatura Statutes were unanimously approved by the 27 official members present at the GA.*

## The General Assembly 2020

Stephen Onakuse (BD member) presented to the General Assembly that his organisation, University College Cork in Ireland, will kindly host the next GA in 2020. Save the dates between 18 – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020. The 2018 GA showed thanks and great anticipation of the being in Ireland next year.

## Closure of the General Assembly

General Assembly was closed by thanking to the Notary and the General Secretary for endless help and support with the administration of the adoption of new statutes.

Last but not least the Agrinatura General Assembly extends warmest thanks Laurent de Potter and his team for enabling this event to happened.

## Activity on ongoing projects and projects in preparation

This session was opened by Petra Chaloupková (BD member) with introducing presentation dedicated to Agrinatura and Agrinatura EEIG ongoing projects. By doing so she conveyed and overall picture of the diversity and the depth of content within the current and recently concluded projects. The session ended with interactive crosscutting event in the main hall, and with questions that were intended to open discussions in following round table session. The Following projects participated at the round table session Development for Agricultural Development Systems (CDAIS), Value Chain Analyses for Development (VCA4D), National Information Platform for Nutrition (NiPIN), Africa-Europe Partnership for Agricultural

Research for Development (PAEPARD), Support of International Platform Merging Labour and Education (SIMPLE), an application to the Erasmus + program for 2020: Joint Meta learning and synthesis of lessons learned on Science Technology Innovation initiatives and investments in improving Tertiary Agricultural Education in Africa: Guiding the Future JoMeta -:

## Working Groups Session

This session was opened by presentation of Carolyn Glynn (President Agrinatura) explaining the history and evolution of the Working groups in order to help understand it to new members and to help decide members which group to join.

This year were working groups motivated by posters prepared by Carolin Callenius (BD member) reflecting achieved results during year 2018 and presenting long- and short-term tasks for year 2019.

Goal of each group was to evaluate previous work done and prepare activity plan for the next year 2019/2020.

This opening session followed by practical work and continued by panel session chaired by Petra Chaloupková (BD member) in presence of Pieter Windmeijer (WUR – project manager), Christophe Larose (DEVCO – head of sector – sustainable agriculture), Sara Jones (VCA4D – communication and administrative officer) and Florence Nakayiwa (RUFORUM – deputy executive secretary). Session was closed by presentation of activity plan of each group.

### Advocacy Working Group

The WG decided to build on the concept note on advocacy drafted by Tim, and the minutes of last year's General Assembly.

The WG objectives are:

To improve Agrinatura's advocacy performance by working on the advocacy strategy, including defining the target audience, strategic partners and messages.

**The working group will develop a strategy in a workshop facilitated by an advocacy trainer.** The workshop shall take place in Oct/Nov 2019 in Brussels and will be prepared by Tim, with the help of Olimpia. The workshop is open to all members of Agrinatura. As we see a big overlap with the Communication Working Group and their work on the communication strategy we would welcome a close cooperation between the two groups.

Messages for Agrinatura's advocacy work will come from

- Agrinatura Association (broader in sense of advocating for AR4D)

- Project results and insights
- Members expectations
- Supporting EEIG (new projects)

**To prepare the advocacy strategy we will ask Agrinatura ongoing (and closed – if possible) projects to inform the WG on results and recommendations.** The Association can support the projects' advocacy work, by bringing the messages to fora and partners that the projects themselves cannot reach. For the network the project results are stories to tell, that are evidence based and where the network has the ownership. We would also like to know where the projects see the added value of being run by Agrinatura as a network. Carolin will draft some questions to them. After having circulated them in the group, the e-mail shall be sent to all project coordinators until End of June.

**We will ask the members for their expectations and views: Where do they see the added value of Agrinatura, where would they like to see more visibility and where would they like to invest more in cooperation with others?** Carolin will prepare a monkey survey draft, which will be circulated before End of June.

In the long term, the Working Group aims to revisit the **Vision and Mission statement**, which will also reflect who we are and what we already do.

Coordinator of WG: Carolin

Members: Pieter, Tim, Olimpia, Luis

More members are welcome.

### **Communication Working Group**

One of the aims of the Working group during the session was to Identify Target groups. As a result, we have identified following target groups which will need different approach within the communication strategy (Ruforum; Tropentag; EDD; FAO; EU commission/DEVCO; Members; Students).

Group has defined long and short-term plans for following year, and responsible member of the group who will be in charge of the task.

Short term plans:

- Web sites
  - New design
  - Optimisation
  - The webpage needs to be responsive
  - To operate on smartphone
  - Proposals July 2019
- Membership drive

- Publications
- Photobank
- Visibility increase
  - Visibility of logo at the members webpages
  - Plaque for all institutional members
  - Lapelle/pin
  - Stickers
- WhatsApp
  - Discussion about establishment of the group for all members
- Update of the Communication strategy
- Corporate identity
  - Build on the logo
  - Template for the presentation

Members: Stephen Onakuse, Tereza Slamova, Sara Jones, Jean-Michel Sers, Guido Bonati

*All members should be an ambassador of the Agrinatura – talk about it – don't be ashamed*

### **Project Working Group**

**Regular key activity:** Information sharing – mapping of Agrinatura projects → plans for future projects + analyses the topics (Petra, Tereza) - next GA will be provided detail analysis

**Lessons learnt** from coordination of different projects – H2020 + Erasmus+ projects + EU direct contracts

**H2020 Agrinatura Brokerage meeting** – short term – H2020 Erasmus – Tereza, Petra, Didier – 5<sup>th</sup> July, Belgium; in November/December for Erasmus+ projects – invitation for all members

**Long term goal:** Agrinatura PhD – joint degree among Agrinatura members connecting with professional sector

- Till next GA organise workshop with more detailed plan (YPARD - Yemi, Uni Reading – Andrew, Catania – Iuri, ISTOM – Claire, CULS – Olga)

### **Research Working Group**

**Aim of the research working group:** to ensure that Agrinatura uses its broad membership to continue to bring credible knowledge-based evidence to help solve the challenging food and nutrition security, environmental and socio-economic problems that face the world. Agrinatura is in a unique position to contribute with original and creative solutions.

**How to do this?** Defining targets to help determine pathway for our efforts

1. Consider publishing in the name of Agrinatura – determine the best way –
  - proceedings from the General Assemblies?
  - should we have scientific conferences?
  - Have Agrinatura as an address on some of our researchers' publications? Special issues



of journals might not be the best way, but publishing is necessary somehow

2. Utilize the data we collect

- Data from CGIAR monitoring
  - Data from projects (both Association and EEIG)
  - Build systems that can increase motivation so researchers get publications
- Discuss syntheses with DEVCO

3. Make better use of our cross-country approaches (CDAIS, TAP, SIMPLE and others)

**Specifically, what should Agrinatura research working group do? The discussion topics:**

- Emphasis the need for credible evidence
- Encourage wider and inclusive partnerships within and outside Agrinatura
- Branding issues
- Use the competences of our members to conduct synthesis on special issues – create more recognition for the fact that the problems are complex and research can contribute to filling in the gaps of knowledge that make for better understanding of problems and possible solutions. Establish trust between partners with and external to Agrinatura Continue to collaborate with DG DEVCO who encourage syntheses of knowledge for policy
- Develop even more interactions between the social sciences and natural sciences. This is a key contribution for Agrinatura .
- Strive for a common ground and a useful framework without losing sight of the complexities of the problems
- Agrinatura could work toward better communication between research groups and organizations , data collection – well-structured allows building date
- Use our experiences to include the new EU Member States in research projects/applications
- Integrate the research working group with the other WGs

Members who attended the session on the research working group: WURZINGER Maria (BOKU, Austria), MANSKE Günther (ZEF, Bonn University), HAWKINS Richard (ICRA, Netherlands), GLYNN Carolyn (SLU, Sweden), ODDIE Mellisa (SLU, Sweden), WESTBY Andrew (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), WOPEREIS WINDMEIJER Pieter (WUR), PORRAS ACUNA Miguel (FIBL), HALL Carsten Smith (University of Copenhagen), van Damme Patrick (Ghent University), BOECKX Pascal (Ghent University), VANDERDRISSE Hilde (KU Leuven), NORGROVE Lindsey (BHF, Bern), AINSLIE Andrew (University of Reading, UK), ANDRES Ludovic (ISTOM, France), ROKKA Susanna (LUKE, Finland), BONATI Guido (CREA, Italy), ARBANTES Maria da Graca (ULisboa, Portugal), HUUB Löffler (WUR), DURAND Claire (ISTOM),

## Final Speech and Closing of the Day

*Timothy Chancellor, Agrinatura Vice - President/NRI 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. He says, "We believe in new era to produce an impact and we are the ones to do it."*

The 2019 GA meeting of Agrinatura members and its guests was declared as very successful and closed by then.

## Attachments

- Participation list of Agrinatura 2019 GA members and its guests
- Project Session documentation



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](#)

- 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.
- Finalising project by CDAIS International Forum - Sharing and shaping better future, prior our GA in Gembloux (13.-14. May, 2019)



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, considering the sustainability and inclusiveness of these value chains (VC).
- Common methodological framework is used, with the aim to evaluate 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.
- Tish project is focused on the final beneficiary of the studies and apply 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



## Support of International Platform Merging Labour and Education

<https://www.projectsimple.eu/>

- three-year project within the Erasmus + Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education programme running since October 2016
- coordinated by the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CULS) and involves eight partner universities
- The main aim of the project is to encourage cooperation between the academic sector (HEIs) and the professional sector in the area of agriculture and life sciences in selected Asian

countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, and Thailand), leading to enhanced employability of the alumni of those universities

- there were established (or improved) Alumni Centres at the project partners' universities and created the most effective teaching methods with greater practical orientation towards the requirements of future employers, supported the establishment of contacts between these two spheres, which is a priority not only of the university and its graduates
- final project conference will be organized on 27th August 2019 and the project results will be shared and disseminated



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

**JoMeta** - Joint Meta learning and synthesis of lessons learned on Science Technology Innovation initiatives and investments in improving Tertiary Agricultural Education in Africa: Guiding the Future

- JoMeta aims to improve the quality and relevance of agricultural higher education in Africa.
- The last application was led by RUFORUM, the new application will be led by SLU.
- Objective to improve the management, strategy and operation of higher agricultural education institutions in Africa based on shared knowledge between Africa and Europe to support the society at large.
- Plan to achieve aims by three ways:
  - by sharing and enhancing the competence and knowledge of that has been created in of European and African academic institutions
  - ensuring attractiveness of graduates to future employers (knowledgeable critical thinkers, innovation adept and have strong leadership skills)

strengthen higher education institutions and their graduates so that this transformative power is linked to the policy arena and contributes to national development goals.

May 23<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Prague

