



## **AGRINATURA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**April 9, 2013**

### **Meeting place:**

Center of Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn, Germany,  
Walter-Flex-Str. 3, 53113 Bonn, right conference room on the ground floor

## **MINUTES**

### **GA Members:**

BIONDI Luisa (University of Catania, Italy), BODNÁR Ákos (Szent Istvan University, Hungary), CHALOUPKOVÁ Petra (CULS Prague, Czech Republic), CHANCELLOR Timothy (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), de NEERGAARD Andreas (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), del DEBBIO Stefano (IAO, Italy), HANZELIN Etienne (CIRAD, France), HAUSER Michael (AGRINATURA Association President; BOKU, Austria), MAILLET Jacques (Montpellier SupAgro, France), MANSKE Günther (ZEF, Uni Bonn, Germany), MELO Ana (IICT, Portugal), MIRA da SILVA Luis (Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal), PETITHUGUENIN Philippe (CIRAD, France), PILLOT Didier (AGRINATURA Association Vice-President; Montpellier SupAgro, France), RAMSPERGER Barbara (University of Hohenheim, Germany), Rødel BERG Torsten (Aarhus University, Denmark), SARFATTI Paolo (AGRINATURA-EEIG Director; IAO, Italy), van der MHEEN Jennie (WUR, Netherlands), WESTBY Andrew (AGRINATURA-EEIG President; NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), WURZINGER Maria (BOKU, Austria), TOLLENS Eric (KU Leuven, Belgium)

### **Joint Secretariat:**

OPOČENSKÁ Martina (AGRINATURA Association Secretary General, CULS Prague), ALÉ Nelida (AGRINATURA-EEIG Business Manager)

### **Apologies:**

BECKER Barbara (ETH Zurich, North-South-Centre, Switzerland), DOBAO Maria Theresa (INIA, Spain), GLYNN Carolyn (SLU, Sweden), HAWKINS Richard (ICRA, Netherlands), MAERTENS Miet (KU Leuven, Belgium), MARQUIÉ Catherine (CIRAD, France), PETERS Kurt (Humboldt University Berlin, Germany), SNÄLL Eklund Helena (SLU, Sweden), VAN DAMME Patrick (Ghent University, Belgium), VAN HUYLENBROECK Guido (Ghent University, Belgium).

## I. Opening session

### 1. Opening of formal GA session

D. PILLOT, AGRINATURA President, welcomed all participants and invited guests to the General Assembly meeting 2013.

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

Two points added to the Agenda: New activities of AGRINATURA presented by D. PILLOT and presentation of Article 185 by Philippe PETITHUGUENIN (point V and VII)

The Agenda was changed accordingly and approved.

*Related document: Agenda of GA meeting Bonn 2013 (At. 1)*

### 3. Approval of the Minutes of GA meeting Paris 2012

The Minutes were approved.

*Related document: Minutes of GA meeting Paris 2012 (At. 2)*

## II. AGRINATURA Activity Report (D. PILLOT)

Main activities of the last three years work plan are presented and main achievements (strengths and weaknesses) assessed.

The rolling work plan has four main chapters, which can be summarized as follows:

1. Policy advocacy (promotion) role for Agricultural Knowledge for Development
2. Strategic alliances, partnerships and networks with and among stakeholders both in the North and in the South
3. Joint programmes and projects: academic partnerships and business opportunities
4. Added value of collective actions
5. Management unit

### 1. Policy advocacy role for AKD

**International:** Most of the activities are developed around our contribution to GFAR/GCARD. In 2010, a pre-event on capacity building for development at GCHERA conference in Beauvais was organized. In 2012 a pre-event workshop was held on capacity building at GCARD2 in Punta del Este.

**African organizations:** In 2010, attendance of a Global Conference on Higher Education in Africa, Kampala (where the Team Africa originated); in 2011 FARA GA in Ouagadougou; in 2012 RUFORUM Biannual Conference; on July 2013 FARA GA will take place in Ghana.

**Europe:** Representation of the European and education stakeholders at EFARD, CTA S&T committee, ICRA. Agrinatura is carrying financial support from GFAR to EFARD.

European universities: ICA (Agrinatura is a standing committee at ICA).

EU institutions: meetings with DG research, DG Devco (Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation), advocating for ARD, advocacy at the EU Parliament level.

Joint programming: ERA ARD and Article 185.

Main outcomes: Visibility ensured and ground for operational alliances is established. Coherence Association/EIIG is established.

Weaknesses: Uneven quality of the outputs (uneven distribution – too many activities), high transaction costs in the international system (costly in terms of preparation). Concentration on a little number of Agrinatura representatives (but recent progresses).

## 2. Strategic alliances, partnerships and networks

**Multilateral:** GFAR system and GCHERA as a global network on education.

**Europe:** partnership (and benchmark) with ICA is now smooth

A major output is setting up the TEAM Africa process, which is an African led process for enhancing TAE (Tertiary Agricultural Education) and coordinating initiatives in connection with CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program) and University platforms in Africa.

Conclusions: AGRINATURA is strong and well recognized in Africa, but still weak and little visible in Asia and Latin America.

## 3. Joint programmes and projects

**Tropentag:** Goettingen 2012, Hohenheim 2013, Prague 2014

AGRINATURA wants to enlarge the participation of students; contributes to global organization, supports students in a form of travel grants and prize Best Poster Award.

**Academic partnerships:** Edulink 2012, Tempus 2013, Erasmus Mundus 2013

2 trainings were organized with Ruforum and Anafe for Edulink (15 projects presented); meeting with CASCADE for central Asia + African partners in horticulture leading to Tempus projects.

Main outcomes: efficiency (to be confirmed).

Weaknesses: The role of the Association as a broker is not always clear and should be more precisely defined. Jometa was not approved (Edulink). Not many members are involved.

**Research and business opportunities:** PAEPARD (Platform for African-European Partnerships on Agricultural Research for Development), ESFIM (Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Markets), Risk management in Agriculture, CGIAR 2012.

Main outcomes: good reputation

Weaknesses: little response from members for larger mobilisation; low diversification of basket; definition of roles and responsibilities between the EEIG and implementing members is always a challenge; AGRINATURA quality assurance systems should be precised.

#### 4. Added value of collective actions

**Capitalize through projects and activities:** TEAM Africa, PAEPARD, Risk management, ESFIM, CGIAR monitoring.

Communication is not always well done on the knowledge learned (think tank function)

**Briefing notes** and synthesis reports prepared on a number of topics for EIARD.

#### **Website and external communication means**

- Now website is a mean of communication for the outside
- In 2012 efforts to make it more attractive, with fresh information about the activities and news from members.
- It could be also an internal communication tool, but it is not used as such.

It is discussed why members leave AGRINATURA. Some members have financial problems; some have not and were involved in activities. There is no general conclusion.

It is recommended to “profile” AGRINATURA members and better understand the competences of each member.

A strategy for expanding AGRINATURA membership shall be developed.

Related document: *Rolling work plan 2013 (At. 3)*

### **III. Handover to new AGRINATURA Association President**

The former AGRINATURA Association President Didier PILLOT hands the function of President over to new President Michael HAUSER, who was elected on September 13, 2012, GA in Paris.

M. HAUSER sees his role and contribution in three strategically important areas:

- Thematic and positioning orientation of AGRINATURA as a whole;
- Further re-organising of AGRINATURA and its governance in the post-merger phase
- Representation and (internal/external) communication moderation

On behalf of the entire association, Michael HAUSER acknowledged Didier PILLOT for his active presidency.

### **IV. AGRINATURA survey on members' expectations and Communication strategy presentation**

The results of the members' expectations survey are presented by M. OPOČENSKÁ, the communication strategy by M. HAUSER. The main results and conclusions are stated in the documents (presentations) attached.

The most important points of discussion:

- It would be very useful to map AGRINATURA's member's activities – especially research activities.

- It is important to react collectively – example can be EFARD – to build teams of researchers and they will build the agenda.
- A kind of external communication is also personal communication during meetings and events.
- To increase attractiveness of websites more media could be used – e.g. videos and short presentations of activities.
- To increase attractiveness and give more explanations to new members, we should categorize what is needed; more info about activities should be sent between General Assemblies.
- For creation of partnerships it would be very useful to organize workshops or web sessions – to put people together on a specific topic. Communication could be done via Facebook and LinkedIn to reach broader audience.

*Related documents: Presentation on results of the members' expectations survey (A. 4), Communication strategy presentation (At. 5).*

## V. Article 185 (P. PETITHUGUENIN)

Main focus: intensification pathway in Agriculture (in Africa)

It is directed to long term partnerships (including research activities, student's activities, calls for proposals); supported by member states of EU (not institutes), open to all institutions of member countries relevant to the topic; controlled by EU, not national governments. The concept note is placed on the AGRINATURA website.

The perspective is: Europe not just aiding to developing countries.

## VI. Strategic options of AGRINATURA for the future (D. PILLOT)

Background:

2000 – 2009: two organizations (NATURA and ECART)

There was a need for simplification to avoid the competition and in 2009 the two organizations were merged – but not really: there are 2 legal organizations, 2 governance systems, one name, one communication, one director, one secretariat. Differences in the activities continue as well as competitive expertise for EEIG.

Why do we need a change?

- There are more expectations regarding the policies given on projects.
- 2 managements mean higher transaction costs
- Double head (two chairs/presidents) could be a problem
- More integration is necessary to reach higher efficiency

Four scenarios have been identified based on Strategic thinking workshop:

1. **Current**
2. **Alliance** – means continuation of the current scenario, but adds development of policy support capacity for ARD as a strategic objective

3. **ThinkTank** – reduced activities around projects, main orientation on policy issues
4. **Operator** – main focus on developing partnerships and joint projects

Conclusion from BD meeting Vienna: “There is a need for policy support, but not to loose capacity on developing projects.”

There are four organizational options, from which one option should be chosen:

1. **Leave the organizational structure as it is now**
2. **Merge the two governance systems** – but what will be the legal statutes (association, other?)
3. **Keep legal structures with better division of labour** – merge operational structures, 2 Chair positions held by 1 person (one President for both organizations) or one of them having specific role, 2 Vice-presidents with distinctive roles (each for one organization)
4. **Combination of 2 and 3** – change in legal statutes, but not disappearing of the two institutions

All scenarios and organizational options are explained to detail in the document attached.

D. PILLOT explains what the added value of EEIG for the Association is:

- Unique presentation to partners and to the outside world
- Participation on kind of projects to which the Association would not be able to candidate – especially due to financial commitment
- To be recognized as an European institution

The EEIG is a non-profit type of society, which objective is to generate projects that are then implemented by members. EEIG has currently 6 full members, with the right to vote and a number of privileged partners (members of Association + others), which have right to attend MAMs, but cannot vote. Through the Association, all members have a possible access to the EEIG services, and all can potentially participate to the projects developed by the EEIG

Currently AGRINATURA has two Presidents and one Vice-President representing both organizations. The suggestion to the future is: to have one unique Chair (President), who would be voted twice (due to legal statutes). The scenario n°3 proposed by the working group foresees 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 current chair of the EEIG, in 2014.

For the decision of the GA, scenario n°2 and organizational option n°3 are recommended by the Board.

Decision: The recommended options were approved by GA.

Related document: Note on STW (At. 6)

## VII. Opportunities for new activities of AGRINATURA (D. PILLOT)

PAEPARD: users led process: developing research proposals in Africa jointly with farmers: lowland rice in West Africa, Horticulture in central Africa, animal breeding in Eastern Africa. See the Paepard website for more details.

Call for proposals of African Union: for African universities to make a consortium for mobility of students. They ask for European experience – at least one European university to be associated to consortium – to provide expertise, attend meetings etc.

Women and Youth empowerment in ARD: proposal that could be built together with Eastern Africa Farmers organization (EAFF)

CGIAR call 2013: challenge programme; published probably in September 2013. It will be announced via e-mail.

## **VIII. AGRINATURA Financial report 2012 and Budget 2013**

(M. HAUSER, M. OPOČENSKÁ)

### **1. Financial report 2012**

The Financial report was presented. It was discussed if also credits and debts should be included and which format should be used – if according to Belgian legislation (Agrinatura is registered in Belgium) or according to Czech legislation (accounts are kept by CULS in the Czech Republic)..

The Financial report was approved by GA.

*Related document: Financial report 2012 (At. 7)*

### **2. Budget 2013**

The Budget for 2013 was introduced. In the discussion it is suggested to separate items GA and BD meetings and Conferences also in the accounts/Financial report.

It is decided to attach budgets of previous years for comparison. Carry overs shall be indicated.

The proposed Budget 2013 was approved by GA.

*Related document: Budget 2013 (At. 8)*

## **IX. AGRINATURA membership and governance**

### **1. Changes in membership (M. OPOČENSKÁ)**

*Proposed members for 2013:*

1. Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland
2. Agropolis, France

New members were approved.

*Resigning members:*

1. Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium
2. University of Leeds, UK
3. ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Discussion:

Potential new candidates for membership should be identified and addressed. This could be eventually done through ICA rector's conference.

## **2. Election of Vice-President of AGRINATURA**

At the last GA 2012 held in Paris, D. PILLOT was proposed Vice-President for the next period. D. PILLOT agrees to become a Vice-President, considering that he will have to resign next year when a new common setting of governance will come up between the Association and the EEIG.

D. PILLOT was elected the Vice-President.

## **X. Miscellaneous**

### **1. Suggestions for the date and place of the GA meeting 2014**

The participants are asked for suggestions of a place where next GA could be hosted. It is discussed that place should be a strategic point, accessible, in connection with some event.

M. HAUSER suggests Vienna for the meeting, with date at the end of March/early April.

### **2. Other issues**

For the decisions taken on the meetings there will be a special folder on the intranet created, where they will be placed to be better accessible for the members.

## **XI. Closure of the meeting**

The President thanked all the participants for their attendance and active cooperation and closed the AGRINATURA General Assembly meeting 2013.

## **XII. The list of attachments**

- Agenda of GA meeting Bonn 2013 (At. 1)
- Minutes of GA meeting Paris 2012 (At. 2)
- Rolling work plan 2013 (At. 3)
- Presentation on results of the members' expectations survey (At. 4)
- Communication strategy presentation (At. 5)
- Note on Strategic Thinking Workshop (At. 6)
- Financial report 2012 (At. 7)
- Budget 2013 (At. 8)