



AGRINATURA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 8, 2014

Meeting place:

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Festsaal, Gregor Mendel Strasse 33, A-1180 Vienna

MINUTES

GA Members:

HAUSER Michael (AGRINATURA President; BOKU, Austria), BIONDI Luisa (University of Catania, Italy), MAILLET Jacques (Montpellier SupAgro, France), MANSKE Günther (ZEF, Uni Bonn, Germany), MIRA da SILVA Luis (Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal), PILLOT Didier (AGRINATURA Vice-President; Montpellier SupAgro, France), RAMSPERGER Barbara (University of Hohenheim, Germany), Rødel BERG Torsten (Aarhus University, Denmark), SARFATTI Paolo (AGRINATURA-EEIG leaving Director; IAO, Italy), WESTBY Andrew (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), POULTER Guy (AGRINATURA-EEIG new Director; NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), CHANCELLOR Timothy (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), WURZINGER Maria (BOKU, Austria), TOLLENS Eric (KU Leuven, Belgium), BOKELMANN Wolfgang (HU Berlin, Germany), GOULAO Luís (IICT, Portugal), HAWKINS Richard (ICRA, Netherlands), LOFFLER Huub (WUR, Netherlands), GLYNN Carolyn (SLU, Sweden), LEUNER Olga (CULS, Prague), HERMANN Doris (BFH/HAFL, Switzerland), EDDI Michel (CIRAD, France), CARON Patrick (CIRAD, France)

Joint Secretariat:

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

Other participants (observers):

HEATH Simon (ICA), EKWAMU Adipala (RUFORUM)

Apologies:

MELO Ana (IICT, Portugal), MAERTENS Miet (KU Leuven, Belgium), VAN DAMME Patrick (Ghent University, Belgium), SIPI Marketta (University of Helsinki, Finland), de NEERGAARD Andreas (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), del DEBBIO Stefano (IAO, Italy), GIULIANNI Alessandra (BFH/HAFL, Switzerland)

I. PART I

(Chaired by the Association and EEIG Presidents)

1. Welcome by BOKU and opening of formal GA session

M. Hauser, AGRINATURA Association President and A. Westby AGRINATURA-EEIG President, welcomed all participants and invited guests to the joint General Assembly/Members Assembly Meeting 2014.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Minor changes are made in the Agenda regarding the time for lunch break and Joint Secretariat issues (Part 2).

The Agenda is changed accordingly and approved.

Related document: Agenda of GA/MAM meeting Vienna 2014 (At. 1)

3. Approval of the Minutes of previous meetings 2013

Minutes of the last AGRINATURA Association GA meeting are approved.

Related document: Minutes of GA meeting Bonn 2013 (At. 2)

4. AGRINATURA progress report 2013 (P. Sarfatti)

During 2013 a lot of time was devoted to AGRINATURA mission and strategy (e.g. STW in Paris in 2012). New joint strategy was developed for whole AGRINATURA regarding advocacy, joint projects, partnerships and networking. AGN as whole focused mainly on joint projects.

Advocacy:

- EFARD meeting with President of European Partner Committee
- Committee on Food Security in Rome (October 2013)
- EXPO 2015 – suggestion to submit FARMAF for competition, they are calling organizations to participate on various events.

Alliances:

TAP, FARA Science week, FAO – Memorandum of Understanding has been signed;
WFO – meetings, interested to cooperate with AGN, EAFF meetings;
EMBRAPA – N. ALÉ negotiated discussions with them;

Joint projects:

ESFIM II – terminated in June, ESFIM III is being implemented now
CGIAR, FARMAF
World Bank call Indonesia – no news at the moment
CD4TAIS
PAEPARD II – 4 years extension till 2017

2 initiatives on Women and Youth Empowerment with EAFF
Intense Africa (led by WUR/CIRAD)
IEA/CGIAR – recently there were discussions to have some kind of agreement based on CGIAR monitoring, at the moment not very advantageous for AGRINATURA.

Management and staff of EEIG

Workload: EEIG Director – 0,5; Business Manager – full time; Administrative Assistant – 0,4; Agreement for CIRAD secretarial support will be renewed

Management of the EEIG grouping

- Implementation of new Business model regarding audit and external accounting
- opportunity is being explored for Business Manager to be based in Rome

Information and communication, meetings

- strategy to be developed by the Board of Directors
- websites regularly updated, regular e-mails, newsletter

To avoid discussing things twice within organization Association Adviser (G. Manske) should inform Association members

5. Handover of EEIG Directorate and Presidency

Guy Poulter, who was elected new Director of EEIG, introduces himself. His main interest and focus is in the third AGRINATURA objective – joint projects. It is important to him to understand aspirations of EEIG members and he plans to visit them in their offices. After 3 months Inception report will be elaborated. Guy is also interested in aspirations of the Association members. M. Hauser suggests to have face to face meeting with the Association members who would like to meet Guy – e.g. in Prague during the Tropentag conference, September 2014.

Andrew Westby, outgoing President of EEIG hands his function over to the Association President Michael Hauser. Since now AGRINATURA has one President and new governance model is implemented as it was approved by the last General Assembly in Bonn 2013. Vice-President will be nominated by EEIG.

II. PART II

1. Workplan and Business, Partnerships (D. Pillot)

Main activities of AGRINATURA are presented and achievements assessed :

Proactive policy advocacy role

Global: AGRINATURA was included to the official list of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) observers in 2013. In October 2013 it was represented by the President and Business manager at CFS 40th session in Rome. There is a scope to contribute to the next plenary. Through EFARD AGN. Interacts with GFAR and GCHERA.

Europe: Horizon 2020 was launched – possibility for interaction among members for some project. Intense Africa is being developed (led by WUR and CIRAD). AGN. has relations with other stakeholders such as EIARD, NGOs, private sectors, farmers' organizations, EFARD – is going through process of management reform to be more effective. T. Berg was nominated and approved as representative of AGN. in 2013.

Relations with universities and research organizations such as ICA, GCHERA are important for ensuring visibility, there are opportunities for operational alliances, BUT these activities are costly in time.

It is suggested that it would be good to receive short reports/results of advocacy activities from people who are involved to be spread among members (by e-mail, put on websites...)

Strategic alliances, partnerships, networks

Memorandum of Understanding with FAO was signed on March 2014. The purpose of the MoU is to provide a framework for co-operation between FAO and AGRINATURA.

T. Berg represented AGRINATURA at GCHERA annual meeting in Nanjing. The focus of meeting was not ARD related, more focused on reforms in education. AGN. is now represented in GCHERA through ICA. ICA Board proposed AGN to nominate someone to represent ICA as alternate in the GCHERA Board. This representation is important for AGN. due to possibility to influence ARD activities.

Tropentag 2014 in Prague – opportunity to be more visible.

RUFORUM – partnership facilitated 5 – 6 projects now being implemented by consortia.

FARA – AGN. represented at General Assembly, July 2013.

TEAM Africa – during 2013 not much dynamics, new opportunities expected to be developed in 2014.

UNTA (UN Network for Tropical Agriculture) – invitation for June 26 – 27 to Bangkok

In other regions and Latin America AGN. does not have any collective activities.

Central Asia and Caucasus – relations with CASCADE, EM project TIMUR (led by WUR)

Simon Heath (ICA Secretary General) has presentation on ICA. He introduces this organization as the only open general network covering all Europe. More information is in the presentation attached. Through ICA AGRINATURA is represented in Board of GCHERA. It is suggested to nominate a representative from AGRINATURA to represent ICA as alternate for the next GCHERA Board to have a direct vote and to be able to influence activities in ARD. *Nomination for a representative will be implemented through call to all members of AGRINATURA, selection should be finished by 20th of June.*

Projects and programmes – academic partnerships and business opportunities

- Projects implemented by members and partners: Edulink 2 (led by Makerere), ASK Asia (led by CULS)

- Projects managed by EEIG and implemented by members: CGIAR

- New projects in preparation: Women and Youth Empowerment, Agricultural Biotechnologies, CD4AIS, prospects for CGIAR monitoring

Discussion:

P. Caron suggests that it should be checked what is under preparation regarding the CGIAR – what could be the role of AGRINATURA in the preparation of new proposals.

E. Tollens: 15 CRPs need to be evaluated in 2015, IEA is now organizing public call for experts. IFAD will engage AGRINATURA again, if the funding will continue. IFAD wants to be more involved in the direct selection of experts, there is a criticism that AGRINATURA provides still the same experts, and there is a need for new people and for more CVs received. The main problem is that call for experts is always at the last minute and it does not attract enough high level experts.

M. Eddi suggests that we should think about in which CRPs AGN will be interested in the future.

Strategic initiatives will be added to the work plan to follow up on the Science Days.

Support for evidence policy making

1 lunch event was held in Brussels with idea to organize meetings on ongoing projects with EC delegates and to look at policy making through evidence.

It is suggested to rephrase this type of activity to another pillars (eg. Policy advocacy)

Related documents: AGRINATURA Workplan 2013 - 2015 (At. 3), ICA Presentation (At. 4)

2. Joint Secretariat

Place for Business manager of EEIG is still being searched, negotiations with FAO are continuing.

Secretariat of the Association is placed at CULS, Prague and there should not be any changes for the near future. The management of the University expressed positive attitude to keep the Secretariat there. The time investment of Secretary General is clarified. Within her activities at the University she can devote 50 – 60% of the workload to AGRINATURA.

Communication issues are discussed. During the Board of directors skype meeting on communication it was decided to elaborate draft of communication package by AGRINATURA; and find external professional who would give it a final shape for money. As for the ways of funding (e.g. EC funding), there probably won't be another option than own funds.

III. PART III AGRINATURA Association matters

1. Financial Report 2013 and Budget 2013

Financial report and budget are introduced by Vice-president D. Pillot. There is significant deficit in the accounts due to CGIAR management and payments. Since fee

to EEIG does not cover incomes from the projects, it is suggested to raise the fees from projects to 20%. It is decided that Board of Directors will manage and develop suggestion to raise the fees for the next General Assembly. The financial report is approved.

Related documents: Financial report 2013 (At. 5)

In the budget 2014 new Edulink project is included, where AGRINATURA is a direct partner. It depends on type of management how much income could AGN. get from the project.

The budget 2014 is approved.

Related documents: Budget 2014 (At. 6)

2. Internal life

Vice-president D. Pillot, who was elected last year until the new common setting of government would be implemented, confirmed his continuation in the function.

Research group should be set up to search for a candidate for the next President. Volunteers to lead the process are Carolyn Glynn and Patrick Caron.

3. Membership, fees

Doris Hermann shortly introduces Bern University of Applied Sciences, new member approved in 2013.

University of Goettingen resigned.

Fees for 2013 were paid by the majority of members, University of Bari has not paid for 4 years already and there is no communication from their side.

Agreenium expressed interest to be a member of AGRINATURA. P. Caron gives short presentation on the organization. Agreenium as a public scientific cooperation institution would become member of the Association represented by its member institutions CIRAD and SupAgro. CIRAD would stay member of the EEIG.

Application is discussed, but no decision is taken. Principally it is approved, formal application has to be done yet.

3. Next General Assembly

It is discussed if the meeting should be connected with Science Days or any other event every year. T. Berg suggests to have Science Days less often – for example every two years and to connect assemblies with some other science event. Example could be Climate smart agriculture conference in Montpellier or EXPO 55.

The date and location for next meeting is not suggested yet.

IV. Closure of the formal GA meeting

President expressed his thanks to all the participants for their attendance and active cooperation and closed the AGRINATURA General Assembly 2014.

V. The list of attachments

- *Agenda of GA/MAM meeting Vienna 2014 (At. 1)*
- *Minutes of GA meeting Bonn 2013 (At. 2)*
- *AGRINATURA Workplan 2013 - 2015 (At. 3)*
- *ICA Presentation (At. 4)*
- *Financial report 2013 (At. 5)*
- *Budget 2014 (At. 6)*