



MINUTES

AGRINATURA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING – Online

20 May, 2020 via Microsoft TEAMS ([Join meeting via link](#))

Official Representatives of Agrinatura Members:

BERG Torsten (Aarhus University, Denmark), MELCHER Andreas (BOKU, Austria), NORRGROVE Lindsey (BHF Bern, Switzerland), PFEIFFER Simone (CBL, Germany), SERS Jean-Michel (CIRAD, France), CHALOUPKOVÁ Petra (CZU Prague, Czech Republic), BONATI Guido (CREA, Italy), PORRAS ACUNA Miguel (FiBL, Switzerland), HALLER Lisa (FiBL, Switzerland), BOECKX Pascal (Ghent University, Belgium), HAWKINS Richard (ICRA, Netherlands), ANDRES Ludovic (ISTOM, France), DURAND Claire (ISTOM, France), ARBANTES Maria de Graça (ULisboa - Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Portugal), KRUIJSEN Froukje (KIT, Netherlands), VANDERDRISSCHE Hilde (KU Leuven, Belgium), ROKKA Susanna (LUKE, Finland), CHANCELLOR Timothy (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), WESTBY Andrew (NRI, University of Greenwich, UK), AINSLIE Andrew (University of Reading, UK), GLYNN Carolyn (SLU, Sweden), DIMITRIOU Jannis (SLU, Sweden), PILLOT Didier (Montpellier SupAgro, France), BODNAR Akos (SZI, Hungary), ONAKUSE Stephen (University College Cork, Ireland), CALLENIUS Carolin (University of Hohenheim, Germany), FRANCIS Frédéric (University of Liège, Gembloux, Belgium), BRUNN Thilde (UCPH, University of Copenhagen, Denmark), HANSEN Anja (UCPH, University of Copenhagen), BARET Philippe (UCLouvain, Belgium), LARONDELLE Yvan (UCLouvain, Belgium), BLANCO José Luis Yagüe (UPM, Spain), PUENTE José Maria Díaz (IPM, Spain) WAGENMAKERS Patricia (WUR, Netherlands), MANSKE Günther (ZEF, Bonn University, Germany),

Joint Secretariat:

SLÁMOVÁ Tereza (Agrinatura Association Secretary General), Hanneke Lam (Agrinatura-EEIG)

Others:

ORLANDONI Olimpia (VCA4D), DABAT Marie Helene (VCA4D), Marie Helene Dabat (VCA4D/CIRAD), BUMGART Sara (VCA4D), YILDIRIM Heval (VCA4D), RAHOVA Anita (EEIG Secretariat)

Opening Session

The General Assembly 2020 held as online meeting via Microsoft TEAMS, was opened by President Carolyn Glynn. As she said: “if the world would have been normal” we would meet face to face at the University College Cork. However, although it was held online, we had great attendance of 41 participants who showed their commitment towards our aims of food security, food nutrition and alleviation of hunger and poverty. “It is important for us that you found the time to join this online meeting” appreciated President, Carolyn Glynn. Each of us here today are representatives of hundreds and in some cases thousands of researchers and staff working together for agriculture for global development. Further, she encouraged members to join the next General Assembly 2021 in Cork so that we can make progress side by side in working groups and have a possibility for discussion. Many thanks for a year of dedication to the Vice President Tim Chancellor (NRI, UK) and the General Secretary Tereza Slámová (CZU, Czech Republic), and to all Board of Directors namely Didier Pillot (SupAgro, France), Torsten Berg (AU, Denmark), Petra Chaloupkova (CZU, Czech Republic), Carolin Callenius (UHOH, Germany), Stephen Onakuse (UCC, Ireland), Frederic Francis (ULiège, Belgium), Pascal Boecxk (UGhent, Belgium), Hanneke Lam (NRI, EEIG), Anita Rahova (NRI, EEIG) and Jean-Michel Sers (CIRAD, France), Carsten Smith Hall (University of Copenhagen).

Secretary General (Tereza Slámová) led the meeting. She launched the session by asking for the approval of the Agenda for the 2020 GA online meeting. All members were thanked for complying with the necessity to send by e-mail official documentation from each organisation in order to vote.

RESULT OF VOTING: *The agenda for the Agrinatura General Assembly 2020 was unanimously approved by the 25 present members. Agenda in the [presentation](#) slide 02.*

Results of online voting

In light of recent events and after considering all aspects related to COVID-19, the Agrinatura Board of Directors made decision that: “this year the General Assembly’s face to face meeting hosted by Cork University College on 20-21st May, 2020 will be cancelled”. This decision, exclusively for the General Assembly 2020, was taken because of the unforeseeable and complex situation required exceptional action. Agrinatura Board of Directors instead conducted the meeting in form of online meeting and an electronic vote for business matters. The vote was open during the period early April until 15 May.

Voting was conducted electronically ([Voting Sheet](#)), announcement was send 45 days prior to the meeting with all related documentation. Member organisations’ representative voted (24 of 33 in total), signed the form and returned to secretariat@agrinatura-eu.eu. Seven questions related to the Business were posed, namely 1) Minutes from the GA 2019 in Gembloux,

Belgium; 2) Director's Activity Report 2019; 3) Financial report 2019; 4) Budget 2020; and 5) Approval of Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), France as a renewed member; 6) Approval of Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain as a new member; 7) Withdrawal of membership of Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. The results of each of the seven votes were approved unanimously of the 24 voting members. As such, according to our statutes that state approval is achieved by a simple majority of the votes cast. Results were presented at the meeting and are found in slides four and five in the presentation. There were comments on Minutes from GA 2019: wrong affiliation for Torsten Berg, please accept our apologies and this mistake was corrected and new version was made.

Minutes from the Agrinatura General Assembly 2019

RESULT OF VOTING: [*The Minutes*](#) from the Agrinatura General Assembly 2019 in Gembloux were unanimously approved by the 24 members voted electronically.

Activity Report 2019

Carolyn Callenius (Board of Directors member) welcomed new members “we are very happy that Agrinatura is alive and kicking and attracts new members”. She appreciated the Presidency and Secretariats for their leadership, which resulted in a successful and busy year for Agrinatura. Further, she presented achievements from 2019. Among other points, high participation of the Board members on the meetings and number of virtual meetings held were highlighted. “Agrinatura has grown up”, last year we become independent, that means that we have now administrative independence and legal recognition in Belgium. In terms of playing pro-active advocacy role of ARD policy objectives, she highlighted a few key events. One of which was that Agrinatura members and their organisations' leadership had discussions with representatives from DG DEVCO, DG Agri and DG RTD on the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy. Others include strengthening of partnerships by renewing the Memoranda of Understanding between Agrinatura and FAO (action plan is still under development) and with RUFORUM. Additionally Agrinatura continues a well-established close dialogue with DG DEVCO and a renewed energy in joint cooperation with EFARD, YPARD (joint workshop at Tropentag 2019), GCHERA, ICA (standing committee and co-organisation of the Rectors and Deans Forum and others was mentioned). Further activities in various projects were mentioned such as ERASMUS+ projects two finalised within year 2019 and implemented by Agrinatura members and other ongoing projects such as MSFSCC, SIMPLE, MasterACT and others. A number of successful activities were also conducted in EEIG development projects VCA4D, Food Fortification Advisory Services and Technical cooperation in Burundi. Other projects proposals were submitted in 2019 PASCi (with RUFORUM) and with south-east Asia cooperation projects SIRENA and Field-TAPE. Vice President Tim Chancellor also attended preparation workshop CAADP under DeSIRA project. President Carolyn Glynn attended the EU-AU Ministerial Convent at FAO, June 2019. The communications of Agrinatura have had a

good upswing under the leadership of Tereza Slámová; dissemination and communication were successfully conducted by many members of the board as well as by other members of Agrinatura Association. A new website was prepared and is about to launch in June 2020, various materials for propagation were developed. Publication of 3 electronic newsletters per year for better communication. [Link to presentation](#)

RESULT OF VOTING: The Directors Activity Report for year 2019 was unanimously approved by the 24 members voted electronically.

Financial Report 2019 and Budget 2020

The Financial Report for 2019 including a summary of accounts for the Agrinatura Association and a description of how they are managed was sent in advance to the members, and was presented at the GA 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 for 2019 and Proposed Budget for the year 2020.

Overall for 2019, Agrinatura Association received membership fee from members as well as some unpaid fees from previous years generating 33,100.00 EUR income. Project MS FSCC was successfully finalised and provisions, before the final financial report will be accepted by EC, were taken. Miscellaneous expenditure included the Agrinatura Association fee for our EEIG membership of 1000 EUR. Running costs were higher as compared with last year's costs and our budget estimates for 2020. This is primarily due to Notarial services for consultation and preparation of the adoption of new Statutes of Association at the General Assembly in Gembloux, 2019. Other costs included an increased number of email addresses connected to our G-Suite platform (currently there is 13 email addresses connected).

Provision for project expenditures and PR and missions, travels last year agreed to be assigned for each working group for 2 years were decreased by expenses for Advocacy Working group workshop in Brussels.

Budget was increased by an item: Historical debt (11808.13 EUR) and Secretariat running costs were increased due to inflation and for contingency reasons in the current unstable and unclear situation due to COVID-19.

RESULT OF VOTING: The Financial Report 2019 was unanimously approved by the 24 voting members. See attached summary of the financial report 2019.

RESULT OF VOTING: The Proposed Budget for 2020 was unanimously approved by the 24 voting members. See attached budget for 2020.

Election of New Members:

Within the period from the GA in May 2019 until the GA in May 2020, two 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 was published on the [website](#)

L'Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium (UCL) represented by Philippe Baret and Yvan Larondelle and the Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain (UPM) represented by José Luis Yagüe. The Humboldt University in Berlin expresses their intent to leave Agrinatura Association, Berlin from Agrinatura Association, upon their request (they have fulfilled all their obligations towards Association).

RESULT OF VOTING: *L'Université Catholique de Louvain unanimously approved by the 24 members voted electronically as a new member of Agrinatura Association.*

RESULT OF VOTING: *Polytechnic University of Madrid was unanimously approved by the 24 members voted electronically as a new member of Agrinatura Association.*

RESULT OF VOTING: *Humboldt University in Berlin was unanimously approved by the 24 members voted electronically to be withdrawn from Agrinatura Association, upon their request. Link to the presentation*

Working Groups Activities

Each of the four Association Working Groups presented their achievements and offer members to join their circle. Although each working group has their own specific objective all groups work in synergies and complement each other. The Advocacy Working Group led by Carolin Callenius (UHOH) focused mainly on development of Advocacy strategy by surveying members and organising workshop to discuss all aspects of this strategy. The Research Working Group led by Carolyn Glynn (SLU) developed in cooperation with librarians from Swedish Agriculture University (SLU) an interactive map of publications developed by a subset of five Agrinatura member universities with focus on Global South. The Communication Working Group led by Tereza Slámová (CZU) presented various activities that help with dissemination of Agrinatura events and increase visibility of Agrinatura as “brand”. Last, but not least, the Project Working Group led by Petra Chaloupková (CZU) shared information about achievements with submission of new project proposals and successful ending of completed projects.

Advocacy WG

Carolin Callenius, leader of the Advocacy WG started the presentation by highlighting the goals of the group. “Our goal as Agrinatura is to orient the European agriculture research and

education agenda towards multi-stakeholder partnerships and pro-poor approaches to achieve the SDG's". This we want to achieve by sharing of

information and exchange views as we did in Brussels at the workshop. We want to speak with one voice, use the network to have stronger voice than individuals. Also, to provide evidence from our work from our members and join hands with other organisation and networks to achieve it. We started work within the group by asking the members: "what are your expectations?"; "what should Agrinatura be doing?". Therefore, we prepared survey and based on the responses we organised workshop in Brussels in November in order to develop Advocacy Strategy. The first draft of the strategy is now prepared and should have been discussed at this meeting but due to limited time availability, is postponed. However, to all who have an interest in reading and contributing to the draft, it will be sent upon request for your comments and adjustments. Based on the strategy we have already started to use the ideas generated during the construction of the draft and we are beginning to implement it. One of the advocacy work highlights was on the Farm to Fork strategy on the global dimension of the Green Deal.

Members: Tim Chancellor, Olipmia Orlandoni, Tereza Slámová, Carolyn Glynn, Rémi Khan, Carolin Callenius

Research WG

Activities of Research WG were presented by group leader Carolyn Glynn. In the past year we developed the idea to collaborate with the libraries within our universities and utilize bibliometric tools to help us to communicate the importance and impact of the scientific and popular science articles that Agrinatura member organizations publish jointly with universities in low income countries. The bibliometric data give us concrete facts that show our specific areas of expertise and which are topics that we share a common interest with our partners in low income countries. The aim of the working group is to conduct bibliometric analyses of all of our member universities and show all of the joint publication with our partners in low-income countries. As a test pilot for the GA we presented analyses for five members SLU, WUR, UGhent, Hohenheim, UReading during a five year period. By working with these results together with the advocacy and projects working groups, we can actually show our good partnership and work researchers and experts do within our members. This will be useful tool in applying for funding and for communication our collaborative approach to agriculture for development. Additionally, some Agrinatura members (SLU, WUR, BOKU) are during 2020 – 2022 members of an ICA Task Force with the aim to improve dialogue with the EC about science based policy that is led by Wageningen University. One aspect of this task force will be based upon the Agrinatura Research Working Group's bibliometric analyses

Members: Carolyn Glynn (SLU, Sweden), Andreas Melcher (BOKU, Austria)

Communication WG

Main goal of the communication Working group presented by Tereza Slamova is to develop, strengthen and encourage strategic alliances, partnerships and networks, with and between the different stakeholders (institutions, organisation and individuals in development, both in North and in the South). Tereza would like to really thank to all of them for the great work within the past year. We met for the first time on our last General Assembly in Gembloux and ever since I think we cooperated really well and outside of developing these alliances and partnerships we were trying to become stronger and more visible "Agrinatura brand". For that purpose, we were developing a new website with internal file storage and Intranet, they are to be launch shortly. We were developing new propagation materials and improvement of the logo and new logo manual led to development of propagation materials. For the development of the partnerships and new alliances we were attending various events to present Agrinatura such as ELLS (The Euroleague for Life Sciences) GA, RUFORUM (The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture) GA, joint workshop with YPARD (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development) at Tropentag conference.

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

Projects WG

Outcomes of the Project WG were presented by leader Petra Chaloupkova (CZU) The main objectives of this working group is to prepare the procedures for the planning, participation and implementation together with reporting of the projects where Agrinatura is a partner or full partner. Also, to share the lessons learned and develop the tools for mutual learning from the experiences such as coordinating projects or actively participating. During last year we

prepared templates for project documents, and for presentations. The project group presented during the workshop during General Assembly 2019 and we expected to follow up at this year's GA, but the time limits due to the online meeting prevented this. We had hoped to organise a workshop after the Info Day in Brussels in July 2019, but due to low member participation, it was cancelled. What we would like to concentrate on this year especially due to change in ERASMUS+ system, the Agenda will be 2021-2027. There are launch of new calls regarding the situation and impact of COVID-19 on closure of education systems in Europe. And new Horizon project 2020. Petra also appreciated work of all project coordinators and managers were Agrinatura is involved.

Members: Dider Pillot, Petra Chaloupková, Coordinators and Partners of the Projects

Farm to Fork Strategy within Green Deal

The next topic was led by Stephen Onakuse (UCC) who discussed the incorporation of Agrinatura to consultations with DG DEVCO on Farm to Fork Strategy within Green Deal communication. Agrinatura will develop a position paper on the international dimension of the Farm to Fork strategy and want to use our knowledge-base platform to build upon. For that reason, a working group developed short questionnaire to find out e.g.: “How the pandemic is changing our partnership cooperation and food systems”. Stephen, while presenting, stressed that: “if we will not make noise we wouldn’t be heard”. Once the situation will allow us to meet, then Agrinatura will organise Face to Face meeting to discuss of the communication and Farm to Fork strategy. More news will follow.

Discussion and Wrap Up

By the end of the meeting there was a fruitful discussion among members related to the topics previously presented and new hot topics were shared. The whole meeting was finished by wrap up given by Vice-president Tim Chancellor (NRI) he stressed that it was fortunate that Board of Directors decided quite a while ago to hold the Board meetings online, which might have helped us to be prepared for current situation and not to lose our connection with each other. He thanked everyone for the large turnout during this virtual meeting and for the shown interest and commitment towards Agrinatura. He welcomed sincerely our new members “it great that we continue to attract new members, we can extend our skill range, our capacities as well as our geographical coverage”. He points out that there is a large range of opportunities within our network and encourage the members to search for the opportunities that suit their interest.

The General Assembly 2021

We look forward to seeing everyone in person at the General Assembly in 2021, thanks to University College Cork (UCC) and Stephen Onakuse for extending the invitation. But we also do hope that there will be other opportunities before that to see each other.

Carolyn Glynn,
President Agrinatura
June 10th 2020 in Uppsala

Tereza Slámová,
Secretary General
June 10th 2020 in Prague

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