

Agrinatura General Assembly 2023



Workshops and open dialogue

Minutes 2023

AGRINATURA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING (GA) Prague, May 10-11, 2023, at Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic and in person and via Microsoft TEAMS.

PRESIDENCY:

ONAKUSE Stephen (Agrinatura President, UCC, University College Cork, Ireland), CHALOUPKOVA Petra (Agrinatura Vice-President, CZU, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic).

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF AGRINATURA MEMBERS (REGISTRATION SHEET ATTACHED WITH DETAILS OF ATTENDEES AS ANNEX I):

Andreas Melcher (BOKU, Austria), Aurore Degré (Liège University, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Belgium), Carolin Callenius (University of Hohenheim-Germany), Cees van Rij (iCRA), Claudio Benavent (Polytechnic University of Valencia, UPV, Spain), Claire Durand (ISTOM, France), Dimitrios Petalios (Ghent University-Belgium), Emelie Zonabend König (SLU Sweden), Genna Tesdall (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development YPARD), Hanneke Lam (Agrinatura EEIG), Helena Posthumus (Wageningen University-DeSIRA-LIFT), Inese Rozensteine (CIRAD), Ioannis Dimitriou (SLU, Sweden), Iuri Peri (University Of Catania, Italy), Jurgen Peci (University of Reading-UK), Konstantinos Karantininis (SLU-Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), Frederic Lancon (Agrinatura EEIG), Christophe Lesueur (Institut Agro Montpellier), Luis Goulao (Instituto Superior de Agronomia ISA-Univ. Lisboa), Mabel Hernandez-Altamirano (University College Cork, Ireland), Nicola Francesconi (KIT-Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands), Niels Fold (University of Copenhagen-UCPH), Olga Leuner (CZU Prague, Czech Republic), Pekka Uimari (University of Helsinki, Finland), Chaloupková Petra (Agrinatura Vice-President), Sara Baumgart (Agrinatura), Selim Louafi (Cirad), Simon Heath (Association for European Life Science Universities-ICA), Stephen Onakuse (Agrinatura-President), Susanna Rokka (Natural Resources Institute Finland-Luke), Tereza Slámová (Agrinatura Association Secretary General), Andy Frost (NRI-University of Greenwich), Ben Bennett (NRI-University of Greenwich), Alessandro Priolo (University of Catania)

JOINT SECRETARIAT:

Slámová Tereza (Agrinatura Association Secretary General), Hernández-Altamirano Mabel (Agrinatura Association), Lam Hanneke (Agrinatura EEIG), Rahova Anita (Agrinatura-EEIG).

OTHER PARTNERS AND GUESTS:

Barbora Motylová (Czech University of Life Sciences Prague), Heval Yildirim (VCA₄D), Kimchhin Sok (Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia), Sophea Nhean (Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia), Olimpia Orlandoni (Agrinatura), Lukáš Pospíšil (Head of IRO, Czech University of Life Sciences), Mikuláš Josek (IRO, Czech University of Life Sciences), Giorgia Mei (VCA₄D), Anabella Tulin (Dean, Visayas State University-Philippines), Edgardo Tulin (President, Visayas State University-Philippines), Maria Theresa Loreto (Dean, Visayas State University-Philippines), Alan B. Loreto (Director, Visayas State University-Philippines), Alicia Flores (Visayas State University-Philippines), Maria Elsa M. Umpad (Visayas State University-Philippines), Ana Marquiza Quilicot (Visayas State University-Philippines), Waha Muhammad (Czech University of Life Sciences Prague), Alagbe Gbolahan Oluwasegun (Czech University of Life Sciences Prague), Hanna Kruger (University of Perugia).

OPENING SESSION

The Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic hosted the Agrinatura General Assembly (GA) 2023. The sessions were face-to-face and via Microsoft TEAMS. President Stephen Onakuse, shared with the audience some reflections on the development of sustainable agriculture, a complex system that requires collaboration and discussion of its main objectives like promoting sustainable agricultural development, fostering innovation in agriculture, and supporting capacity building in agriculture and rural development. The welcome was joined by the Vice-Rector for International Relations Dr Michal Lošťák who emphasized the support of the university in the performance of Agrinatura during these years. Secretary General (Tereza Slámová) explained during the businesses meeting, the points of the agenda and voting, BD new members, approval of the Minutes GA 2022, Financial report 2022 and the budget 2023 via Google forms with QR code (the complete list of questions and votes is attached to this document, Annex II). The Directors' activity report was held by Petra Chaloupková.

Secretary General (Tereza Slámová) launched the session by asking for the approval of the Agenda for the 2023 GA business meeting.

RESULT OF VOTING: The agenda for the Agrinatura General Assembly 2023 was unanimously approved by the 19 voting members.

RESULTS OF VOTING

According to the Agrinatura statutes, member representatives received 45 days prior to

the General Assembly meeting all necessary documents for voting together with convocation to GA 2023 meeting (General Assembly Minutes 2022, Financial report 2022, Budget 2023).

Voting was conducted electronically during the meeting using QR code or websites with link to Google Forms (results of voting attached). The results of the voting were approved by a simple majority of the votes cast. Results of the voting were presented at the meeting.

Nine questions were submitted regarding the latest GA 2022, called Minutes; the Financial Report 2022; the 2023 Budget and membership changes.

- Q1 Do you approve the Minutes from the General Assembly 2022 meeting?
- Q2 Do you approve the Financial Report 2022?
- Q3 Do you approve Budget for year 2023?

No points or objection were raised prior the meeting or during the meeting.

Second part of voting was with regard to the changes in membership and changes in the composition of Board of Directors.

- Q4 Do you approve revocation of Ludovic Andres as a Board of Director of Agrinatura Association (based on his resignation)?
- Q5 Do you approve revocation of Carolin Callenius as a Board of Director of Agrinatura Association (based on his resignation)?
- Q6 Do you approve revocation of Miguel de Porras as a Board of Director of Agrinatura Association (based on his resignation)?
- Q7 Do you approve revocation of Tereza Slámová as the Secretary General of Agrinatura Association (based on his resignation)?
- Q8 Do you approve election of Claire Durand as a Board of Director of Agrinatura Association?
- Q9 Do you approve election of J. Mabel Hernandez Altamirano as the Secretary General of Agrinatura Association?

RESULT OF VOTING: *The Minutes from the Agrinatura General Assembly 2022 meeting were unanimously approved by the 20 members who voted.*

RESULT OF VOTING: *The Financial Report 2022 was approved by the 19 voting members and 1 abstained.*

RESULT OF VOTING: *The Budget for year 2023 was approved by 19 voting members and 1 member did not approve the budget as it was presented.*

RESULT OF VOTING:

RESULT OF VOTING: *The approval of the revocation of Ludovic Andres (Istom Ecole Supérieure D'agro-Développement International) as a Board of Directors of Agrinatura Association (based on his resignation) was unanimously approved by the 20 voting members.*

RESULT OF VOTING: *The approval of the revocation of Miguel de Porras (FiBL Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Belgium) as a Board of Directors of Agrinatura Association (based on his resignation) was unanimously approved by the 20 voting members.*

RESULT OF VOTING: *The approval of the revocation of Carolin Callenius (University of Hohenheim) as a Board of Directors of Agrinatura Association (based on his resignation) was unanimously approved by the 20 voting members.*

RESULT OF VOTING: *The approval of the election of Claire Durand (Istom Ecole Supérieure D'agro-Développement International, France) as a Board of Directors of Agrinatura was unanimously approved by the 20 voting members.*

RESULT OF VOTING: *The approval of the revocation of Tereza Slámová (Czech University of Life Sciences Prague) as the Secretary General of Agrinatura Association (based on his resignation) was unanimously approved by the 20 voting members.*

RESULT OF VOTING: *The approval of the election of J. Mabel Hernández Altamirano (University College Cork, Ireland) as the Secretary General of Agrinatura Association was approved by 19 voting members and 1 abstained.*

Based on the voting the current composition of Board of Directors and Presidency is as following:

President: Stephen ONAKUSE – UCC (Ireland)

Vice-President: Petra CHALOUPKOVÁ – CZU (Czech Republic)

Secretary General: Mabel HERNÁNDEZ – UCC (Ireland)

Board of Directors:

- Pascal BOECKX – UGhent (Belgium)
- Guido BONATI – CREA (Italy)
- Frédéric FRANCIS – ULiège (Belgium)
- Claire DURAND – ISTOM (France)
- Susanna ROKKA – LUKE (Finland)

The following table summary the current membership of Agrinatura Association:

1 Albania Agricultural University of Tirana, AUT
2 Austria University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, BOKU
3 Belgium Catholic University of Leuven, KU Leuven
4 Belgium Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liège Gembloux
5 Belgium Ghent University, Ugent
6 Belgium Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, FiBL

7 Belgium Université Catholique de Louvain, UCL
8 Czech Republic Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, CZU
9 Denmark Aarhus University, AU
10 Denmark University of Copenhagen, KU
11 Finland Helsinki University, UH
12 Finland Natural Resource Institute Finland, LUKE
13 France AGREENIUM, Agreenium
14 France Agropolis International, Agropolis
15 France Istom Ecole Supérieure D'agro-Développement International, ISTOM
16 France l'Institute Agro, Montpellier, l'Institute Agro
17 France Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement CIRAD
18 France Institute of research for development, IRD
19 Germany Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Centre of Biodiversity and CBL Sustainable Land Use
20 Germany Centre for Development Research, University of Bonn, ZEF

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21 Germany University of Hohenheim, UHOH
22 Ireland National University of Ireland Galway, NUI Galway
23 Ireland University College Cork, UCC
24 Italy University of Catania, UNICT
25 Italy Consiglio Per La Ricerca In Agricoltura E L'analisi Dell'economia Agraria, CREA
26 The Netherlands International Centre for development-oriented Research in Agriculture, ICRA
27 The Netherlands Royal Tropical Institute, KIT
28 The Netherlands Wageningen University and Research centre, WUR
29 Portugal Instituto Superior de Agronomia, University of Lisbon, ISA
30 Spain Universidad Politécnica De Madrid, UPM
31 Sweden Swedish University of Agricultural Science, SLU
32 Switzerland Bern University of Applied Sciences, HAFL
33 United Kingdom Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, NRI

34 UK University of Reading, UReading
35 Spain Polytechnic University of Valencia, UPV

FINANCIAL REPORT 2022 AND BUDGET 2023

The Financial Report for 2022 provided an overview of the management of the Agrinatura Association accounts. Prepared by Secretary General Tereza Slámová, this report offered valuable insight into the financial performance of Agrinatura. The report includes Income and Expenditure Statement 2022, in which it was exposed a detailed breakdown of revenues and expenses incurred during 2022, Statement of Financial Position, Real incomes/expenditures as compared with those budgeted, Balance 2022 and Proposed Budget for year 2023.

Overview:

The overall balance of this year's accounts is highly affected by the return to "normal" functioning after COVID19 pandemic global crisis such as War in Ukraine and the subsequent increase in prices due to increase of prices for gas and oil. However, the accounting year ended with the operating result of 70,984.20 EUR.

Expenditures:

The overall costs are divided according to the imputations. The total costs of the Secretariat were below the budget (9,879.62 EUR, budgeted 10,000 EUR). The expenditures for conferences and meetings were significantly higher than budgeted (12,244.89 and 8,000 respectively) due to return to the travelling and at the same time increase in prices for flights and services. However, the participation at the conferences and meetings were always evaluated for their time and cost-effectiveness and value-added for Agrinatura. Some funds were also used to invite guests to the General Assembly in Cork 2022. Expenses for the Tropentag conference were lower because the interest from students was low. Better promotion is needed. A new poster was developed for that purpose. However, total expenses were lower than budgeted (52,990.29 EUR and 62,360.00 EUR respectively).

Income:

Total income from membership fees is lower but the provisions for unpaid membership fees

were taken. The same approach will be used this year. Provision for the project development was partially used for the increased salary of SG approved by BD last March (7,000.00 EUR). The remaining part will be used this year for other activities. UC strategic meetings were used to cover the project management of the secretariat and for covering the costs of the UC members to come to GA in Cork for strengthening the partnership. Summer schools were not organised with Agrinatura this year. Discussion during the RTD at GA 2023. A surplus of 71,008.51 EUR compared to the budget resulted from the income of the OPFP project. These expenses will be mainly used for project management, module organisation and experts' costs.

RESULT OF VOTING: The Financial Report 2022 was unanimously approved by the 19 voting members. See attached summary of the financial report 2022.

RESULT OF VOTING: The Proposed Budget for 2023 was approved by the 18 voting members. See attached budget for 2023.

ACTIVITY REPORT 2022

Petra Chaloupková explained the recent changes in the General Secretariat as well as the transition to establish the Secretariat to Cork, Ireland. It was also mentioned the pro-active role that Agrinatura has taken in the policy advocacy for ARD. In this regard, Agrinatura expressed its position in the "Agrinatura 's role in supporting innovation for food system transformation". The First draft of the Position Paper was presented to the General Assembly, 19 May 2022 at UCC, Ireland and discussed with member representatives and international panel composed of partners from European Commission (DG INTPA, DG AGRI and DG Research and Innovation), Asian partners (SEARCA, Prince of Songkhla University) and Young Professionals in Agricultural Development (YPARD).

In the section to **analyse the develop, strengthen and encourage strategic alliances, partnerships and networks**, it was shown the ongoing discussion, representation and collaboration with:

- DG INPTA - General Assembly Open Policy Dialogue
- EU AU Partnership – LEAP4FNSSA Launch of IRC, Accra
- FAO (TAP) – MOU renewal, participation at TAP newsletter and steering committee, TAP Partners Assembly meeting
- FAO Science and Innovation days
- FARA – joint discussion
- ICA – participation at ICA GA and Rectors and Deans Forum
- IRC platform – application for contribution
- RUFORUM – participation AGM, Zimbabwe
- YPARD and development of a joint Workshop proposal for next Tropentag (Prague, Czech Republic 2023). Youth inclusion in the ARD discussion Workshop during GA
- EEIG Retreat and Strategic discussions, Brussels Workshop in Cambodia –

“Strengthening research and education capacities through international partnerships”
follow-up of EU perspectives and experiences towards SDG 's

- IROICA Conference - "Inclusion is the best conclusion" and
- ELLS conference

To organize, facilitate and implement joint participation in European and international programs and projects, Petra Chaloupková announced the launch of the Agrinatura group of experts, the creation of a comprehensive and functional database of experts from our member institutions. The aim is to connect project coordinators, institutions and researchers looking for a specific experience or set of skills.

The following project proposals were also presented:

- ADVAL, Coordinator of the University of Nuertingen-Geislingen (Germany), Promoting sustainable agricultural value chains by strengthening transdisciplinary skills and cooperation in East African doctoral education
- PMC FSCC, coordinator Kasetsart University (Thailand), Postgraduate Micro-Credentials for Food Security and Climate Change
- OPFP – One Planet Fellowship Program – successful cooperation, laureate selection, Module preparation by Agrinatura member

In relation to the Ongoing Projects led and implemented by EEIG are:

- VCA₄D Value chains project
- EC Support to Technical Assistance for Strengthening National Capacities in Food Fortification / Food Fortification Advisory Services (2FAS)
- Assistance Technique à la Coopération Européenne pour le développement rural du Burundi (ATAB)
- ERAIFT
- NRF
- DeSIRA Lift

In the section related to the **dissemination of Agrinatura's experiences, values and knowledge**, several activities were reported:

1. Launch of the Intranet (to get access is needed to make a request to the secretary-general)
2. Publication of 3 electronic newsletters

3. Tropentag (Hybrid event, Prague, Czech Republic, September 2022)
4. YPARD Agrinatura workshop at Tropentag
5. 1st Agrinatura Conference: Bridging the Gap between Dialogue and Action through Agricultural Research for Development
6. ELLS conference - iPBL-EU project
7. Project cooperation (KU)
8. Publications in journals to increase the visibility
9. Tropentag Travel Grant – new posters

Regarding network management, there were nine Board of Directors meetings during the months of June, Sept, Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, March, April, and May (face-to-face).

It was emphasized the close coordination and cooperation between Agrinatura Association and Agrinatura EEIG (Secretariat and Presidency). Finally, it was mentioned that the crisis related to the management of the Secretariat was solved and work was underway on the transfer process to establish the Secretariat of Agrinatura in the Centre for Sustainable Livelihoods, Cork University Business School at University College Cork in Ireland.

SECRETARIAT UPDATES

Last year it was highlighted that the Agrinatura Secretariat had been hosted at CZU since 2004, and the contract would end in 2022. Some actions were taken to establish a new host. Initially, the UPV (in Valencia, Spain) managed the Agrinatura Secretariat. However, shortly after UPV announced the resignation of the secretary and in the absence of a substitute, Tereza Slámová was hired again until the end of the GA meeting 2023. As a result of a public call, the vacancy of Secretary General has been covered by Dr Mabel Hernández-Altamirano and the hosting Institution will be the Centre for Sustainable Livelihood (CLS), Department of Food Business and Development at the University College Cork, Ireland.

CLOSING OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

Agrinatura General Assembly Business meeting 2023 was closed, but not before thanking Carolin Callenius for her invaluable work as part of the board of directors, as well as to Tereza Slámová for her support in organising and guiding the GA 2023 meeting. Welcome words were given to Claire Duran as a new member of the Board of Directors and to Mabel Hernández as a new Secretary General.

Stephen Onakuse, Mabel Hernandez, President Agrinatura and Secretary General, June 26th, 2023, Cork, Ireland.




ANNEX I – REGISTRATION PARTICIPANTS AGRINATURA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023,
Prague Czech Republic.

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