

Minutes

Of the meeting of the Assembly of Delegates at the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, Stockholm, at 10.00-17.00 on 15 April, 2008.

Participants: Oiva Niemeläinen, Finland, Kirsi Partanen, Finland, Paula Persson, Sweden, Lars Munkholm, Denmark, Svein Skøien, Norway, Hugh Riley, (section I), Fredrik Fogelberg (section III), Björn Andersson (section IV), Nils Petter Kjos (section V), Ole Green (section VII), Atle Guttormsen, (Section IX), Guðmundur Jóhannesson, (Section X)
Secretary General: Roland Sigvald

Absent: Desiree Börjesdotter (section II), Torfi Johannesson, Iceland

Special guests: The National coordinators Algirdas Radzevicius, Lithuania, Heldur Peterson, Estonia, and Peteris Rivza, Latvia and Anna Mårtensson, Acta Agriculturae Scandinavica (point 9).

Items	Decisions
1. Opening of the meeting	The President wished the Assembly welcome to the first meeting in 2008 followed by a short presentation of participants in the Assembly of Delegates.
2. Appointment of a member who, in addition to the President, will verify the minutes.	Appointed: Guðmundur Jóhannesson.
3. Approval of the agenda	Approved. Two items to be taken up under point 15 (AOB) - Information and proposal - Honorary members.
4. Cooperation NJF – NOVA	Roland Sigvald informed about contacts with NOVA and upcoming PhD courses, which are announced on the NOVA website: http://www.nova-university.org/ . Peteris Rivza, Latvia informed about the NJF-seminar that was arranged in cooperation with NOVA and organized by NJF section I and Latvia University of Agriculture. The participants (49) came from six countries: Latvia, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Lithuania, and Estonia.

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	<p>Guidelines for organising seminars together with NOVA courses were discussed.</p> <p>It was decided that Roland Sigvald will send the draft which was prepared by previous AD or Presidium in 2006(?) to all participants in AD.</p>
<p>5. Minutes of the Assembly of Delegates in Oslo 9-10, November, 2007 Attachment p. 5, AD 1/08</p>	<p>Approved.</p>
<p>6. Approval of the Annual report 2007. Attachment p. 6, AD 1/08</p>	<p>Approved.</p>
<p>7. Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economy, governmental grants - Membership fee to be paid by the national associations to NJF-C 	<p>Governmental grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Svein Skøien informed that NJF Norway probably will receive future grants. - NJF Finland will apply for governmental grants in April (vilket år?) - Lars Munkholm informed that NJF Denmark probably will receive grants in 2008. - Paula Persson informed about the Swedish NJF-application and it looks like that NJF will receive grants in the future. - NJF Island will probably receive governmental grants future years. <p>The membership fee was discussed. So far the membership fee is a minor part of the NJF income, but with an increasing number of members this will be a more important part.</p> <p>Guðmundur Jóhannesson emphasized the importance of informing about NJF and its activities in order to increase the number of members. The possibility to include the Scientific Journal in the membership fee was discussed. In some countries the fee is paid by the department or the organisation in question and sometimes by the member.</p> <p>The economy for the sections was discussed. It is important that the seminars give some surplus. The money can be used by the sections to support workshops, meetings, travels etc.</p>

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	<p>The possibility to pay the membership fee for more than one year at a time was also discussed. However, this is a matter for the national associations.</p> <p>It was therefore decided that the national associations are requested to discuss this item at future meetings.</p>
<p>8. Long Term Plan 2008-2011 Attachment p. 8, AD 1/08</p>	<p>The Long Term Plan was discussed and approved. It will be published on the NJF website.</p>
<p>9. Discussion about working plans from sections for 2008 and outlook for 2009-2011 (seminars, workshops, training courses, symposium, collaborative activities) Attachment p. 9, AD 1/08</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities planned in the Baltic countries - Collaboration with the editors of Acta Agriculturae Scandinavica - NJF reports, seminar publications 	<p>The working plans for 2008 and outlook for 2009 were discussed. The section leaders informed about upcoming activities.</p> <p>A summer Course and a Nordic Workshop on Risk Management is planned to take place in Finland at the University of Helsinki, 30 June – 3 July, 2008, in collaboration with NJF, FOI, NILF, SLU and MTT.</p> <p>Ole Green, section VII, informed about the upcoming seminar on Information and Communication Technology in Agriculture (411). The seminar is organised alongside a research project, which partly finances the seminar. PhD students will get a reduced fee. Ole Green also informed about the upcoming seminar on Future Field Experiments (415).</p> <p>Hugh Riley (section I), informed about the upcoming seminars on Phosphorus Management (401) and Long-term Field Experiments (407). The interest in these seminars is very keen.</p> <p>Fredrik Fogelberg (section III), informed about the upcoming seminars on Vegetable Production in a Changing Climate and Landscape Plants for Nordic Countries in an Unforeseen Future.</p> <p>Planned seminars in the Baltic countries were also discussed. Algirdas Radzevicius, Lithuania informed about an upcoming seminar on Small Fruits Cultivars and Growing Technologies in Lithuania in late September (vilket år?), organised by section III.</p>

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	<p>A seminar on Fostering Healthy Food Systems through Organic Agriculture – Focus on Nordic-Baltic Region is planned for late August 2009 in Estonia. It appears to be a great interest in the seminar.</p> <p>Ova Niemeläinen informed about the upcoming symposium on Risk Assessment of Global Agrifood Production Chains – NJF's 90 Year Jubilee Symposium on 5-6 November 2008. The programme and the number of persons to be invited were discussed.</p> <p>The collaboration with the Editors of Acta Agriculturae Scandinavica was discussed. Professor Anna Mårtensson, informed about the background to the collaboration between the Journal and NJF. She also informed about the number of contributions to the different sections of Acta Agriculturae Scandinavica (A: Animal Science, B: Soil and Plant Science and C: Food Economics).</p> <p>The following items were discussed:</p> <p>How to encourage submission to The Journal, subscription discount for NJF members and support from NJF in marketing the Journal. The editorial board of Acta Agriculturae Scandinavica would also prefer regular meetings with NJF and that NJF supports the marketing of the journal through the NJF website, section leaders etc.</p> <p>The section board may also be a support by acting as additional editorial board. Certain articles from NJF seminars may also be published in Acta Agriculturae Scandinavica and those special issues might be based upon seminar contributions.</p> <p>It was emphasized the importance of encouraging researchers from both the Baltic and the Nordic countries to contribute to Acta.</p> <p>The possibility to get reduced membership fee for publications in Acta.</p> <p>A suggestion is that NJF, the Acta Editors and Taylor & Francis meet and discuss these questions.</p>

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	<p>It was decided that NJF should have a discussion about a collaboration at regular meetings with the editors of Acta as well as with Taylor & Francis and thus become a more active partner of Acta Agriculture Scandinavica Journals</p> <p>NJF reports and seminar publications were also discussed.</p>
10. Food Science seminar plans	Oiva Niemeläinen informed about the plans for future food science seminars.
11. New marketing options for NJF	Oiva Niemeläinen informed about the procedure in Finland meaning that the NJF seminars are advertised as a further education opportunity in the trade union magazine of Academic Agronomists. The circulation of the magazine is approximately 5 000. The option to apply the same rules in other Nordic and Baltic countries was discussed.
<p>12. Development of the seminar organizing system</p> <p>-NJF:s website - www.njf.nu</p>	<p>Changes in the seminar administration were discussed, e.g. to move "Upcoming seminars" to upper right side of the website.</p> <p>Roland Sigvald will discuss these questions with Jimmy Lyhagen</p>
13. Development of the NJF website	Lately information about for example external and new job positions are available on the NJF website.
14. Time and place for the Assembly of Delegates in 2008.	<p>Next Presidium meeting will take place in Latvia on 2-3 September 2008.</p> <p>The next AD meeting will take place in Helsinki on 6-7 November 2008.</p>
<p>15. AOB</p> <p>- Information and proposal</p> <p>- Honorary members.</p>	<p>Paula Persson informed about the proposal of a new Honorary Member. The board of the Swedish National Association has nominated agronomist Tord Eriksson. This was approved by AD.</p> <p>The President closed the meeting and thanked the participants for fruitful discussions.</p>

Secretary:

Minutes verified by:

Roland Sigvald

Oiva Niemeläinen

Guðmundur Jóhannesson