

Long Term Plan for 2008-2011

Strategy and visions

The Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists NJF promotes research within agriculture, quality and safety of foods and rural and environmental issues. The members of NJF cover all disciplines related to agrifood businesses and rural development. Members are engaged in basic and applied research, in companies' R&D activities, education, extension service, and policy issues. Activity is focussed on organising seminars in which participation of international expertise is encouraged. The seminars are of an applied character thus engaging researchers and experts but also private entrepreneurs and governmental specialists. The Association will promote interactions between scientists, advisors, teachers and policy-makers, and develop a positive interaction between agriculture, agricultural research and the society. NJF works in 4-year congress periods and the key characteristics of NJF activity for period 2008-2011 are:

- A) Networking experts to foster research collaboration in Nordic and Baltic countries.
- B) Provide learning opportunities via seminar and workshop activities
- C) Function as a platform to address issues important for wider public interest
- D) Have activities within the whole Nordic Baltic region
- E) NJF is a non-profit-making organization. Resources will be used in most effective way and NJF collaborates with other Nordic and international organisations to achieve its goals.

A) Networking

NJF's main mode of action is promote information exchange between scientist and other stakeholders by arranging seminars. These seminars may focus on specific scientific issues or have a broader approach. NJF will be capable actor to generate high expertise networks and working groups.

Ways to achieve the goal:

- *sections organise seminars with focus on specific themes*
- *other focussed network activities*
- *web based membership register in active use*
- *seminars are open for experts outside NJF countries*
- *collaboration with other Nordic and international scientific actors*
- *be visible to the research community through the NJF web site, brochures & direct contacts*

B) Learning opportunities

Seminars and workshops on specific topics provide a possibility for young scientist and students to learn up-to-date methods used in research. Specific seminars or courses facilitate further educational opportunities for Nordic Baltic advisors and agricultural teachers. NJF provides important further educational services particularly for researchers and advisory personnel through its specific seminars.

Ways to achieve the goal:

- *collaboration with NOVA/BOVA is fostered in seminar and NOVA courses arrangement when feasible*
- *special fees applied for students to attend seminars*

C) Platform to raise and discuss topics of public interest with NJF expertise area

Many topics within NJF's expertise area are subject to a great public interest and information demand e.g. use of renewable resources in the energy sector, possibilities to compact climate change, use of GMO in agricultural production, changes in global trade & role of agriculture in the developing world, multifunctional agriculture, food quality and safety, environmental impact of agricultural, information intensive agriculture.

Decision making is increasingly done by policy makers whose connections and knowledge to modern agrifood businesses are weak. By arranging seminars NJF strives to raise awareness among public to the scientific approach when addressing agrifood issues.

Ways to achieve the goal:

- *arranging seminars / symposiums on specific topic with objective to attain media attention and to bring a scientific approach to the discussion*
- *collaboration with other scientific organizations*

D) NJF provides activities in the whole Nordic Baltic region

NJF's geographical activity area covers the eight Nordic Baltic countries. Activities will be arranged so that all countries are involved in one way or other in NJF activity. Also issues within agrifood sector in the developing countries may be addressed by NJF activity.

Ways to achieve the goal:

- *travel funds made available for the Baltic research community*
- *some of the seminars will be organized in the Baltic countries*
- *promotion of collaboration in research, advising and education between the Nordic and Baltic countries*

E) Efficient use of NJF resources

NJF is a non-profit-making organization which utilizes its funding and personnel resources efficiently by using modern electronic web-based services and information systems. Collaboration with other scientific bodies like NOVA and scientific associations is appreciated. Coordination of sections' activities will be fostered.

Ways to achieve the goal:

- *utilization of electronic and web based system*
- *collaboration with other actors within the NJF expertise area*

Internal

Eight sections carry out this work in their designated fields of expertise:

- Soil, Water and Environment
- Crop Science
- Horticulture and Landscape
- Plant Protection
- Animal Science
- Engineering
- Agricultural Economics
- Education and Extension

There is also a subsection for Fur Animals within the Animal Science Section and a permanent working group on Agricultural Analytical Chemistry. Food science issues are integrated through special theme seminars into the activity of various sections. Presidium will promote functions including several sections.

November 2007

NJF Presidium and Assembly of Delegates