

# **Protocol from the forty-fourth PlantLink steering committee meeting**

**Date: 5 October 2022, 10:00-12:00**

**Place: SLU Alnarp**

*Present:* Thomas Moritz, Copenhagen University (chairman); Erik Andreasson, SLU; Mariette Andersson, SLU (deputy director); Abraham Ontiveros Cisneros, LU (PhD students' representative); Rajni Hatti-Kaul, LU, Sofia Marmon, LU

Federico Gómez LU (director); Erik Alexandersson, SLU (assistant director) – until point 7; Anna Mañourová, SLU (coordinator)

*Online:* Allan Rasmusson, LU; Leif Bülow, LTH (vice-chairman); Jean W.H. Yong, SLU

*Absent:* Johanna Osterman, SLU (PhD students' representative); Alf Ceptilis, Lantmännen Lantbruk AB; Karl Magnus Adielsson, Region Skåne

*Note:*

Shorter meeting before the start of PlantLink Day.

## **1. Opening of the meeting**

Thomas Moritz opened the meeting.

## **2. Election of the person in charge of verifying the minutes**

Jean Yong (SLU) was elected as the verifier of the minutes.

## **3. Minutes of the previous meeting (Annex 1)**

Thomas Moritz reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting, noting that some items will be addressed under separate agenda points and during the PlantLink Day. The minutes of the last meeting was approved.

## **4. New member of the Steering Group**

Rajni Hatti-Kaul has decided to step down as the representative of LU in the PlantLink steering committee. Sofia Marmon has been asked to replace her and has accepted. Having experience as a PL coordinator for almost 2 years, Sofia Marmon is a valuable candidate with important familiarity and insights into the organisation's function. We are thankful to Rajni Hatti-Kaul who has been a part of the steering group for 6 years.

*Decision:* To suggest that Sofia Marmon replaces Rajni Hatti-Kaul as LU representative in the PlantLink steering committee to the deans of the three faculties constituting PlantLink.

## **5. Announcements**

- PlantLink annual report is finished and printed

- NordPlant update: NordPlant annual meeting – 30 November; Erik Alexandersson represented NordPlant in the International Plant Phenotyping Symposium in Wageningen, 26-30 September.

Discussion on the future of plant phenotyping in the Nordic countries has been initiated together with the 6P3 project.

- Centennial anniversary of the ecotype concept: the legacy of Göte Turesson – 29 November
- Nordic Plant Phenotyping Network (NPPN) workshop – 24-25 November

## **6. Welcome to the PlantLink Day - by Federico Gómez**

Record number of attendees signed up for the event – 132 + 5 online. The increase is seen mainly among MSc and PhD students, also a lot of LU students registered. There were some changes in the program.

## **7. Update - Future strategy and new contacts for PlantLink – by Federico Gómez**

### *New network possibilities:*

Vinnova Mobilisering – Federico Gómez is a participant; the first meeting was held in Stockholm on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October.

Nordic Food Forum in Trondheim (21-22 September) – attended by Federico Gómez, who also shortly introduced PlantLink there.

### *Funding opportunities:*

- a) Region Skåne – Circular Food Systems; already submitted

The project contributes to knowledge support, coaching and platform building based on sustainability as the primary business model of agriculture. The main idea is to create a matchmaking platform between MSc students and industry, represented by small and medium-sized companies. The project application was checked and approved by Erik Alexandersson and Thomas Moritz.

Link: <https://utveckling.skane.se/utvecklingsomraden/miljo-och-klimat/utlysning-cirkulara-livsmedelssystem/>

- b) Formas communication call; in preparation

The purpose is to support projects that communicate and popularise sustainable development research so that the results can have a real-world impact on society.

Rationale: The number of students in Plant and Food Sciences is continuously decreasing. Therefore, PL would like to focus on influencing high school students, motivating them to consider a future career in plant and food research by introducing the key topics of both fields in an interactive and attractive way.

### *Possibilities:*

Humorkunskap (podcast popularising science) – Cecilia Nebel, Nebel Media.

VIS (Vetenskap I Skola), VA (vetenskap & allmänhet – developing teaching material mainly in the field of plant physiology and plant biotechnology).

Link: <https://formas.se/en/start-page/archive/calls/2022-06-20-formas-communication-call-2022.html>

c) PlantLink strategy meeting

The meeting will be held in Lund, Bishop House, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December from 10:00 to 16:00. The main topic is the future of PlantLink, and its continuation from the end of 2023 onwards. The key points of what to include in the strategy and the strengths and weaknesses of the organization were discussed among the committee members. The suggestions will be processed, and the final format of the meeting will be discussed online with volunteers within the steering group (Jean Yong) before the 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

**8. Other points**

No additional questions were raised.

**9. Next meeting**

A shorter steering committee meeting will be held after the PlantLink strategy meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

**13. Closure of the meeting**

Thomas Moritz closed the meeting.

# Signature page

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