

Protocol from the forty-fifth PlantLink steering committee meeting

Date: 6 December 2022, 14:15-16:00

Place: Gamla Biskopshuset, Lund

Present: Thomas Moritz, Copenhagen University (chairman); Erik Andreasson, SLU; Mariette Andersson, SLU (deputy director); Jean W.H. Yong, SLU; Andreas Gustavsson Fredlund, SLU; Sofia Marmon, LU; Abraham Ontiveros Cisneros, LU (PhD students' representative), Johanna Osterman SLU (PhD students' representative); Alf Ceplitis, Lantmännen Lantbruk AB

Federico Gómez LU (director); Erik Alexandersson, SLU (assistant director); Anna Maňourová, SLU (coordinator)

Absent with valid impediment: Leif Bülow, LTH (vice-chairman); Karl Magnus Adielsson, Region Skåne

Note:

Following after PlantLink's Strategy meeting.

1. Opening of the meeting

Thomas Moritz opened the meeting.

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

Jean Yong was voluntarily elected as the verifier of the minutes.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (Annex 1)

Thomas Moritz reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

4. Budget

Andreas Gustavsson Fredlund gave an insight into a financial status report for 2022 and a quick prognosis for 2023. No major deviations from the proposed budget were noted. Some adjustments need to be made in the case of Erik Alexandersson. In conclusion, although salary costs will be slightly higher than expected, the financial prognosis for 2023 is still with a surplus of 200,000 SEK because of lower running costs.

5. Discussion on the Strategy meeting

The steering group discussed and wrapped up the major points of the Strategy meeting. A draft with proposed key points and strategies will be prepared by the executive group to be reviewed by the next steering committee meeting. This will be then presented during a meeting with the deans of SLU and LU in spring (the exact date will be specified).

6. News and notes

Sofia Marmon is now part of the steering committee. The deans are signing a new decision on the steering committee compositions.

Updates from Federico Gómez

Funding: Region Skåne application has been rejected. Formas communication application has been submitted, the decision will be announced on the 31st of March.

Awarded research grants in end of 2022 from plant and food science in the region: VR approved 13 projects for 46.8 Million SEK. Formas approved 14 projects for 63 Million SEK.

Master theses in cooperation with industry: in the last two years a total of 20 MSc theses from LTH (LU). Currently, two master studies are being elaborated together with companies - Saveggy (supervisor: LU, co-supervisor: SLU) and OptiCept (supervisor: SLU, co-supervisor: LU). Aim: to get more companies involved and attract active students.

New articles and series to be released in 2023: "Story of success" – companies were already contacted, and the first article will be published in January. More interviews are planned to highlight PlantLink Seed money recipients and companies with a strong background in PlantLink cooperation.

Updates from Erik Alexandersson

ESCAPAdE follow-up results in an invitation to create an Erasmus MSc education around wine, fruit, and berries.

Two ELLS applications for Funds for Incentives were submitted and might be awarded: Plant health (SLU, EA); Circular Case Studies (CZU, SLU, BOKU; AM, EA).

The Göte Turesson Jubilee went well with a full program in Lund on 30 November. PlantLink supported with the spread of information and online sign-up forms.

NordPlant NOVA PhD course "Common Data Standards and Integrative Analytic Methods for Plant Phenotyping", 3 ECTS, 28 November – 2 December 2022, PLS0077, given in Alnarp and Lund had 20 students signed up. Still, only 14 showed up on the day. The overall rating of the course was record high with a score of 4,92 out of 5 (12 responding students). It is considered to apply for money again for a similar course.

NordPlant had its annual meeting with the theme "Envirotyping for plant breeding and precision agriculture" in Lund on 31 January with 110 participants signing up (60 physical and 50 online).

A discussion between NordPlant and NPPN on networks and activities around plant phenotyping in the Nordic countries after 2023 has been initiated as part of the annual NPPN meeting in Båstad on 24-25 November.

NordPlant is still waiting for a decision on a grant submitted to NordForsk in May.

7. Other issues

No

8. Next meetings

7th of February at 13:00 (SLU Alnarp); 20th of April at 13:00 (LU); 14th of June at 13:00 (SLU Alnarp)

9. Closure of the meeting

Thomas Moritz closed the meeting.

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