

Protocol from the forty-eight PlantLink steering committee meeting

Date: 15 September 2023, 13:00-16:30

Place: Lund, Chemical Centre

Present: Thomas Moritz, Copenhagen University (chairman); Erik Andreasson, SLU; Allan Rasmusson, LU; Jean W.H. Yong, SLU; Abraham Ontiveros Cisneros, LU (PhD students' representative); Sofia Marmon, LU

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

Online: Mariette Andersson, SLU (deputy director); Carl Jonson (left after 15:00); Andreas Gustavsson, SLU (economist); Alf Ceplitis, Lantmännen Lantbruk AB (from 14:00)

Absent with valid impediment: Johanna Osterman, SLU (PhD students' representative); Leif Bülow, LTH (vice-chairman)

1. Opening of the meeting

Thomas Moritz opened the meeting.

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

Jean Yong agreed to be the verifier of the minutes.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (Annex 1)

Thomas Moritz reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting, and the minutes were approved.

4. Budget. Andreas Gustavsson Fredlund

Andreas Fredlund presented the PlantLink budget prognosis for 2023. The overall budget is running according to the plan. However, there is a higher deficit on the SLU side and a higher surplus on the LU side than previously expected. Different possibilities on how to solve this were discussed, and the discussions between the economists are ongoing.

5. Discussion with SLU Partnership Alnarp. Erik Alexandersson

A document, "PlantLink and SLU Partnerskap Alnarp: A Collaborative Potential", prepared by A. Maňourová and E. Alexandersson, was sent to SLU Partnerskap Alnarp (PA) in August. More concrete suggestions and plans for future collaboration are needed; however, it was suggested that PlantLink could become a network theme within PA. One of the discussion points is how to manage it on the LU side if this is the future solution for PlantLink. We should foster an open dialogue between SLU Partnerskap Alnarp and PlantLink researchers on collaboration forms. Updates on these efforts will be circulated in the internal PlantLink newsletter.

A meeting with Håkan Schroeder and PlantLink representatives from LU and SLU will take place on October 3rd.

6. Restructure of PlantLink management. Thomas Moritz

New Director

The last day of F. Gómez as PlantLink director was on the 15th of September. The earlier-suggested L. Bülow could not step in as the new director, and the LU side needs more time to find another candidate. Meanwhile, it was decided that E. Alexandersson would be the acting director. The new director will have a more representative than operative role.

The discussion about the PlantLink Steering Committee was postponed to the next meeting.

7. PlantLink coordinator/communicator position. Federico Gómez

The form of the PlantLink coordinator position is still under discussion.

8. Memberships to PBN, EPSO. Erik Alexandersson

EPSO – E. Alexandersson talked with the Plant Biology Department at SLU in Uppsala. Göteborg and Stockholm are not members any longer. 50,000-60,000 SEK is now the cost of EPSO. SLU – balanced cost might be possible VSB and Plant Breeding. PBN – latest 1 December to announce if PlantLink's membership continues or not. LU does not see a possibility.

Decision: E. Andreasson will ask EPSO about membership costs without LU departments.

9. Information

E. Alexandersson highlighted activities and events in which PlantLink was asked to present its activities, such as the Millet Symposium at SLU and the online Agri4D conference; updated about new connections and discussions, such as with the Green Innovation Park and Forskningsnätet Skåne who wants to apply for the FORMAS Kommunikation grant with deadline 25 October; and encouraged everyone to join the upcoming SASUF events. Two ERASMUS+ grants based on ESCAPAdE have been awarded, AdValue and NewClim, thanks to the help of PlantLink. Information about the NordPlant-UPSCALE transition and the last annual day in Båstad, Norway, was shared. The section was closed with congratulations on the Science publication of Olivier Van Aken, LU.

10. Other issues

No other issues.

11. Next meeting

There will be a short pre-meeting before the start of PlantLink Day: 05/10, 11-11:30, Maskrosen in the Ecology building, LU.

The other meetings were planned as follows:

26/10, 13:00 – 16:00, SLU Alnarp

06/12, 13:00-16:00, Lund

12. Closure of the meeting

Thomas Moritz closed the meeting with thanks to Federico Gómez.

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