



## **Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Eco-AB General Meeting:**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010, 12.00 – 14.00 pm at the WCGALP in Leipzig, Germany**

### **Topics:**

1. Opening of GM
2. Minutes GM 2009 in Bristol
3. Annual report of Eco AB 2009 (Wytze Nauta)
4. Statement of revenues and expenditures (Anet Spengler / Jo Conington)
5. Members and membership fee
6. Election of a new board member and a new treasurer
7. Amendment to the constitution of Eco AB
8. Eco AB-Projects (introduction: Wytze Nauta)
9. Future of Eco AB? – What activities to work on?
10. Meeting with LIB in Spring 2011 (introduction: Anet Spengler)

**In Attendance:** **Joanne Conington**, SAC, UK; **Peter Løvendahl**, Århus University, Denmark; **Wytze Nauta**, Louis Bolk Instituut, Netherlands; **Lotta Rydmer**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden; **Anet Spengler**, FiBL, Switzerland; Erling Strandberg, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

**Apologies:** **Ton Baars**, University of Kassel, Germany; **Lise Grøva**, bioforsk, Norway; **Joannie Leroyer**, ITAB, France; **Veronika Maurer**, FiBL, Switzerland; **Günter Postler**, FIT, Germany; **Uli Schumacher**, Bioland, Germany; **Anna Wallenbeck**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden;

### **Topics 1 and 2: Opening GM and Minutes of GM 2009 (W. Nauta)**

W. Nauta opens the meeting at 12.05 p.m.

All attendant members agree with the agenda of today's meeting.

All attendant members agree with the minutes of the GM 2009 in Bristol.

### **Topic 3: Annual report 2009 (W. Nauta)**

All members got the annual report a day in advance.

The most important Eco-AB-activities in 2009 were:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop in Bristol: discussions on a differentiation of breeding practices and breeding backgrounds between conventional and organic breeding and on the possibilities of integrating breed improvements into organic livestock populations were carried out in groups.
- The workshop on reproductive and breeding techniques in organic agriculture at the IFOAM-Breeding-Diversity-Conference in Santa Fe, USA (It was prepared by

Wytze Nauta, Anet Spengler and Frank Augsten, but Wytze Nauta couldn't attend the conference, because of an accident). Therese Sundberg attended the workshop, also. This workshop was carried out with the aim to give a discussion paper to the IFOAM-Board for their work on the rules. The opinions among the participants (around 20 people from all over the world) were very different (see: minutes of the IFOAM-workshop, which had been sent to all members). The discussion went on by e-mail. Anet Spengler will write a summary of it for the IFOAM-board. There were 4 presentations given by Eco AB-members (Therese Sundberg (1), Wytze Nauta (2) and Anet Spengler (1)) at the IFOAM-conference.

- Wytze Nauta wrote a proposal for an Eco AB-COST-Action-project. Several members of Eco AB contributed to it. Unfortunately it was not accepted

Wytze Nauta also wrote a proposal for an Eco AB-research project on "Farmers vision on breeding in organic farming in Europe".

#### **Topic 4: Statement of revenues and expenditures 2009**

Anet Spengler presents the statement of revenues and expenditures.

Jo Conington approved the account and looked at all the receipts and found everything in order. All attendant members agree with the presented figures.

#### **Topic 5: Members and membership fee**

Wytze Nauta states that all German members had decided to become associate members. Peter Løwendahl proposes to ask more people involved in organic breeding to join Eco AB. All attendant members agreed to lower the membership fee from 1000 € to 400 € for full members, starting in 2010. The membership fee for associate members stays at 100 €.

#### **Topic 6: Election of a new board member and of a new treasurer**

Lotta Rydhmer was elected as a new board member of Eco AB with 6:0 votes.

Jo Conington was elected as the new treasurer of Eco AB with 6:0 votes.

#### **Topic 7: Amendment to the constitution of Eco AB**

Anet Spengler says that the German tax office requires the following amendments (yellow) to the constitution of Eco AB:

(5) When the Association is terminated or in case of omission of tax-privileged goals, its remaining funds will be passed to the charitable non-profit organisation International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM), Charles-de-Gaullestrasse 5, 53113, Bonn, Germany, which is using it immediately and exclusively for charitable and non-profit purposes.

All attending members agreed to those amendments with 6:0 votes.

#### **8. Eco AB-Projects / 9. Future of Eco AB**

Wytze Nauta proposed to start with our own Eco AB project on EU farmers visions on breeding. Lotta Rydhmer and Erling Strandberg told us that they had written an application for a similar project. They won't know until November if it will be accepted. But if it gets accepted it would be a possibility to also include other countries (at least Denmark). Most of the attendant members think that Eco AB doesn't have enough money to carry out such a big survey alone, but that it would be very good, if the Swedish members could carry out their study and after that will be done, Eco AB could write a summary on all such surveys. Most of

the attendant members agreed to wait for the decision on the Swedish project. Lotta Rydhmer will inform all Eco AB-Members as soon as she knows about the acceptance of the project.

There are other important activities we should work on:

- We want to give our inputs to the discussion on reproductive techniques and send an Eco AB-statement to the IFOAM-board.
- We want to improve our website.
- We want to propose a session on organic breeding at the next WCGALP (in four years) and at the EAAP-meeting 2011.
- We will contribute to the LIB workshop in March 2011 (see next topic).

### **10. Meeting with LIB in spring 2011 (introduction: Anet Spengler)**

The LIB (Low Input Breeds)-Consortium is organising a symposium on their results and on ethical issues connected to organic- and low input breeding on March 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> 2011 in Wageningen / NL. They asked us to give contributions about our work and to mirror their work and results (a protocol of the last LIB-meeting had been sent out to all Eco AB-members).

Jo Conington proposed that EcoAB offers to organise a workshop on different issues of organic- and low input breeding during this symposium. We would need 3 hours for that. We would bring up four or five different subjects and give short inputs on each one of them. We agreed that we will collaborate closely to do this together.

Peter Løwendahl suggested that our discussion paper on reproductive techniques (which we agreed to submit to IFOAM) should be discussed in this session.

All attendant members decided that the next general meeting of Eco AB will be held during the symposium in Wageningen.

Minutes keeper: Anet Spengler