



Minutes of the 5th EcoAB General Meeting:

September 12th 2012, 18.00 – 19.30 h during the 2nd IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference in Hamburg, Germany

Topics:

1. Opening of GM
2. Minutes GM 2011 in Wageningen
3. Annual report of EcoAB 2011 (Anet Spengler)
4. Statement of revenues and expenditures (Anet Spengler / Joanne Conington)
5. Members and membership fee
6. EcoAB Projects
7. Miscellaneous

In Attendance: **Lise Grøva (LG)**, Bioforsk, Norway; **Lotta Rydhmer (LR)**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden; **Veronika Maurer (VM)**, FiBL, Switzerland; **Anet Spengler Neff (AS)**, FiBL, Switzerland; **Anna Wallenbeck (AW)**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden; **Emma Brunberg (EB)**, Bioforsk, Norway; **Therese Ahlman (TA)**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

Apologies: **Wytze Nauta (WN)**, Louis Bolk Instituut, Netherlands; **Joanne Conington**, SAC, UK; **Peter Løvendahl (PL)**, Århus University, Denmark; **Joannie Leroyer (JL)**, ITAB, France

Topics 1 and 2: Opening GM 2012 and Minutes of GM 2011

LR opens the meeting at 18.00.

LR is suggested as chairman of the meeting. All attendant members agree.

All attendant members agree with the agenda of the meeting.

All attendant members agree with the minutes of the GM 2011 in Wageningen, NL.

Topic 3: Annual report 2011

All members got the annual report two days in advance from AS. The most important EcoAB activities in 2011 were:

- The 4th general meeting of EcoAB took place March 15th in Wageningen, NL, during the LIB-stakeholders Congress. Six people attended this meeting.
- On August 31st EcoAB met in Stavanger (N) during the EAAP conference. Seven

people attended this meeting. Possibilities of doing research together concerning organic producers' preferences concerning breeding objectives in different countries were discussed.

- EcoAB started to work on a position paper about organic animal breeding which will be sent to IFOAM.

Two minor corrections were done in the annual report. Bioforsk in Norway was included in the member list and it was clarified that the meeting in Wageningen in 2011 was the fourth general meeting. All attendant members approved the changes.

Topic 4: Statement of revenues and expenditures 2010

AS presents the statement of revenues and expenditures. All members got the statement two days in advance.

The membership fee for 2011 stayed at 400 € for full members and 100 € for associated members. Almost all full members paid their fee. The revenues from membership fees amounted to 3000 € in 2011. The expenditures (for administration, rent of a room for the meeting in Stavanger) amounted to 925.95 €. The surplus revenue amounted to 11766.14 € by the end of 2011. This amount was 2074.05 € higher than by the end of 2010.

The cost for the work of TA (administration of meetings etc.) was not included in the statement because no invoice was received. All attendant members agreed that this cost should be postponed to 2012.

LG 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

All attendant members agree that the membership fee shall stay at 400 € for full members and 100 € for associated members in 2012.

Topic 6: EcoAB-Projects

The Swedish surveys of organic dairy and pig producers breeding objectives that were discussed at the last GM in Wageningen and also in Stavanger are finished and the results have been presented at EAAP in Bratislava and at the IFOAM conference in Hamburg. It has previously been suggested that the web questionnaire should be translated and adjusted for use by EcoAB members in other European countries. Using the same study outline would make it possible to compare the breeding objectives of organic farmers in different countries, and would be a nice way to start research collaboration between members. However, these studies are time and money consuming. The attendant members agreed that interested members should apply for funding individually, but that useful information about the Swedish project should be available.

One goal for 2013 is that SLU send out information about what they have done; the application, results, presentations etc., to all members of EcoAB. Also the possibility to develop an English version of the web questionnaire should be investigated.. It was also decided that EcoAB should support full members that want to develop own versions of the questionnaire. For example, members can apply for money that covers costs related to meetings about the questionnaire (e.g. travel costs to Sweden), and other kick-off activities.

Applications should be handled as follows:

- Full members can send an application by e-mail to anyone in the EcoAB board. There is no specified date for applications.
- The board member who receives the application sends it forward to the other board members.
- A majority of the board members have to accept the application.
- The member that has received money from EcoAB for a “questionnaire related activity” should afterwards send a report about the outcome of the activity to the EcoAB board.

Topic 7: Miscellaneous

AS mentioned that Günter Postler will initiate an organic breeding organization for German speaking countries. So far there has not been any collaboration with EcoAB. The members of EcoAB are interested in the process and are willing to contribute if requested. AS has been in contact with Günter Postler and will be invited to the next meeting, mainly to get information about their work. AS will thereafter inform the members of EcoAB about the process.

An informal network of people/groups wishing to support, strengthen and stimulate the development of organic animal husbandry was launched during the 2nd IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference in Hamburg; the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA). Otto Schmid who is one of the initiators asked EcoAB to join and the members agreed on doing that. Furthermore, Otto Schmid mentioned to AS that the IFOAM board is interested in developing guidelines for breeding in organic production. EcoAB is invited to join this work and have been asked to write a shorter version of the position paper presented in Hamburg 2012. The attendants at the general meeting agreed that EcoAB should be part of this work and two main tasks were identified:

- Writing a short position paper. The existing position paper for organic plant breeding could be used as an example. This should be done during 2013.
- Suggest general guidelines for organic animal breeding and communicate these with IFOAM. This work should be started during 2013.

Writing a short position paper and developing guidelines is time consuming and EcoAB should use some of the money available for this work. AW suggested that one person should be appointed as responsible for this work and financed by EcoAB, because no one has the time available otherwise. All members should of course give input and comments during the process. Otto Schmid mentioned that IFOAM would like to present their final position paper at the world congress in Turkey in 2014.

Minutes keeper: Therese Ahlman

