



Minutes of the NJF Technology Section Board Meeting May 23, 2017, Copenhagen

Participants

Snorri Sigurdsson (Iceland) - chairman, Gints Birzietis (Latvia), Alastair Ward (Denmark), Hannu J. Mikkola (Finland), Kestutis Navickas (Lithuania), Oliver Sada (Estonia), Anders Larsolle (Sweden)

Nils Bjugstad (Norway) could not participate

1. Referent

Kestutis Navickas

2. Around the table – short info from each country

Anders Larsolle (Sweden). The national board stated to work actively. It is problematic to involve new members for the activity.

Oliver Sada (Estonia). It is complicated to attract researchers to participate on NJF seminars and conferences. An opportunity to combine Masters conferences and NJF seminars might be interesting. Number of students in Agricultural Engineering have reduced during past years. Some changes of departments structure are planned by University administration. A new seminar on Animal Housing might be planned in Estonia.

Kestutis Navickas (Lithuania). Current situation of Universities in Lithuania is not stable. Government decided to reduce number of the universities. Agricultural engineering studies and research are possible only at Aleksandras Stulginskis University in Kaunas. It is a risk to lose this opportunity after changes. Faculty of Agricultural engineering has more than 400 students in all three levels. Infrastructure was significantly improved during past time. It was complicated to attract researchers and students to join NJF-Agromek conference 2016 because lack of finances.

Alastair Ward (Denmark). There is no more Agricultural Engineering studies at Aarhus University. Researchers groups are split into small units at different departments. It is strange that it is not possible to study Agricultural Engineering as a subject because traditional Agro machinery industries exist and the field encompasses all aspects of engineering. Perhaps the reason is because the university now provides fewer titles for courses but specialisation within these titles is still possible. Some modern research in Bioeconomy and Biorefinery appear. Biogas group in Foulum is still active with a good result.

Gints Birzietis (Latvia). Situation in Latvia is similar to other Baltic states. Under the strategy of the faculty we are trying to increase activities in research. We are trying to stimulate researchers create more research products: scientific publications, research projects (both national both international). NJF collaboration may help to find partners in Nordic and Baltic countries. Research projects might be performed with industries but some researchers are not ready for such collaboration.

Hannu J. Mikkola (Finland). Finland has more than 120 NJF members. They are interested for more active collaboration with other NJF members from other countries (Sweden and others). At present Helsinki university is only one University applying Agricultural Engineering degree in Finland. Research in Agricultural Engineering is still active in three Finland institutions.

Snorri Sigurdsson (Iceland). After crisis Iceland economy and demand of agricultural products is growing up because tourism is very active. Activity of NJF is very high with more than 100 members. NJF support students to involve them into different common activities.

3. Information from NJF

NJF board meeting is planned at 24.05.2017 in Copenhagen. Present NJF administration is weakening.

4. Activities in 2016 – NJF-EurAgEng-Agromek conference in Herning

Topic was taken with participation with Agromek managing director Claus Hermansen. He introduced with a new strategy of Agromek, current situation, problems and future perspectives. The fair of 2016 was successful with a big number of visitors and more than 500 exhibitors.

NJF conference had fewer participants in comparison with 2014. We need some improvements in organisation, motivation and registration of participants. It would be important to activate participation of students. Work group for students might be introduced. Topics of drones or/and robots are novel and interesting for young people. Some competition between groups might be organised.

Organising committee of the NJF/Agromek/EurAgEng conference 2018: *Snorri Sigurdsson, Nils Bjugstad, Claus Hermansen*. Scientific committee will be established during next Technology section meeting. First announcement will be presented in collaboration with Agromek.

5. Possible activities in 2017, 2018 & 2019

a. NJF congress 2018

Suggested topics from Technology section:

- 1) Future farming;
- 2) Bioenergy;
- 3) Bioeconomy;
- 4) Soil sciences

b. Seminar *Bioenergy*. Suggested a new name *Biorefinery*. It is modern activity with combination of energy conversion and other products (fertilisers, compost etc.). Alastair starts activity of this topic.

c. Seminar *Milking technique* in collaboration with animal section.

Planning committee: *Snorri Sigurdsson, other representatives from Baltic and Nordic countries*

d. Seminar *Advanced measurement technique/ spectroscopic techniques in agriculture*

Suggested time of activity – 2019 spring.

e. Other ideas

Horse husbandry (2019)? *Snorri Sigurdsson*

Insect farming?

6. Questions for survey among NJF technology members

1 – Country

2 – Major area of activity :

- Scientist
- Farmer
- Student
- Advisor
- Teacher
- Agricultural industry
- Other

3. How satisfied are you with NJF-Technology activities (1=not satisfied, 5 very satisfied)

1-5

4. What would you like NJF-Technology section to improve for the members?

- reduce cost of activities
- broader conferences
- more specific conferences
- workshops among members
- working groups for members
- networking of members
- online streaming of presentations
- knowledge sharing
- more collaboration with other sections
- other, what:

5. What kind of topics/areas of interest would make you attend NJF-Technology activity?

7. Traveling expenses

A new form for sending info to NJF. First to Snorri, he will sign and send to secretary.

8. Next meeting

Next Technology section SKYPE meeting planned on 13-12-2017 10:00 – 11:30 (Central European Time).

30-05-2017

Kestutis Navickas