

Minutes of the NJF Technology Section Board Skype-meeting 6th December 2017, at 10-11 (GMT+2:00)

Participants

Gints Birzietis (Latvia) chairman, Alastair Ward (Denmark), Anders Larsolle (Sweden), Hannu J. Mikkola (Finland).

Nils Bjugstad (Norway), Oliver Sada (Estonia), and Kestutis Navickas (Lithuania) could not participate. Snorri Sigurdsson (Iceland) has informed that he is not any more able to participate the work of The NJF Technology Section Board.

1. Referent

Hannu Mikkola

2. Around the table – short info from each country

Alastair Ward (Denmark). There has not been changes in Denmark after the previous meeting.

Anders Larsolle (Sweden). In Sweden there has been activity related with autonomous work machines and their proper battery strategy. Finance has come from the national energy section. Scholarships for people travelling to NJF seminars and congress are under work.

Hannu J. Mikkola (Finland). On the research sector there was not new releases in Finland. The appointment process of the professor of agricultural engineering in the University of Helsinki is going on and it will be hopefully completed in the spring 2018. The number of NJF members is decreasing and it is difficult to recruit new, young people.

Gints Birzietis (Latvia). Latvia has got ERDF finance from EU and now they are considering how to use this money in the best way. It is difficult to recruit new, active NJF members and the old ones are so busy with their daily work that there is limited time and energy for NJF.

3. AGROMEK 2018

There has been plans to arrange a NJF seminar in connection with the AGROMEK fair 27 – 30 November 2018. Nils Bjugstad has been the active person from the side of the NJF Technology Board but because Nils was not participating the meeting it was difficult to proceed and to do decisions. However, there was discussions about the topics, organizing committee and scientific committee.

The topic of the 2016 seminar was “Advances and Innovations in Agricultural Engineering”. The subtopics were: robotics, sensors, imaging & weeds, tillage, energy, and management & systems. The old topic was seen good and there was debate between pros and cons of wide and specific topics.

In the meeting 23rd May 2017 Snorri Sigurdsson, Nils Bjugstad, and Claus Hermansen were appointed to the organizing committee. The current situation is that Snorri is not any more able to participate the organizing committee due to changes in his work.

The scientific committee was suggested to be the same as 2016. The assembly was: Nils Bjugstad, Allan Pedersen, Claus Sørensen, Ole Green, Eskil Nilsson, Hannu Haapala, Kestutis Navickas, Per Anders Hansson, and Snorri Sigurdsson. An approval has to be asked from these persons to act as the members of the scientific committee 2018.

4. Activities 2018 –

The NJF congress will take place in Kaunas, Lithuania 27-29 June 2018. There is not yet further information about the topics and other issues of the congress.

Bioenergy or biorefinery seminar in 2018 - 2019. Alastair Ward develops the idea.

Milking technology. This was Snorri's idea. Gints asks from Snorri whether this is still relevant.

Horse husbandry. This was also Snorri's idea and Gints asks its relevance. Iceland should present a new member to the technology section board instead of Snorri.

Advanced measurement technique/spectroscopic techniques in agriculture – 2019? Alastair Ward develops the idea.

Insect farming. This was seen as an interesting topic. Some research is going on and commercial applications exist (e.g. <https://www.entocube.com/entocube-en>). NJF could be the responsible organizer of the seminar though there are no insect experts in NJF – or are there?

5. Other matters

Gints discusses with Nils whether a new Skype-meeting is needed before the meeting in Copenhagen 25th January 2018. The schedule of the meeting 25th January 2018 should be confirmed that members of the technology section board can do their ticket bookings.

6. Closing

Gints Birzietis thanked participants and closed the meeting.

6th December 2017
Hannu Mikkola

Comments from Nils Bjugstad after having a discussion with Gints Birzietis on 6th December 2017

As you know, the seminar in November 2018 will be the third seminar in this range, please see <http://njf.nu/seminars/ny-calendar-event-5/?date=2016-11-28> for information about last seminar where also EurAgEng <https://www.eurageng.eu/> was involved, what I also think is important for this next seminar (together with NJF and Agromek, but still for “our” countries. The idea behind the seminar is to gather more technical topics into one seminar. By doing this we ensure a higher number of participants, more interaction, networking and discussion and not at least less administration work for ourselves. In addition we get a better contact to manufacturers and

innovation which is much more highlighted today than earlier (what I also believe is important and correct). The new things for the next seminar from my point of view are;

- To involve all of us in the NJF Technology section in the organizing committee.
- To involve even more topics like technique and engineering for bioenergy and also indoor mechanization.
- How to handle other seminars and conferences in this area; we will have the NJF Congress in Lithuania in June and AgEng in Wageningen in the Netherlands in July <https://ageng2018.com/> (both are important and we could also use these conferences in order to marketing our workshop).
- Snorri helped as secretary and used the new NJF web tool. I have asked NJF in Sweden to pass over the manual for use of this system. I would also suggest, as earlier, that we are at least two people dealing with the contact of participants and making and updating the webpage. Then it is also more easy to make a good looking webpage etc.
- There is a new director of Agromek; Claus Hermansen took over for Allan Pedersen. But he seems to be a good new director open for cooperation with us.
- To start the seminar on Tuesday (earlier we started Monday). By starting on Tuesday, we may already go to the fair the last part of this day and also participate at an international party arranged at the fair. This may ensure more people to attend at the fair and good change of theoretical and practical issues.
- We can do the same on Wednesday, but we can probably arrive a bit later at the fair, because on Wednesday the fair use to be open a bit later (have to check at the meeting in January. (or that we have a longer theoretical part and that the participants visit the fair on their own, ex after 14 – 16 (depending of number of papers).

At the meeting in Copenhagen 25/1 we have to discuss more in details topics involved, people to work in different countries to get participants, marketing of web page etc. and not at least the organization of the workshop together with Agromek. We also have to start marketing the workshop as soon as possible after the meeting (make a web page in advance and send link).

Please note the members earlier at in the organizing committee (scientific committee) at the first link from the last workshop. Here I would suggest to add all of you, and we can discuss if any former participants should be removed. Anyway, I find it of high importance that Claus Åge Sørensen is attending. He is now the president of EurAgEng, has earlier done a great job, know a lot of the exhibitors and we may also get good PR at the AgEng in Wageningen in July.

I hope to see you all at the meeting in Copenhagen the 25th of January. More information will follow in advance. You are also free to pass ideas and comments due to the seminar within this time.