Minutes Final
Public-Private Partnership for pre-breeding Steering Committee (PPP-SC)

Meeting: 16th PPP SC meeting
Purpose: Applications to 3rd PPP Call 2015
Date: 8th April 2016
Time: 9.30-15.00, lunch 12.30
Place: PLEN trial station in Taastrop, Højbakkegaard Allé 30, 2630 Taastrop
Participants: Country representatives:
   - Birgitte Lund, NAER, DK (BL)
   - Tuula Pehu, MMM, FI (TP)
   - Thoroddur Sveinsson, LBHI, IS (TS)
   - Magne Gullord, LMD, NO (MG)
   - Andres Nilsson, SLU, SE (AN)
Plant breeding entities representatives:
   - Annette Olesen, Lantmännen, SE (AO)
   - Idun Christie, Graminor, NO (IC)
   - Marja Jalli, LUKE, FI (MJ)
   - Ahmed Jahooor, Nordic Seed, DK (AJ)
   - Participated between 9.30-12.00
Nordic Academia representative:
   - Rodolfo Ortiz, SLU, SE (RO)
Secretariat:
   - Annette Hägnerfelt, NordGen (AH)

Absence notice: Mati Koppel, Jõgeva, Estonia
Minutes: Annette Hägnerfelt

The SC meeting started at PLEN trial station in Taastrop were Prof. Svend Christensen, Prof. Thomas Roitsch and PhD Stud. Jesper Svensgaard from University of Copenhagen welcomed us. Svend gave an overview of their faculty organization and especially the Plant and Environmental department, PLEN and the trial station in Taastrop. We then continued with a tour at the trial station and Thomas told us about the building up of the PhenoLab in the new glasshouse and Jesper took us outside for an inspection of the RadiMax facility.

Minutes:
1. Opening of meeting & welcome (AN)

AN opened the meeting and welcomed all. We decided to send our sincere greetings to Svend, Thomas, Jesper and Mira for their kind and welcoming reception and very interesting demonstration of their facilities in Taastrop.

2. Agenda, adjustment (AN)

Magne Gullord was chosen to adjust the minutes. Item 6, Listing of PPP partners active breeding programs was decided to move up after item 2 since AJ had to leave the meeting earlier. New agenda was accepted.

3. Listing of PPP partners active breeding programs (AN/AH)
The compiled information on running Nordic breeding programs was presented and grouped as Cereals, Fabaceae, Forage/Amenity, Fruit/Barries, Industry and scientific/research/others, together with information of active partners for each crop group. The compilation was concluded to be a list over the partner’s crop interests rather than really active breeding programs. After a short discussion it was decided to

- Update the list with pea breeding at Nordic Seed.
- Present the ppt slides on the NordGen homepage.
- Make an excel table with PPP partners as x-axis and crops as y-axis.
- Once more consult the partners and ask for further information regarding
  - When was the latest variety application on a national list or corresponding list?
  - Is there new variation coming out of current breeding programs?
  - Are there lines in advanced trials?
- Crops/species in the scientific/research/others list like Guizotia and trees were decided to be excluded since they do not fall within the PPP mandate.
- Mere maintenance of older or market varieties in crops where active breeding has stopped does not merit inclusion on the list of Nordic breeding programs.

4. **Minutes from last meeting (AN)**

Minutes from the last meeting were accepted and filed.

5. **Updates from NMR (AN)**

Changes in agreement on the PPP is after a written procedure accepted and signed. See mail conversation between AN and Torfi Johannesson in Appendix 250.

6. **Updates from secretariat (AH)**

a) **Funding and payments**

- **National contribution:** A scheme of the five ministries contributions made to PPP annually from its start in 2011 until today was presented and with the comment from AH – disbursement of funding’s takes time every year. So far only Norway and Sweden (part A) have paid for 2016. AN remarks that Swedish EIP money (part B) isn’t yet clear. TS will be given more information from the secretariat regarding the Icelandic payment.

- **Project payments:** A similar scheme was presented of payments to the project owners. Payments regarding last 15% for 2015 and first 85% for 2016 is still under process due to ongoing inspection of the annual reports of the first period from 2015 with deadline last February 2016.

- **Balanced funds:** AH presented a summarized status of remaining funds of part A (financed by DK, FI, IS, NO, SE) and part B (financed by DK, IS, SE), with the approved new project “Site-directed Mutations” included.
  - Part A, with total amount of 6P NPPN included, status is DKK - 1.379.494
  - Part B, with total amount of 6P research included, status is DKK + 3.201.100
  - Left to allocate of part B funding is DKK + 1.821.606
SC reacts on the negative status of part A which is explain by AN as due to the decision that the 6P NPPN shall be funded with as much afforded from part A, which at present is DKK 151.756 (1.531.250 minus 1.379.494). For detailed information see Appendix 241. The balanced funds can be increased with a present reservation of funding for eventual costs during the interim period in 2014. When the partner’s fiscal year 2015 is closed the balanced funds can be increased with the remaining reserved funding.

b) Update on partner’s project reporting (AH)

Deadline of “Annual reports” were the last of February and all partners have reported by today. The reconstructed template was used satisfactory. However, the requested withdrawal from the general ledger with accounts together with verifications were not acceptable. It is also obvious that the confidential salary reporting is intricate due to strict company rules of not sharing this information either within the organization nor with outsiders. The secretariat has to continue to improve the interchange by:

- Increased communication between the NordGen accountant and the partner’s accountants.
- Avoiding misunderstandings by using adequate economy vocabulary as well in English as translated to the Nordic languages.
- Giving extra help to partners who work in subsidiaries with extensive delegated accounting function and hence have little support in accounting.
- Finding alternative ways of reporting actual salary costs and still fulfill the Swedish National Audit Office demands on the projects financial statements.

c) Question from partner regarding educational costs

Personal assistant in 6P, Mira Arpe Bendevis, has asked for co-financing of a project manager course in 3 modules, DKK 5400 each. The SC concluded that, if the course is not included in the application from the beginning, the SC will not accept the request.

d) Application for extra funding to PPP ryegrass

The aim of the project from Prof. Odd Arne Rognli is to assign genomic estimated breeding values to the perennial ryegrass genebank accessions used in the PPP for pre-breeding in perennial ryegrass. On behalf of the ryegrass project he has applied for DKK 700.000 to be able to recruit a post-doc for one year. Among comments from SC were that it was good of Rognli to ask since appropriate research could be done for small money. On the other hand, the presentation of deliverables was not sufficient and SC decided to reject the application with the following motivations:

- There is no available funding left in the PPP part A.
- There is no corresponding financing by the partners of the ryegrass project presented by Rognli.
- SC has not announced a new Call for part A.
- SC suggests Rognli to apply from NordForsk instead.

e) Question regarding use of remaining funds in the barley project

Ahmed Jahoor has sent a request for using remnant funding of DKK 114.000, meant to be used at Lantmännen during the prolongation face in 2014. If approved the funding will be used to finance
the multiplication of DH barley in New Zealand in winter 2016/2017. This NZ multiplication is not planned in the Barley II project 2015-2017.

SC decided that we are not able to approve this request at present due to:

- Lack of information regarding the original purpose of the money
- Need of accurate justification of how the matching funding looks like
- The importance of always reporting clarification of remnant funding as decided at former SC meeting.

7. Funding of accepted application “Riktade mutationer”

AN recapitulated what has happened since SC approved the application in November. The application has been tailored into the SJV EIP-template and it is also supplemented with further support from three grower’s organizations, as a criterion for EIP funding. However, since one week the situation has changed as information about Findus, one of the partner in the application, has been announced that the activity in Sweden will be closed according to the new owner Nomad Foods. At today’s date we don’t have enough knowledge about coming changes and AN propose SC to just wait until more information is available and to allow the project consortium to propose changes in the project set-up up to end of June in order to make possible the project. The motive for this was the support the SC had shown for the project. SC agreed.

8. Tentative 4th Call

SC concluded that opening a new Call will have to await the outcome of the “Riktade mutationer” application brought up in item 7. When situation has cleared a decision can be taken on a Call for applications to PPP part B. Available funding will be either 1,8 milj DKK or 4,2 milj DKK and will be dependent on funding within the Swedish EIP-scheme. Such a decision could be taken in a written procedure.

9. PPP Communication plan (AH)

AH circulated a copy of a leaflet that just now serves as model of an Information brochure of PPP. The description of the project was acknowledged.

10. Updating of Flow Chart for PPP (AH)

An updated Flow chart for the PPP was presented. No further comments were added.

11. Updates from all members on PPP related issues

AJ: Nordic Seed has recently acquired Monsanto’s breeding, development, and seed production business areas related to hybrid rye, including the cultivation of pre-foundation and foundation seed. AJ also informed that the intensified activities in Faba beans and peas will already next year result in sending the first pea variety(s) for VCU trials.

AN: In Sweden many talk warmly about the possibilities with plant breeding. The Swedish food sector new strategy is still being prepared by the government.

RO: Planning is ongoing for next NOVA course with genomics as its theme. The course will be held at SLU in Umeå in January.

BL: In Denmark a new strategy for how to save plant genetic resources is discussed.
IC: PPP and Norway’s involvement is again discussed in Norway. It is important that SC can show the impact that PPP funding has had.
MJ: LUKE is about to close the Laukaa site. It is still not known to where all the present activities will be moved, including the control cultivation of seed lots and DUS-testing. Business in Boreal runs as usual, but sowing hasn’t started yet.
TS: Iceland has a new government from today. Most probable is that this change not will inflict on the activities at LBHI and PPP. Thoroddur will “save travel costs” for the secretariat since he is going to move to Reykjavik.

12. Next meeting and topic suggestion NordApp

Next meeting was decided to the 19th of August, 10.00-15.00, in Alnarp or Balsgård where we hope to get interesting information from the NordApp project.

13. Any other business

Anders thanked all for an interesting meeting. Meeting ended at 14.30

Annette Hägnerfelt
Secretary

Anders Nilsson
Chairman

Magne Gullord
Adjustment