

**Nordic School
of
Agroecology/Ecological Agriculture**

Annual Report 2002
Including preliminary plans for 2003

February 2003

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Nordic School of Agroecology/Ecological Agriculture

The NOVA working group for Agroecology/Ecological Agriculture was established in 1997, as a result of increased networking among scientists at the agricultural universities during the first half of the 1990s. The initial proposal of the group was to establish a Nordic unit under NOVA, a unit that would do research and offer education in agroecology/ecological agriculture. Since under the current rules NOVA University was not in the formal position to give educational degrees, the working group decided to apply a network approach. With this model, formal degrees in agroecology/ecological agriculture should be given by the individual member universities, but based on strong Nordic collaboration in the network, to be led by the NOVA working group. In spite of institutional barriers, the group has succeeded in developing educational programs at both the MSc and PhD-levels.

Vision and primary focus

In the spirit of NOVA, the vision is Nordic collaboration on agroecology:

- 1) Reducing the gap between societal priorities and university responses regarding ecological agriculture
- 2) Serving the development of ecological and sustainable food systems
- 3) Enhancing the spin-off from ecological to conventional agriculture
- 4) Transcending the sectorial approaches in agricultural research and education
- 5) Focusing on the multifunctional role of agriculture - from production to consumption
- 6) Creating a climate for the cultivation of knowledge, across disciplines and professions
- 7) Being a network that is open and inviting, reflective, creative, inclusive, engaging, brave and participatory

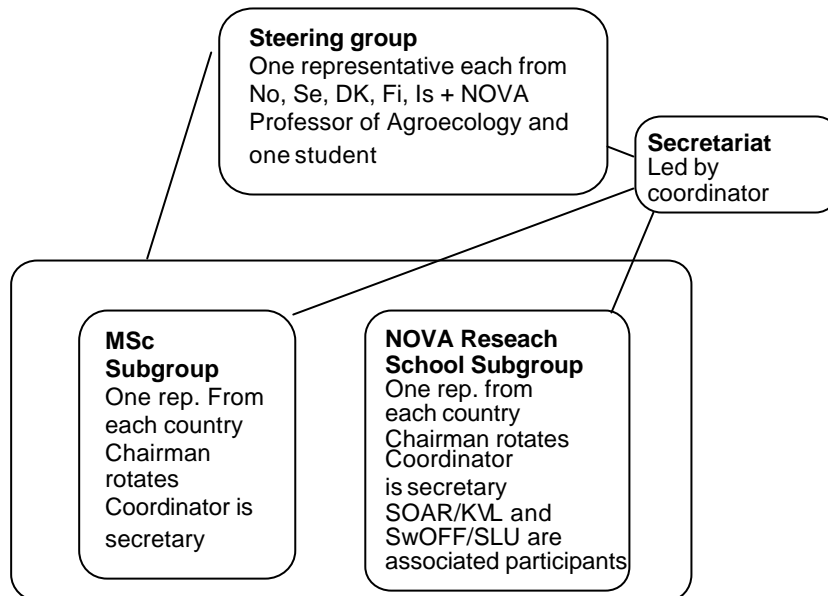
"Through internal reflection and dialogue in a supportive and open environment and strong communication with the outside world, the NOVA Nordic School of Agroecology/Ecological Agriculture brings about an innovative contribution from agricultural universities that is in tune with the needs of society".

The primary focus is a NOVA Nordic School in Agroecology/Ecological Agriculture being responsible for the development and content of:

- 1) A Nordic educational program (BSc., MSc., PhD)
- 2) A Nordic research and development program

Linking the three activities - education, research and change in society.

Formal Structure



The representatives of the steering group and the secretariat as of 2002 and 2003 are:

Coordinator/Secretary Dorthe Christensen

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Other working group members and participants in the work in the year 2002 are:

Denmark:

Professor John Porter, KVL
Associate Professor Vibeke Langer, KVL
Academic Assistant of the Research School for Organic Agriculture and Food Systems
(SOAR) Sofie Kobayashi, KVL

Finnland:

Dr. Helena Kahiluoto, HU

Norway:

Professor Tor Arvid Breland, NLH
Student Jon Magne Holten, NLH
Head of International Student Office, Thorbjørn Gilberg, NLH
Consultant Mike Moulton, Senter for Etter-og Videreuddanning (SEVU) , NLH

Sweden:

Dr. Ulrika Geber, SLU
Student Martin Sylwan, SLU
Director of Center for Sustainable Agriculture (CUL) Karin Höök, SLU
NOVA Central Coordinator Knut Wålstedt, NOVA
NOVA Rector, Professor Paul Jensén, NOVA

Activities during 2002

Working group meetings in 2002

Denmark, Copenhagen, KVL, January 23 – 25

The goal was to sum up the activities during the past years, to revisit the vision of the group and to develop an action plan for 2002-2007.

Participants were John Porter, Nadarajah Sriskandarajah and Vibeke Langer from KVL, Karin Höök, Lennart Salomonsson and Martin Sylwan from SLU, Juha Helenius from HU, Geir Lieblein and Jon Magne Holten from NLH.

Sweden, Alnarp, May 15

The goal was to discuss the further development of the NOVA working group in agroecology, based on the action plan for 2002-2007 of the Copenhagen meeting in January.

Participants were Paul Jensén, Knut Wålstedt from NOVA, Geir Lieblein from NLH and Lennart Salomonsson from SLU.

Norway, Drøbak, June 24-25

The goal of the meeting was to finalize the action plan for the working group, and to prepare for the next phase of agroecology/ecological agriculture in NOVA, based on the meeting with Paul Jensén and Knut Wålstedt in May. A tighter organisation of the NOVA working group in agroecology/ecological agriculture was proposed.

Participants were Nadarajah Sriskandarajah and Vibeke Langer from KVL, Lennart Salomonsson from SLU, Geir Lieblein, Thorbjørn Gilberg and Mike Moulton from NLH.

Sweden, Alnarp, September 19

The goal was to have a second meeting with Paul Jensén and Knut Wålstedt in order to discuss further development.

Other participants were Geir Lieblein from NLH, Lennart Salomonsson from SLU, Visiting Professor of Agroecology Charles Francis from UNL, Sofie Kobayashi from KVL.

Other meetings

Germany, Witzenhausen, September 14.-15

Annual meeting of European Universities Ecological Agriculture Curriculum Development and Co-ordination Network.

Participants from the working group of Nordic School of Agroecology/Ecological Agriculture were Geir Lieblein from NLH, Ulrika Geber from SLU and Helena Kahiluoto from HU.

The MSc Program

The following courses have been implemented in 2002:

- 1) “Ecological Agriculture I” at KVL (24 ECTS -BSc) – January to June
- 2) “Adaptive management – theory course” at SLU (15 ECTS- MSc) – January to March
- 3) “Adaptive management – project course” at SLU (15 ECTS-MSc) – April to June
- 4) “Intensive international summer course in ecological agriculture” at SLU (6 ECTS-BSc)–June
- 5) “Agroecology and Farming Systems” at NLH (15 ECTS – MSc) – August to October
- 6) “Agroecology and Food Systems” at NLH (15 ECTS – MSc) – October to December

MSc students enrolled in the courses “Agroecology and Farming Systems” and “Agroecology and Food Systems” at NLH were:

Pernille Vils	Axelsen	Denmark
Traci	Birge	Finland
Andrea	Cavalieri	Italy
Ann	Egeskjold	Denmark
Martina	Hammer	Germany
Keisha	Patent	USA
Karme	Petrutis	Estonia
Susanne	Thomsen	Denmark
Puspa Raj	Tiwari	Nepal
Kjartan	Åsebø	Norway

Students enrolled in the MSc program in 2001:

Wendy Marie Hall, Canada: Supervisor Tor Arvid Breland, NLH

Steffen Adler, Germany: Supervisor Geir Lieblein

Laura Helena Cantillo Rojas, Colombia: Supervisor Geir Lieblein, NLH

Horacio Cavilli, Argentina.

José Gonzalez Plaza, Spain.

Students enrolled in the MSc program in 2002:

Karme Petrutis, Estonia

Ppuspa Raj Tiwari, Nepal

Kjartan Åsebø, Norway

Martina Hammer, Germany

PhD-level

The following courses have been implemented in 2002:

- 1) Research methodologies in relation to principles and practice of organic agriculture, 4 ECTS credits, September 7.-11. Research School for Organic Agriculture and Food Systems (SOAR), KVL, Denmark
- 2) Living systems principles and ecosystems properties as foundation for sustainable land use, exact dates in November/December, 7.5 ECTS credits, Swedish Research School in Organic Farming and Food Systems (SwOFF), SLU, Sweden

Other activities

NOVA visiting professor in Agroecology Charles Francis spent one month in the Nordic region in September-October. He gave contributions to the MSc in agroecology at NLH, and participated in the dialog with Paul Jensén and Knut Wålstedt on the further development of the NOVA working group in agroecology/ecological agriculture.

Accounting for 2002

Activity	Costs and source
Meeting Denmark, Copenhagen, KVL, Januar 23. – 25	44 216 NOK from NOVA
Meeting Sweden, Alnarp, May 15?	Financed directly by NOVA
Norway, Drøbak, June 24-25	20 403 NOK from NOVA
Sweden, Alnarp, September 19	Financed directly by NOVA
Visiting professor Charles Francis	21 000 NOK from NOVA with additional funding from NLH.

Activities planned for 2003

Scheduled meetings

Working Group meeting, January 29 at KVL

Working Group meeting, May 8-9 at SLU

Working Group meeting, end of June

Participate in meeting of European Universities Ecological Agriculture Curriculum Development and Co-ordination Network, September

MSc Program

Courses:

- 1) Ecological Agriculture I” at KVL (24 ECTS -BSc) – January to June
- 2) “Adaptive management – theory course” at SLU (15 ECTS- MSc) – January to March
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- 6) “Agroecology and Food Systems” at NLH (15 ECTS – MSc) – October to December

An evaluation of the MSc. program, which is requested by NOVA and organized by NLH, will take place at the end of March and be ready in April. Three representatives, from Wageningen University, Open University UK and from the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture will do the evaluation. The structure of the evaluation is based on self evaluation worked out by GL and Tor Arvid Breland.

PhD-level courses

- 1) Multifunctional animal husbandry in organic Farming. (SwOFF, SLU, contact Gunnela Gustafson), 7-8 ECTS credits, Spring 2003.
- 2) Systems analysing tools – an overview (SwOFF, contact Lennart Salomonsson), 6 ECTS credits, Nov./Dec. 2003.
- 3) Values, ideologies and organic Farming. (SOAR, KVL, contact Sofie Kobayashi), 4 ECT, September 15-19.

Other activities in 2003

- Visiting professor in Agroecology Charles Francis will come for approximately 4 weeks, August-September
- Renew/update web page
- Further development of research school
- Explore possibilities of a joint research project done by the working group