



**Minutes of the Steering Committee meetings and of the 9th
General Assembly Meeting**
French academy of Agriculture, Paris
11-12 October 2016

Part 1 Meeting of the Steering Committee
11 October 2016 : 13.00h

Attendees : V. Podrazsky, (CR), M. Thibier, (FR), G. Maracchi, (IT), B. Rizva, (LI), K. Niblaeus, (SU)
and as observers: J.-M. Boussard, FRA. Ricroch, FR, V. Hruby, CR, M.-C. Aubin (translator)
for CR members.

1. Welcome address

M Thibier welcome all members present on behalf of the Académie d'Agriculture de France in its historical conference room. President V Podrazsky opened the meeting at 13.10 and A Ricroch accepted to be appointed as the recording secretary, thanks to her.

2. Approval of the minutes of December 2-3 2015 meeting in Prague

Unanimously approved

3. Business arising from the minutes

President V Podrazsky summarized his speech that he will deliver later in the day at the GA Assembly re. to the work accomplished to the UEAA web site. This was done thanks to the excellent cooperation with a Czech company located in Prague, namely e-Fractal. He reiterated his thanks to the Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry who kindly assisted the Czech both technically and financially. Financially speaking, there will be a bit of leftover that will be passed on to the French Academy to take care of this new web site during its presidency (2016-2018). President Podrazsky then mentioned all the work that has been done in Prague to edit an updated list of all members of the UEAA with the accurate e-mail addresses. This list has been passed on to M Thibier.

A discussion took place about new candidates to the next steering committee who will be proposed to the members at the GA (see minutes of the GA).

President Podrazsky mentioned that he will present a motion at the GA for the formal nomination of M Thibier as the President of the UEAA for the Académie d'Agriculture de France for the years 2016 - 2018. Approved.

He asked M Thibier if he would have a candidate for Vice President for the years 2018- 2020. The answer was yes: Professor G Maracchi (Italy). Approved. His name will be proposed to the GA for approval.

4. New business

Following M Thibier's suggested ideas, it was decided to present to the G A the following items:

- a) An additional meeting if possible in the odd year (between the two meetings of the GA on the even years) and also if possible in Brussels in close connection with the EU Commission. K Niblaeus from the Swedish Academy supported this idea strongly. G Maracchi is volunteer to approach the Commission via members of the Accademia dei Georgofilli of which G Maracchi is President. Idea approved to be presented to the G A and thanks to G Maracchi.
- b) M Thibier was approached by a French member of the French Academy, namely JP Bastié to try to get some information in the European countries about education and training of the future farmers. The note is here attached in Appendix 1. The idea is to set up an Electronic Working Group (EWG) with members of the UEAA across Europe and finalize a report at our next UEAA GA in 2018. Approved and thanks to J P Bastié.
- c) A Ricoch presented the French scientific opinion on the regulation of the targeted mutagenesis adopted by two academies: the French academy of Agriculture and the French Academy of Technologies. Approved to be presented and commented at the GA, thanks to A Ricoch.

5. Time planning of the 9th General Assembly of the UEAA

M Thibier presented the Agenda of this GA that had been sent days before to the members. The Agenda that will be proposed to the GA is approved by the steering committee members. M Thibier informed that M S Pais from Portugal had an accident and suffers from her ankle and hence cannot be present to day. A Ricoch will then be offered to show a couple of slides about the targeted mutagenesis at the end of the afternoon during M S Pais's slot.

6. Future meeting

After the Colloquium 12 October at the Académie d'Agriculture de France at 17.00h.

Part 2 Meeting of the 9th General Assembly 11 October 2016 : 14.30h

Attendees: 25 members from Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Chair: V. Podrazsky

1. Welcome address by M Thibier

2. Recording secretary

A Ricoch kindly accepted to take notes for the recording of the meeting. Thanks to her

3. Recording of the current members

The present members were asked to introduce themselves, names, affiliation and the countries they represented.

4. Approval of the agenda

Approved

5. Approval of the minutes of the 8th General Assembly

Approved

6. Approval of Past President's report

President Podrazsky presented what was reported at the steering committee:

- Setting up the new UEAA web site thanks to the generosity of the Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and with the technical assistance of a Czech company e-Fractal.
- Update of the list of UEAA members,
- A small amount of money (1000€) left over will be passed on to France. This money will be used to finish the installation of the new web site and its maintenance.

Report unanimously approved

7. Formal nomination of the new President

In a motion President Podrazsky proposed Professor M Thibier from France as a new President.

Approved and applause. Congratulations to the new President.

Chair: M. Thibier

8. Nomination of the new Vice President

President M Thibier proposed Professor G. Maracchi from Italy and current President of the Accademia dei Georgofili .

Approved and applause. Congratulations to the new Vice President.

9. Membership of the steering committee (S C)

After discussion, the following members were approved as members of the S C, thanks to them.

1. New president: M. Thibier (FR)
2. Past president: V. Podrazsky (CZ)
3. Vice president: G. Maracchi (IT)
4. B. Rivza (LV)
5. K. Niblaeus (SE)
6. G. Sin (RO)
7. Z. Dabkevicius (LT)
8. D. Gardner (UK)
9. V Gadzalo (UA)

10. Suggested plan of action for 2016-2018

President M Thibier indicated the main axes of the French Presidency:

- Maintenance and improvement of the new UEAA web site
- Organization if possible of a UEAA meeting in 2017 in Brussels
- Creation of a UEAA commission "technical agricultural education" with networking across Europe through the UEAA member countries under the idea and with the assistance of J P Bastié from the Académie d'Agriculture de France.(see Appendix 1).

Following the discussion about the possible meeting in Brussels in 2017, the main ideas were as follows: the idea of this 2017 meeting in link with the EU Commission should deal with Evidence-base decision (D Gardner), interaction with the EU Commission on CAP problematic (K Niblaeus), Theme on climatic changes? (JM Boussard), Soil protection challenge? (JC Munch), Development and extension of the 4D4F (see report by D Gardner) according to B Razva.

Contact with the EU Commission will be taken by Vice President G Maracchi, thanks to him. He will then discuss what is the most appropriate topic of interest to the Commission and for which the advices and positions of the UEAA would be the most effective. Tomas Garcia Azcarate kindly offered his help to G Maracchi, thanks to him.

Re. the UEAA commission “technical agricultural education”, the steering committee approved the idea and the members are ready to respond to the questions JP Bastié will deal with.

11. Other business

The discussion was carried on the note on the regulation of the targeted mutagenesis that Agnès Ricroch had distributed. It was proposed that instead of opinion, it should be the “Position” of the UEAA. This was approved by all members but one abstention (**Appendix 2**).

12. Second part of the meeting ; Oral presentations

By D Gardner, V Podrazsky and A Ricroch.
(see Abstract Book of the Colloquium).

13. Future meeting and adjournment

President M Thibier mentioned that the next G A meeting will take place at in 2018 in Italy. He adjourned the meeting at 17.00 h.

Part 3 Meeting of the Steering Committee 12 October 2016 : 17.00h

Attendees : M. Thibier,(FR), G. Maracchi, (IT), V. Podrazsky (CZ), B. Rizva, (LV), D Gardner (UK) Niblaeus, (SE), G. Sin, (RO), Y Gadzalo, (UA), Z. Dabkevicius, (LT), G. Aleksidze, (GE)

*Observers:*J.-M. Boussard, (FR), A. Ricroch, (FrR), V. Hruby, (CZ), M.-C. Aubin (translator) and J.-C. Munch, (DE)

1. Welcome, call to order and appointment of a recording secretary

President M Thibier welcome again all the members of this S C and thanked them to remain in the conference room after a full day of hard work.

A. Ricroch agreed to again take care of the note for the minutes., thanks to her.

2. Business arising from the General Assembly meeting.

- Meeting in 2017:

The Vice President G Maracchi made comments on the way he is going to approach one member of the Italian Accademia dei Georgofili in post at the EU Commission to try to organize such a meeting next year (2017) in Brussels in close link to the EU Commission. He hopes to

be able to give some information about such a meeting in the next few months. The committee expressed its appreciation.

Again the discussion allowed the members to express a few ideas such as:

- Science-based decision/ approach
- Soil preservation/protection
- Farmers' problems in Europe
 - A. Ricroch mentioned a study she conducted in 14 EU countries to identifying challenges farmers and biotech solutions (conventional plant breeding and next plant breeding techniques).
- Should we add volatility prices and other economics problems (G. Maracchi).
- CAP; How to “put science” in the game before the implementation of CAP. What information do the CAP actors need?
- Balance between fundamental and applied science (How academicians can help for farmers?)
- How to attract young researchers to agriculture research? (Z. Dabkevicius).
-

The S C would suggest that the meeting takes place in fall 2017 and according to the discussion with the EU Commission, see if one half a day meeting will be sufficient or whether it needs one full day debate.

- **Creation of an UEAA commission** (technical agriculture organization) (Appendix 1)

This commission will work through an Electronic Working Group (EWG) and if it has progressed well enough, a Physical Working Group should meet back to back to the next G A in 2018. JP Bastié (French academy) will take the lead. OK from the S C to actively participate to what J P Bastié will send the group to start this EWG.

3. Other business

The website is well organized and is now it stabilized, the French members of the S C will make sure it keeps well updated.

A report on how the money has been used will be made by the Czech Academy as requested by the Swedish Government.

A.Ricroch will enquire about the possibility to get a DOI to publish the abstract of the oral presentations of this 2016 UEAA Colloquium in the e-journal of the French academy.

4. Future meetings

The next Steering Committee meeting will take place in 2017 either in Brussels if there is a UEAA meeting up there and if not in Paris, most probably in the fall.

G. Aleksidze (Ge) informed the committee that he will organize with the Georgian Academy a meeting in Tbilisi at the end of September 2017: ‘Viticulture and wine making in European countries – historical aspects and perspectives’.

5. Adjournment

President M Thibier thanked all the members and wished them a nice and safe trip back home. The meeting was adjourned at 17.45



Paris, 12 October 2016

APPENDIX 1

Creation of a UEAA commission "technical agricultural education"

1. **Finding:**

Faced with the significant changes that affect European agriculture (health crises, climate change, food price volatility, market deregulation, technological changes etc ...) farmers face an unprecedented crisis.

2. **Proposals:**

Faced with such challenges, mobilization of agricultural technical schools and perhaps agricultural and veterinary higher education can, even more than today, become major players to support future agriculture (*sensu largo*).

To achieve such an objective, the networking of these institutions at a European level, can promote the exchange of practices and allow us to set up real European cooperation. The aim of such a cooperation would be to help to adjust agricultural training to share and exchange experiences whilst promoting territorial specificities –

3. **The themes for reflection and action**

They could be, among others:

- How can the schools become a major development player with a strong insertion in its territory and relations increased with local partners (local authorities, farming profession, parents etc..)?
- How can the farms and technology workshops increase their role in technology transfer, innovation and development?

What training to support agriculture change: initial and continuing training (linked to higher education)?

- What should be the farmers' profiles of tomorrow to face the challenges and changes?
- How can we try to promote the link between retiring farmers and young incoming?
- How to foster links with higher education and research ?

4. **Modus operandi:**

Set a UEAA Commission

Contact person : Monsieur J P Bastié, member of l'Académie d'Agriculture de France, Paris.



APPENDIX 2

From the UEAA General Assembly meeting in Paris, 11 October 2016, Resolution approved.

Position on the Regulation of Targeted Mutagenesis in Plant Breeding

This UEAA position derives from the Opinion adopted by the Academy of Agriculture of France and the Academy of Technology of France on July 7, 2016

Since the early 1990s techniques of induced mutagenesis targeted by biotechnological processes have been developed. Targeted mutations obtained are of great interest for plant breeding as they can accelerate the creation of varieties of interest and therefore reduce costs associated with it.

It seems hence important that the issue of access to new technologies for genome modification, targeted mutagenesis, is studied and discussed taking good account of the evolution of techniques and the benefits they bring in many applications derived progress facts in the life sciences. Their low cost and ease of implementation would allow their use by many breeding companies regardless of their size, for public research laboratories, contributing to maintaining the diversity of plant breeding stakeholders.

Their use in Europe, both in the field of research and in agricultural production, will depend on regulations that will be applied to them. Hence, a clear European regulatory frame is needed and yet the current European regulatory landscape is somewhat confused. It is critically important that the European Commission and its Member States quickly specify the status of these technologies in the plant area to avoid any uncertainty that might penalize the research, innovation and European agriculture in a socio-economic context increasingly globalized.

From the perspective of both these French Academies, techniques of targeted mutagenesis can, in principle, be excluded from the techniques regulated by the European Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into the environment.

The Academy of Agriculture of France and the Academy of Technology express their wish that the public authorities permit the development of the experiments in progress, including field experiments and accordingly use their results in order to prepare a regulatory framework which incorporates both biomonitoring and technical advances that these new technologies may provide.

Contact person : Dr. A Ricroch. Member of l'Académie d'Agriculture de France.