

## Conference Rationale

### European Agricultural Research - How to succeed?

European agricultural and food research is met with new challenges and opportunities. This relates to sustainable agricultural production in a global context, income growth and increased demand for food and feed, rising energy costs and a changing climate.

Research and development within new technologies such as nanotechnology, biotechnology and information and communication technology take place. Agricultural research and production can benefit from these generic technologies by interacting with the relevant scientific disciplines, taking ethical aspects and public perception into account.

These developments make great demands on the organisations dealing with agricultural research and have implications on how governments, research councils, universities, agricultural research institutions and organisations plan and organise future research programmes. Furthermore, agricultural advisory systems need to be included in long-term research strategies to ensure the transfer of new knowledge to the agricultural community and society at large (How can knowledge be put into practice?).

This conference will – in separate sessions – focus on four main aspects:

- Agricultural research, national as well as European, demands clear strategic focus, optimized research programmes and priorities in order to meet the challenges ahead. In this session potential strategies will be discussed.
- New technologies and their integration in agricultural sciences exemplified by nanotechnology, biotechnology and information and communication technology. One session deals with the challenges that today's advisory systems have to confront in different parts of Europe and which are the main driving forces in modern agricultural production.
- The organisation of European agricultural research institutions is under reconstruction. Examples from five European countries will give an insight into considerations made and decisions taken in the respective countries.

### Conference Objective

The objective of the conference is to stimulate discussion and reflection on how to proceed and what to prioritize in European agricultural research in view of the complexity of the tasks ahead and the heterogeneity of the demands to be met. Furthermore, thought should be given on how to facilitate the translation of research into agricultural production, innovation and commercial products. Thus secure the continued success of European agriculture facing changing demands.

### Viborg



Viborg is an old town with many well-preserved buildings. It used to be one of the major cities in Denmark, where people paid homage to the Danish kings, who were crowned here. The city prospered and had a significant influence on all aspects of political life, and about 1525 Viborg became the origin of the Reformation. In 1723 a major fire destroyed more than half the city, but slowly the city recovered and many beautiful buildings were established in the years following the fire. Today Viborg is a modern city with about 43,000 inhabitants; it is situated in beautiful surroundings and acts as centre of commerce and trade.



## XXII EURAGRI MEMBERS' CONFERENCE

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences  
University of Aarhus – Foulum  
Denmark



17th – 20th September 2008



## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

European agriculture and agricultural research is met with new challenges and opportunities. This comprises scientific matters and new technologies as well as organizational matters. In this context, an open dialogue within the European scientific community, with society in general and with users of research results is of great importance. Likewise, it is of great importance that developments are planned with the aim of sustainability – taking economic, environmental and social aspects into consideration.

The XXII EURAGRI Members Conference will address these complex issues. The conference will invite to dialogue and discussions in a combination of plenary sessions, panel discussions and theme sessions with discussions in break-out groups.



## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### Wednesday 17 September

- 17.00—21.00: Registration at the Golf Hotel  
18.00: Welcome reception, Golf Salonen  
19.30—21.00: Board meeting

### Thursday 18 September

- 8.30: Bus departure from hotel to Foulum  
9.00—9.30: Coffee  
9.30—12.30: **Opening session**  
9.30—10.15: Welcome and opening addresses  
10.15—12.15: **Theme session I:** Pan European agricultural research—where to go?  
Plenary session and break-out sessions  
Reports from break-out sessions.  
12.15—13.15: Lunch  
13.15—14.45: **Theme session II:** New technologies and their integration in agricultural sciences.  
14.45—16.15: Visit at Agro Business Park A/S  
16.15—17.45: Animal welfare research in Europe  
Production of food and energy in a changing climate  
18.00: Bus to the hotel  
19.00: Conference dinner at the Golf Hotel

### Friday 19 September

- 8.30: Bus departure from hotel to Foulum  
9.00—11.45: **Theme session III:** Innovation in agricultural knowledge systems  
Plenary session and break-out sessions  
Reports from break-out sessions  
11.45—13.30: **Panel session:** Recent developments in the organisation of national agricultural research in Europe

- 13.30—14.30: Lunch  
14.30—16.00: **General Assembly**  
16.00—18.00: Guided tour at the research facilities at Foulum  
18.15: Bus to the hotel  
19.00—20.30: Guided walking tour of Viborg old town centre

### Saturday 20 September

- 8.30: Departure from the hotel to Årstiderne  
10.00: Guided tour of Årstiderne with Thomas Harttung, chairman and co-founder of Årstiderne  
12.30: Organic lunch at Årstiderne  
14.00: Departure to airports  
15.00: arrival at Billund  
16.00: arrival at Karup



*The Barritskov estate where Årstiderne was established*

### EURAGRI General Secretariat:

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences,  
University of Aarhus, Denmark

Website: [www.euragri.org](http://www.euragri.org)

Contact: [Bettina.Heimann@agrsci.dk](mailto:Bettina.Heimann@agrsci.dk)

[BirthOemark.Jensen@agrsci.dk](mailto:BirthOemark.Jensen@agrsci.dk)