

AGRO DEPARTMENT MEETING

19 JANUARY 2021



HAPPY NEW YEAR

We managed well in 2020, both in terms of results and economy.
Thank you all for the great efforts in a difficult time.

2021 continues to be difficult, and we will have to live with the corona situation for much of the year.

We get no extra funding to handle to corona-situation, so I ask everybody to make necessary contingency plans – also for PhDs and postdocs – that assume no extra funding.

There is considerable emphasis by society, government and industry on the green transition in agriculture. We need at multiple levels in the department to address this need.



AGENDA

1. Corona update
2. Webinar's in AGRO
3. Committees in AGRO
4. Process on policy support
5. Applications
6. Data archiving
7. New communication tool for teaching purposes – Brightspace
8. Questionable research practice
9. Aob



CORONA UPDATE

- Restrictions have been extended until 7 February
- Staff that continue working at the workplace needs to take weekly tests
- Encourage online meeting in sections and with supervisors to ensure scientific progress and social cohesion
- Questionnaire on working from home in relation to COVID-19 is in preparation



WEBINAR'S IN AGRO

Webinar In AGRO is a new virtual monthly seminar series

- Present results from our research
- 45 minutes – 15:15-16:00
- Monthly going-home meetings
- Target groups
 - Employees
 - Students
 - Alumne
- Planned rotation between the sections who arrange the meetings – starts in February



COMMITTEES IN AGRO

- Department management – chair: Jørgen E. Olesen
 - Research committee
 - Policy support committee
- Liason committee – chair: Jørgen E. Olesen
- Occupational health and safety committee – chair: Mogens Nicolaisen
- PhD programme committee – chair: Lis W. de Jonge
- Degree programme committee – chair: Bernd Wollenweber
- Business committee – chair: Birte Boelt
- Career committee – chair: Jim Rasmussen
- Department Forum – election in the coming period. Starts up on 1 April 2021
- Laboratory committee Foulum – chair: Jørgen Eriksen
- Laboratory committee Flakkebjerg – chair: Henrik Brinch-Pedersen
- Joint committee for field equipment – chair: Mogens H. Greve



PROCESS ON POLICY SUPPORT

We are challenged on the extent (number and complexity) of required policy support questions. These exceed our capacity.

We will therefore implement a new (and more tight and detailed) budgeting of policy support when requests are received from the ministry.

A meeting will be organised in February for staff involved in policy support to introduce the new procedures.



APPLICATIONS

We need a continued focus on competitive research proposals. See calls in Biweekly

Upcoming relevant calls:

- Horizon Europe
- Organic RDD
- GUDP
- Innovationsfonden Grand Solutions
- Danida (FFU)
- Core organic
- 4 EraNet (FACCE) call
- Novo Nordisk
- Research Council
- AUFF



DATA ARCHIVING

We have an obligation to store and archive research data for at least 5 years.

To ensure that all data obtained in research projects (including PhD and postdoc studies) is safely stored and accessible for later use (e.g. meta-analysis), information outlined below must be archived in a ZIP-file or similar and stored upon publication

Following must be archived:

- Manuscript files
- Graphics
- Experimental setup
- Programs and scripts
- Data files
- Program files

The data must be stored in a structured way on the O-drive.

Where and how to archive will be presented at section meetings, in Biweekly, and on the intranet.



NEW COMMUNICATION TOOL FOR TEACHING

- AU switches from Blackboard to Brightspace in spring 2021
- Fully operational from autumn 2021 semester

- Brightspace has the same functions as Blackboard, but a more intuitive interface

Read more on <https://medarbejdere.au.dk/en/#news-16614>



QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH PRACTICE

A workshop on questionable research practice will be organised in spring 2021

Area	Topic	Action*
Support	Research environment	Ensure fair assessment procedures and prevent hypercompetition and excessive publication pressure.
	Supervision and mentoring	Create clear guidelines for PhD supervision (such as on meeting frequency); set up skills training and mentoring.
	Integrity training	Establish training and confidential counselling for all researchers.
Organization	Ethics structures	Establish review procedures that accommodate different types of research and disciplines.
	Integrity breaches	Formalize procedures that protect both whistle-blowers and those accused of misconduct.
	Data practices and management	Provide training, incentives and infrastructure to curate and share data according to FAIR principles.
Communication	Research collaboration	Establish sound rules for transparent working with industry and international partners.
	Declaration of interests	State conflicts (financial and personal) in research, review and other professional activities.
	Publication and communication	Respect guidelines for authorship and ensure openness and clarity in public engagement.

