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Meeting on Wednesday 20 January 2021, 10:00 – 11:30

Minutes

Zoom

Section meeting with focus on scientific content

Present: Climate and Water section, Torsten Rødel Berg, Camilla Brodam

Agenda:

1. Approval of agenda
2. Staff news:
 - a. Goodbye to Wenjun and Claus
 - b. Hello to Muhammad Amjad
3. Messages
4. Applications in progress:

Overview of funding possibilities coming up in the next 6 month (Torsten)
Overview of applications in progress
- Discussion in groups of further ideas fitting the calls from IFD, DFF and EU
and how to proceed
5. AOB

Jytte Christensen

Date: 20 January 2021

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Ad 1: Approval of agenda

Approved

Ad 2: Staff news

Wenjun Yue is going back to China by the end of this month.

Claus Rasmussen's contract is terminating by end of this month.

Muhammad Amjad, guest post doc from Pakistan, is arriving to Denmark 4 February and will stay for 9 months. His host is Mathias.

Ad 3: Messages

Mathias referred to the department meeting Tuesday afternoon. Slides from the meeting is here https://agro.medarbejdere.au.dk/fileadmin/DJF/Agro/Medarbejderportal_AGRO/Institutledelsen/Referater/Department_meeting_19-01-2021.pdf.

At the department meeting, Jørgen said that he would not encourage people to apply via Danida, which raised the question why? There was a discussion on this. If you plan to apply Danida, Mathias and Torsten would like to discuss with you whether this is feasible or not.

Chiara will present the career committee work at the next section meeting.



If you are present in Foulum on a daily basis, it is recommendable to take a corona test once a week. Appointment for test is booked via this link <https://www.corona-prover.dk/Account/NemIdLogin>

Ad 4: Applications in progress

Torsten gave a quick overview over present calls and their deadlines, see funding website <https://agro.medarbejdere.au.dk/projektstyring/ekstern-finansiering/>. Mathias presented an overview over interesting calls in Horizon Europe (HEU). This overview is attached to the minutes. There are several possibilities in HEU, also for cross-sectional initiatives. It is strongly recommendable to involve juniors here.

If you plan to coordinate a HEU application, it is possible to apply for a starting grant via the Ministry of Science and Education. This funding is for meetings and travels only and not covering time usage. Mathias is convinced that time can be allocated in the staffing budget if you want to coordinate an application. Consult Mathias if you plan to coordinate a HEU application.

For the staff, doing policy support, it can be difficult to plan time, because we seldom know when the final request from the ministry comes.

Table round on planned applications

Mathias:

- **Application to Innovationfond Denmark or GUDP on providing deeper rooting using biochar.**
- **Contacted by a university in Bangladesh regarding application to Danida. Mathias and Torsten are positive.**
- Involved in Green Deal application with Tommy people from Wageningen University.

Kirsten E:

- Busy starting the new projects and not involved in anything else.

Kirsten K:

- Nothing.

Julie:

- Danish Meteorological Institute has invited us to continue the current project.

Christen:

- Working on an application to GUPD, deadline 2 March in collaboration with Skive municipality and Greenlab. It is about protecting drinking water by implementing new strategies for land use. There is not a big research part in the application.

Claus:

- Submitted two applications before Christmas.
- Will look into the HEU call. Many topics are spot on, and Claus will start to identify the right groups for collaboration.

Diego A:

- Re-apply Sapere Aude.
- Considering the Villum Young Investigators – deadline in June.
- Will send e-mail to relevant persons in his European network regarding potential collaboration for HEU. This is a very good idea, and Mathias encouraged all to do the same.

Jens:

- Danida proposal together with persons from Flakkebjerg on sustainable potato production (biochar/irrigation/fertilization). Jens would like to engage more persons from Foulum, so contact Jens, if you are interested.
- NKJ (Northern Tubers Network) – new possibilities for growing high quality crops in the north. The network has funding for the next two years and will aim at preparing an EU proposal. Jens are looking for people with experience in crop modelling to enter this proposal.

Imran:

- Involved in Danida application with his home university (the same as mentioned under Mathias). Mathias and Torsten are positive and will follow-up.

Ji:

- Ji is not sure if he is allowed to apply for new projects, due the regulations in Marie Curie, but he will be glad to be involved in other activities e.g. EU-China.

Jeroen:

- Contact with Jordi Doltra, IRTA. Perhaps PhD students from IRTA working on crop modelling will visit our section.
- Involved in an ERANET application coordinated by Jordi Doltra.
- Had meetings with Nick and Diego A. on application possibilities.
- Considering re-submitting to Villum Experiment.

Laura:

- Trying to find out if it is possible to travel to China or not.

Leanne:

- Busy writing thesis.
- Interested in the idea on biochar and rooting.

Mette:

- Nothing.

Nick:

- Discussion on modelling field operations related to climate. Jeroen and Diego A. is encouraged to take this further.
- **Had discussion with partners in Germany on possibilities in the ERANET call.**

Uffe:

- **Opportunities in HORIZON-CL6-2021-FARM2FORK-01-02: Developing sustainable and competitive land-based protein crop systems and value chains. Will try to do something together with Jim. Uffe will try to look for someone else to take the coordinator role.** Uffe is considering to use an external company to do the writing. This is something we need to discuss in the department. Mathias agreed that it is a good idea. We need to find a solution on how this is funded.
- Involved in IFD partnership on Innovating Climate optimised Agricultural Production (iCAP). Jørgen is coordinating this.
- Takes part in a consortium led by Thorkild Q. Frandsen from Food and Bio Cluster - Denmark for a Green Deal IFD project (deadline 8 April).

Vita:

- Last year of PhD project.
- Mathias will discuss with Vita in which projects in spe it is relevant for her to contribute.

Ying:

- Interested in EU-China projects.

Kiril:

- Interested in the iCAP application.
- In doubt if he should continue with the Danida application together with the Engineering department.
- **IFD Sino-Danish call is upcoming**
- Takes part in a consortium led by Thorkild Q. Frandsen from Food and Bio Cluster - Denmark for a Green Deal IFD project (deadline 8 April).

As we have discussed earlier, it is important to involve juniors in project applications, so we try to make this a transparent process. At the next section meeting 10 February, we will arrange group discussions concerning how to proceed on those topics that are marked with red above.

Jytte has made a spreadsheet giving an overview of these topics. It can be found here: **O:\Tech_AGRO\Klima\Application possibilities**. Please put your name on the



different topics you are interested in and we will use that for forming groups for the next meeting.

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Especially to those of you who couldn't participate in this meeting: Please put in more lines/topics asap, if relevant.

Ad 5: AOB

The draft staffing plan has been distributed. Some new projects are still missing (the controllers are busy with end-of-year accounting).

Project leaders: Please add additional lines for these new project with indications how you want/think available months will be distributed.

Suggestions from all of you are welcome. Please mail to Mathias. It is important to get an overview as soon as possible in case we have to find additional resources outside the group or possibly new staff.

You are encouraged to team up for virtual coffee breaks, e.g. in minor groups. Jytte has invited all for virtual coffee breaks every Friday morning.